

City of Sparta

Regular Meeting August 10, 2021 at 5:00 PM

City Council Chambers

Elected Officials present Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem James Clark, Council Members David Ingram, Tom Roberts, and Sandra Sherrod.

Stephanie Hannah in for City Clerk and John Hitchcock were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem Clark at 5:00 PM. The Lord's Prayer, Moment of Silence, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call followed.

Adoption of Agenda

City Attorney John Hitchcock request to change First Reading of Insurance Company Regulation Ordinance to First Reading of 2021 Election Ordinance.

Councilman Roberts made a motion to Adopt the Agenda and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Adoption of the Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available. Mayor ProTem Clark made a motion to table the adoption of the minutes until the next council meeting and Councilman Tom Roberts seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report will be read at the next council meeting.

Mayor's Report

1. The Senate has passed a bill adding infrastructure to the list of eligible expenses for use with ARPA funds.
2. Landfill Report: There were at least 5 infractions at the landfill to be corrected, as noted by the EPD representative.
3. The city is now a qualified vendor for Overview.
4. Received quote to clean lagoon for \$342,445.
5. There is a new water leak at the Sparta-Hancock County Library and the director, Cathy Ransom has been notified, the bill has doubled.

6. One of the Zero Turn mowers is having transmission problems. We will take a look at getting it repaired or perhaps replaced if repairing is not feasible.
7. Mosley Clearing & Grading hauled in dirt to the green space on Broad Street to the property that the City purchased from Shelia Lewis Davis. The REACH program has offered to pay for the engineering costs to design greenery and seating for the space.

First Reading of Occupation Tax

City Attorney Hitchcock has updated the draft of the Occupation Tax Ordinance and a second reading will be held on August 27, 2021.

First Reading of Municipal Court Date Ordinance

The City Judge Blanton Lingold requested that municipal court be changed from the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm to the fourth Monday at 1:00 pm of the month beginning in October 2021.

First Reading of Financial Institution Regulation Ordinance

Attorney Hitchcock has found that while researching the Occupation Tax Law, there has been an update to the law that allows fees to be collected from depository businesses, such as banks. The fee to be collected from such institutions is a minimum of \$1,000.

First Reading of the 2021 Election Ordinance

The City will contract with the Hancock County Board of Elections to provide the City's Election Officials with elections machines and access to voter registration information. The Intergovernmental Agreement between Hancock County and the City of Sparta is in place, as mandated by the state. The second reading will be at the council meeting in September.

Approval of Employment of an Assistant Municipal Election Supervisor

Councilman Roberts made a motion to hire Renette Warthen as the Assistant Municipal Election Supervisor and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Adoption of the FY2021 City of Sparta Budget

Mayor ProTem Clark made a motion to adopt the FY2021 City of Sparta Budget and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Old Business

- A. City of Sparta Covid Safety. The City will continue to monitor the Covid cases throughout the city.

B. ARPA Funding Designations

1. Infrastructure
2. Water/Sewer
3. Broadband
4. COVID Related

New Business

- A. Mayor ProTem Clark made a motion for approval of hiring Jose Martinez and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Councilman Roberts made a motion for approval of hiring Phillip Lawrence and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous on both motions.
- B. Street Paving will begin on Thursday if the weather permits for the Ferrell Street project.
- C. Candidate qualifying for the 2021 Election to be held November 2, 2021, will begin Monday, August 16, 2021, through Friday, August 20, 2021, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held Thursday August 12, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

City Hall will be closed, Monday, September 6, 2021, in the observance of Labor Day.

The Mayor and Council work session will be held Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

The Mayor and Council regular council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Citizens Input

Several citizens spoke and were concerned about the many water leaks, use of ARPA funds and drainage issues.

Executive Session

A motion was entered by Mayor ProTem Clark to enter executive session and was seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

Regular Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to go back to regular session. Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

No items discussed in Executive Session was presented for a vote.

Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to adjourn the meeting and seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

Recorded by Stephanie Hannah