

# AGENDA

## Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, July 12, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—June 14, 2022 Regular Meeting
7. Clerk's Report
8. Mayor's Report
9. Old Business
  - A. Approval of Steet Repairs Bid Winner (Southern Asphalt)
10. New Business
11. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, August 1, 2022
12. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, August 9, 2022
13. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, July 14, 2022 in City Hall
14. Citizens' Input
15. Executive Session
16. Adjournment

**City of Sparta**  
**Mayor & Council Meeting**  
**5PM Tuesday, July 12, 2022**

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members, Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Zuridan Yisrael.

City Clerk, Virginia Webb was not present. Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Hannah recorded the meeting's minutes. Attorney Hitchcock was present.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem Sherrod, followed by a moment of silence, The Lord's Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adopt Agenda**

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

**Adopt Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt minutes from the June 14, 2022, regular meeting and seconded by Councilman Nolley. Vote was unanimous.

**Clerk's Report**

None.

**Mayor's Report**

1. Restorative work will begin on the sidewalks and fire hydrants.
2. By July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the animal shelter is scheduled to be ready for inspection.
3. A fuel surcharge percentage will be added to the overall trash collection bill for Ryland Environmental. Instead of charging a 25% surcharge per month, the surcharge will be 12%, if diesel is \$5.50 per gallon. Fuel costs will be surcharged on a graduated scale.
4. There will be a meeting with the Sheriff, Commissioner Hudson, and Mayor Haywood to devise a plan to consolidate all 911 operators in one location.
5. An appointment was made with the Office of Planning and Budgeting for July 13, 2022 to update ARPA account information.
6. The city has decided to grant a request for funding in the amount of \$5,000 to the Azalea Regional Library. We also currently pay approximately \$8,000 per year in utilities.
7. The Alta Planning and Design group visited on the June 29<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> to give input on plans for Hadden Park.
8. DCA has updated the status of the City of Sparta to within compliance, which allows the city to be eligible to apply for the CDBG grant next year. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2023.

9. The Sparta Truck Route Bypass utilities (gas and water lines) were relocated, due to the mishandling of paperwork by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The relocation of the lines will cost \$110,300, which will be covered by the DOT.
10. Mayor Haywood was informed by the DOT that LMIG funding for next year will be \$23,510.26.
11. The Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) performed an audit to inform the city on the amount of water consumed and recommended rate increases. Based on previous information, the City of Sparta has some of the lowest water rates in the state of Georgia.
12. To fight back the spread of infection of the coronavirus, the Public Health District on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> will be holding, a onetime event, offering a \$100 Visa gift card for adults and children receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccinations.

### **Old Business**

- A. Approval of Street Repairs Bid Winner (Southern Asphalt)

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to approve the street repairs bid by Southern Asphalt, which was \$168,759.87. The motion was seconded by Councilman Yisrael. Vote was unanimous.

### **New Business**

Councilman Yisrael inquired about the status of 2022 budget, Rocky's sale tax, job openings for police officers, and ordinances for the city to be made readily to the public. He also informed council of the overgrown grass by the railroad on Bell and Lewis Street, along with the cracking sidewalk on 12777 Broad Street. Mayor Haywood informed council about the railroad overgrowth, although within the city limits, railroad lines are governed by their own regulations.

Mayor ProTem Sherrod requested to see the police tickets' folder.

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30PM on Monday, August 1, 2022.

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5 PM Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

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

### **Citizens' Input**

Ms. Tolbert, a resident of the city, inquired about the city park on Hwy. 16. She is pleased that another park is coming into the community.

Karen West, a resident of the city, shared how the park planning was going, along with extending an invitation for willing participants to provide community input.

James Culver, a resident of the city, inquires if the city has tried to send some candidates to mandate schools to become officers and paying competitive wages. Mayor Haywood and Chief of Police agreed that everyone in the police department have received raises to competitive levels. Mayor Haywood also added that the city is possibly going to work together with the county to help with the officer shortage. Voicing his concern about the ambulance services, Mr. Culver, states that one ambulance is not enough to serve all the citizens in the city. Mayor Haywood explained that these concerns are taken seriously and he and council are eager to come to some type of resolution for the better of the community. Culver suggested the idea of setting up tele-medicine health services.

Councilman Yisrael shared that he was not aware of the problems with the ambulance services and thanked James Culver for bringing it to his attention.

Paula Dixon, a resident of the county, states that there should be some type of recourse for officer training. She is determined to bring an urgent health care center to the community. Dixon shares that several hospitals want be involved with the improvement of the health care issues in the county. Mayor Haywood asked to sit in on any meeting that Ms. Dixon will be having with potential hospitals that would like to partner with the county. The mayor expressed that her concerns have been heard and are taken seriously.

Councilman Yisrael says that he supports the efforts of bringing an urgent care to the county.

#### **Executive Session**

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to enter executive session and Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Back to Regular Session**

Councilman Roberts motioned to return to the regular session. Councilman Yisrael seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Councilman Yisrael motioned to hire Bobby Mackler for employment at the Water Filter Plant. Councilman Nolley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Councilman Nolley motioned to hire Termarion Hunt for employment at the Water Filter Plant. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilman Yisrael. The meeting was adjourned.