

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, May 10, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting and April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting
7. Presentation of the “2021 Award for Excellence in Preservation” on Behalf of the Sparta-Hancock County Historic Preservation Commission
8. Second Reading of Revised Animal Control Ordinance and Vote to Adopt
9. Clerk’s Report
10. Mayor’s Report
11. Old Business
 - A. Vote on Library’s Request for \$5,000 in Support Funding
12. New Business
 - A. Approval of Wellness Grant for City Employees
 - B. REACH Program’s Alta Planning and Design Project
13. City Hall Will Close at 10:30 am Wednesday, May 18, 2022 for Staff Training
14. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, May 30, 2022 in to Observe Memorial Day
15. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, June 6, 2022
16. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, June 14, 2022
17. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, May 12, 2022 in City Hall
18. Citizens’ Input
19. Executive Session
20. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Meeting
May 10, 2022 @ 5pm
City Council Chambers

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 and City Attorney, John Hitchcock were present.

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm 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 Yisrael to adopt the agenda, Councilman Roberts seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Adopt Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt minutes from the March 8, 2022, regular meeting, and seconded by Councilman Sherrod. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Yisrael to adopt minutes from the April 12, 2022, regular meeting, and seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

Presentation of the 2021 Award for Excellence in Preservation" on behalf of the Sparta-Hancock County Historic Preservation Commission"

This award was presented to Glenn Johnson, by Mayor Allen Haywood, for the excellent preservation of the property located at the corner of Hamilton and Elm Streets. This property was previously owned by Julia Dickson, mother of Amanda America Dickson. Having great historical value to this community, the house has recently received updates to further preserve it. Griffith "Dip" Pollatty, chairman of Preservation Commission nominated the property for the award.

Second Reading of the Revised Animal Control Ordinance

The second reading of the revised Animal Control Ordinance was read highlighting the rules and regulations of the ordinance. Councilman Roberts motioned to approve ordinance. Councilman Nolley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

The required ARPA reporting for the funds received from the Treasury Department was submitted April 28, 2022, with the assistance of the accountants with Deemer Dana Accounting firm, to ensure accuracy.

The employee appreciation luncheon held Friday, April 29, 2022, was a success. There were 27 employees in attendance and there was a variety of food and drink. We had a raffle, and the winners were Rachel Justice, supervisor of Utility Department won a \$25 gas card from Rocky's Convenience Store and Bill Lawrence, of the Street Department, that won 8 hours of paid leave. Special thanks to Jackie Warren for being our grill master for the event, and to the other employees that made this event a success-especially the Street Department.

The Employee Health Fair held on May 4, 2022, from 10 am-2 pm, was a success. Blood pressure checks, grip strength tests, body mass tests, blood sugar checks and advice on prescribed medications were some of the services available. There were information sheets on stress relief, diet and exercise, diabetes management, how to claim up to \$100 from Anthem insurance (current insurance carrier for City of Sparta), smoking cessation, and much more. Also, free samples of hand sanitizer, calendars, planners, pill organizers, and coupons for healthy snacks were available. There were 12 vendors in attendance and over 25 donated prizes from businesses. Each employee that attended won a raffle prize, thanks to the generous donors that supported this event. This is the first of its kind and we intend to make this an annual event. Special thanks to Amanda Akins, Wastewater Supervisor, for the coordination of this event.

Mayor's Report

We have completed the Kennel for stray animals, located on Fairmont Road. The facility has space for 6 to 8 stalls for animals.

Georgia's Hi-Lo Bike Trail Week will be held the last week of June. Flyers are being prepared and will be distributed through the community with pertinent information. The camp will be for kids of all ages, teaching bike safety and stressing the importance of exercise. Bikes will be provided to use for event, by the sponsors. This will be held at the City's landfill located on Fairmont Road. The area will be mowed and cleaned prior to the event. The city will not be responsible for any accidents or injuries.

As part of the expansion project for Verescence, a laser sewer meter must be installed to handle the volume of water necessary to operate the plant. Bids are now being accepted for the installation. EEE funds through LMIG, will be used to resurface the driveway to the plant. Pittman Paving won the bidding for the paving project. The Development Authority is the overseer of this project.

The city is looking into purchasing fuel in bulk for all city's vehicles. Getting our own tank would tremendously reduce the cost of gas/diesel fuel. We are seeking quotes from distributors in the area.

Barry Woods, an engineer for Wood Environment, inspected the city streets for patching/paving. The main area that we are concentrating on will be the East End and Reese Street. He is recommending a material that will last for about 50 years. The costs will be approximately \$135,000 to complete the planned projects.

Mayor Haywood attended the Municipal Gas Authority conference in St. Simons, on May 4 & 5. He accepted the "Community Outreach Award", an award on behalf of the City of Sparta, for the city with the most advancements participation. According to the Georgia Gas Authority, the price of gas is steadily rising and has doubled this year. It is now \$9 per thousand cubic feet. In January 2022, it was \$4 per thousand cubic feet.

Old Business

Vote on Library's Request for \$5,000 in Support Funding

Councilman Yisrael motioned to approve the Hancock County Library's Request for \$5,000 in Support Funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

Approval of Wellness Grant for City Employees

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve Wellness Grant for City employees. Councilman Nolley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

REACH Program's Alta Planning and Design Project

Karen Ebey, representative for the community based program, states that this program is in the planning stages, but will give communities walking trails, and biking trails

Announcements

City Hall will close at 10:30 am, on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, for staff training.

City Hall will be closed Monday, May 30, 2022, to observe Memorial Day

Mayor and Council Work Session at 4:30 pm, Monday, June 6, 2022.

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 2022@
5:30pm

Citizens' Input

James Culver, city resident, stated Jamie Kennedy Blvd/Dixie Street has overgrown sidewalks and the weeds along the sidewalk are very high. There are lots of kids in the neighborhood and they are walking in the road because of the high grass and concern of snakes. Also, the guard rail needs to be repaired/reinstalled, near the creek in the same area, and some much-needed patching/paving as well.

Glen Johnson, city resident, is concerned with the big trucks (18 wheelers) that travel down Hamilton Street, is doing additional damage to the street. He suggested that signs be installed to keep them out and possible more police patrol.

Executive Session

Councilman Yisrael made a motion to enter executive session and Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Back to Regular Session

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

No actions were taken requiring a vote.

Adjournment

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Nolley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 pm.