

City of Sparta  
City Council Meeting  
5PM Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Elected officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Zuridan Yisrael. City Attorney John Hitchcock was present and City Clerk Virginia Webb was absent due to sickness.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod at 5:00 pm, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adopt Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt the agenda. Councilman Yisrael seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**Adopt Minutes**

The minutes for March 8, 2022 regular meeting were not available and action was tabled until the May meeting.

**First Reading of the Revised Animal Control Ordinance**

The first reading of the revised Animal Control Ordinance was read focusing on the highlights of the rules and regulations of the ordinance.

**Vote to Approve "Main Street Designation" Application Resolution**

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the initial application process. Councilman Yisrael seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**Resolution to Approve "The Gas Authority" (MGAG) Voting Delegate (Mayor Haywood) & Voting Alternate (Utilities' Superintendent Griffin)**

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve a resolution that Mayor Haywood be the Voting Delegate and Utilities' Superintendent Griffin be the Voting Alternate for the City of Sparta. Brandon Nolley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

## **Clerk's Report**

None

## **Mayor's Report**

1. An application was prepared and submitted for a congressional directed spending opportunity grant request to Senator Raphael Warnock. \$580,000 was requested to refurbish two lagoons at the Waste Water Plant.
2. An invoice for \$2,970 was paid for the landscape architect, design engineer, and field engineer for services provided for Pedestrian Park.
3. Two Kubota lawnmowers were purchased from Southside Equipment in Milledgeville, Ga, for \$28,000. These mowers will replace the lawnmowers that aren't working well.
4. CSRA grant writers have been contacted to work on grant opportunities. A meeting will be scheduled to include community profit groups for input.
5. For Georgia Cities Week, an employee appreciation luncheon will be provided for all city employees on April 29, in the Council Chambers to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication. City Hall will be closed from 12 noon to 2:00 PM for the event.
6. A letter will be included, with each April utility bill about the drinking water, due to testing done in 2017, but results —fever published. The drinking water is fine, but this is a requirement of EPD. There were 3 violations from 2017-2019. Samples should have been sent to this agency but were not received.
7. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Council needs to improve communication, to better serve the citizens of the city.
8. There are plans to clean the alley up beside Pizza Plus. Also, the owner is willing to discuss the sale of the property, which will result in having a parking area for Pedestrian Park.
9. Georgia's Hi-Lo Bike Trail wants to start a mountain bike camp for kids in the county. Potentially, starts in June, lasting a week, teaching the children bike safety and the importance of exercise. Bikes will be provided to ride on. A possible location for the bike trail is the landfill area, which has approximately 200 acres. The city is not liable in the event of an accident;

the company's insurance will be responsible. The Hancock Board of Education has not approved of a location yet.

10. A meeting/discussion was scheduled by Rev. Jimmy Horton, with Gail Harrell, Mayor of Monticello and Melissa Butts, project analyst with the Department of Education. The City of Monticello is facing issues with consolidation of services and trying to make improvements.
11. The GIRMA (Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency) contract is up for renewal. \$42,597 is the quote for this year, which is insurance for property and all liabilities (cars, mowers and other equipment). This quote is \$5,000 less than quoted in 2021, including about \$2,500 rebate from GMA.
12. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and at City Hall on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 4PM, alongside with Regina Butts from CIS. Pinwheels will be placed in front of City Hall to bring awareness the problems of child abuse. Each pinwheel represents a case of child abuse from the past year.
13. The 2010 Ford Ranger has 230,000 miles. The truck is in need of repairs. All repairs will cost approximately \$6,000.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Clarification on the water report from 2017. A mix-up at the post office with the shipping of the samples that resulted in samples not being delivered on time. When the samples arrived, they had expired.

In June 2021, the amount of \$229,663.50 was the first payment from ARPA for the City of Sparta. A similar amount will receive the same June in 2022, if the requirements are met. The expenditures spent is \$16,448.50 for the repurchase of the F250 4X4 truck for Waste Water Department, employee premium pay for essential works, during the Covid period, was \$32,833.88, Overview funding was paid \$30,000 to help the Sparta residents with delinquent bills, an estimate of \$38,000 for a portable sewer pump,



\$21,875.00 for two pump motors for the Filter Plant, \$28,000 for lawn mowers. The total amount spent is \$167,157.38 with a balance of \$62,506.12.

The ARPA deadline for repotting is April 30, 2022, and the accountants will assist with the process.

City Hall will be closed to observe "Good Friday", April 15, 2022.

City Hall will be closed from 12 Noon to 2 PM on Friday, April 29, 2022 for Employee Appreciation Day Luncheon.

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30 PM on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Historic Perseveration Commission Regular Meeting 5:30 PM Thursday, April 14, 2022 in the City Hall.

### **Citizens' Input**

Karen West, resident of the city, thanked the volunteers, who helped with the cleaning up of Main Street.

Charles Jackson, live in the county, thanked Mayor Haywood and Councilman Roberts for helping get a ramp for Victoria Huff.

Paula Dixon, lives in the county, asks questions about DCA, who set the percentage of the ARPA fund, and how much those funds goes toward the citizens.

James Culver, resident of the city, wants more attention directed to Dixie Street. He thanked the police department for their service.

Mary Jackson, resident of the county, asked if the city and county could partner to provide funds for a hospital or medical facility for the citizens.

**Executive Session**

Councilman Roberts made a motion to go to executive session. Councilman Yisrael seconded the motion.

**Back to Regular Session**

Councilman Roberts made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Nolley seconded the motion.

**Regular Session**

Councilman Roberts made a motion to hire Jacquelin Wilson as a dispatcher with the Police Department. Councilman Yisrael seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Roberts made a motion to adjourn meeting. Councilman Nolley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.