

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, June 14, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting
7. Clerk's Report
8. Mayor's Report
9. Old Business
 - A. Street Paving & Repairs Bids Opening
10. New Business
 - A. Ryland Fuel Surcharge for Garbage Pickup
11. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, June 20, 2022 to Observe Juneteenth Holiday
12. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, July 4, 2022 to Observe Independence Day
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Tuesday, July 5, 2022
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, July 12, 2022
15. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, July 14, 2022 in City Hall
16. Citizens' Input
17. Executive Session
18. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
June 14, 2022

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members, Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Zuridan Yisrael arrived at 5:31 PM.

City Clerk, Virginia Webb and Attorney Hitchcock were 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, Councilman Nolley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Adopt Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt minutes from the May 10, 2022, regular meeting and seconded by Councilman Nolley. Vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. The staff has been working with accountants from Deemer Dana, CPA firm and the auditors from Wright & Wright to complete the closeout for FY 2021. There are some reports to be obtained through QSI software before the process can be completed.
2. Bids for the Pocket Park advertisement have been posted on the Georgia Procurement Registry and are scheduled to be opened at City Hall on July 12, 2022, at 2 pm.
3. Please join us for a free diabetic-friendly educational cookout at City Hall, on Friday, July 1, 2022, from 12 noon-1:30 pm. This event is sponsored by Community Health Care Systems. There will be a variety of appetizers, entrees and desserts to choose from. For more information contact Gracie Lingold at (478)456-0355 or gracielingold@gmail.com.
4. Our second quarter "Buyback" is being held next week, June 2022 for city employees. Employees are allowed to sell back accumulated annual/comp time hours in exchange for money. Checks will be distributed by June 24, 2022.
5. The 2017 Dodge Ram also known as the "Chipper Truck" was taken into the Thomson Dodge Jeep dealership in Thomson GA, because the A/C is not working. There were several recalls that were completed while it was in the shop. It was picked up this morning, June 14, 2022, the fee was \$85. The quote to repair the A/C is \$1073.67. The part needed is a Control module for the A/C. It is on back order and we will try to locate it elsewhere.

Mayor's Report

1. Natural gas rate delivery cost was \$18.38 per 1,000 cubic feet. Prices are steadily rising and are expected to increase, because of European Demand. Gas usage audit shows 22% loss because old meters. We have received half of the new meters ordered in December 2021. The gas loss is due to old meters not showing correct readings for over 587 customers.

2. The alley way behind Pizza Plus was deeded to the City back in 1970s. Police can be sent to remove cars for the property on easement. The Pocket Park estimated completion date will be later this year.
3. The landfills, located on Fairmont Road, are now closed. The city is paying over \$12,000 per year for methane monitoring. The process to permanently close the landfill requires three years of state monitoring guidelines; we are currently in our second year.
4. The fire department needs a ladder repaired on one of their fire trucks. Repairs will be approximately \$6,000.
5. The community is working on the Amanda America Dickson project. It is a story featuring the trial, in which, she was awarded by a jury, the Dickson estate, making her the wealthiest African American in the United States at that time. We are working with University of Georgia and Georgia College. The script will be ready later this month. We are looking for a venue. The project will hopefully boost economic development in this county through historic tourism.
6. For Bike League, Tyrontha Nolley is contact for this community event. The bike week will be June 27th -July 1st, we are expecting 40-50 kids. The bikes and refreshments will be provided for upcoming 1st graders thru upcoming 8th graders.
7. We will be installing laser meters at Verescence, as part of expansive project. These meters will measure sewage that can't be measured through the flow meters.
8. Verescence, formerly known as Saint Gobain, is now offering free insurance and wages are currently starting at \$12.50 per hour. Two robot lines will be added this summer for the Proctor and Gamble contract.
9. The REACH program is funding a survey conducted by Alta Planning and Design regarding plans for a community park on Highway 16 in the city. The Alta team will host an open house meeting on June 30th for public input.
10. Timmy Griffin, Utilities Superintendent, has had a few health issues and will be having surgery June 24th. As of June 7th, all the leaks in the city have been fixed.
11. The city was notified, by the Attorney General, that the 2015 and 2017 elections were fined \$1,500 for the deficiencies caused by the election superintendent and the absentee ballot clerk.
12. Insurance Service Office (ISO) that oversees insurance companies and how fire departments are equipped, which creates the insurance rating system. The city is currently a Class 4 rated fire department, but may be reclassified to Class 5. After evaluating the fire department, the following areas needs improvement: the handling of 911 calls, the center and equipment is out of date, the manner in which calls are transferred, the dispatchers need continuing education, fire engines and hydrants should be maintained, support equipment with ladder company, the water class is needed, as in how much water can be delivered and sustained. Councilman Roberts pointed out that the firefighters, who are volunteers, do not have the personnel or resources to conduct flow test or test hydrates in the water system. Records should be kept about how the test are done. Councilman Roberts have requested a meeting with the fire chief.

Old Business

- A. Street Paving and Repair Bids Opening

Wood Environment has put together a bid package for street repairs, which will be opened at 2PM on June 20th. DOT-patching will be performed in the following areas, Clay Circle Clay Street, Reese Street, New Street, and South Ghettis Street, funded by LMIG and TSPLOST. On Wednesday, June 21st at 5PM, the mayor, city council, and county commissioners will meet during the commission meeting to discuss consolidation of 911 services for the city and county, and the purchase of fuel in bulk from the county.

New Business

A. Ryland Fuel Surcharge for Garbage Pickup

Ryland will add a fuel surcharge for garbage pick-up starting July 1, 2022. The mayor was in contact with Ryland about the percentage increase of prices. He responded to an email by requesting a calculation of the mileage, instead of a cross-board percentage increase, which determines the difference.

There will be a meeting on June 21, 2022 with a representative from Ryland.

There will be a Mayor and Council Work Session on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

There will be a Mayor and Council Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 5PM.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 5:30PM in City Hall.

City Hall will be closed Monday, June 20, 2022 for the observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

City Hall will be closed Monday, July 4, 2022 for the observance of Independence Day.

Citizens Input

Bernestine Strother, resident of the county, wanted to remind Mayor Haywood how valuable Timmy Griffin is to the community.

James Culver, resident of the city, thanks Councilman Roberts for his years of service as fire chief in the community. He also commented on how Jamie Kennedy Blvd looks great and he looks forward to seeing more improvements. He inquired about the dates for the inconsistencies for the election.

Dip Pollatty, resident of the city, every COA that has come before the Historic Preservation Commission has been approved.

Paula Barnes, resident of the county, thanks the council for their work. She asked, would the city be interested in a 30- or 50-year bond for Urgent Care in the community. Navicent Putnam refuses to form a partnership with the city. The hospital board declined a group from South Georgia to come and start an urgent care. Councilman Roberts stated that a medical staff must

be included to enter into the partnership. Councilman Yisrael requested to write down a plan for urgent care.

Executive Session

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

Back to Regular Session

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to return to the regular session. Councilman Roberts seconded. The vote was unanimous.

No action was taken to be voted on.

Adjournment

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00PM.