

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022
5PM Tuesday

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 present. 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 Mayor ProTem Sherrod to adopt the agenda and seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

Adopt Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt the minutes from July 12, 2022, Regular Meeting and seconded by Councilman Nolley. Vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. The Sparta-Hancock Library & Azalea Regional Library System are Georgia's Public Library of the Year. You are invited to celebrate with them on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 10:30 AM- 1:00 PM. The celebration will be held at 8984 East Broad Street, Sparta, Ga. For more information call (706) 444-5389.
2. The Retirement Plan for the City of Sparta has been implemented. Empower is the company chosen to handle this plan and Great West Life & Annuity Insurance Company is the third-party administrator.
3. The reactivation of the System Administrator Management or SAM's account has been reactivated. The reactivation allows the city to request and apply for Federal funding and grants.
4. The administrative staff is continuing to work with QS1/Springbrook (software company) to resolve a list of concerns with the software. The General Ledger entries for the payroll are not posting, which is our main concern. Also, Centralized Collections are being checked for accuracy. Fees for some of their

services will increase, such as the postage for the utility bills and maintenance fee for the equipment.

5. The clerk's conference was held in Savannah, GA, June 24-28, 2022. The information that I received from the classes that I attended will be helpful in attracting and maintaining employees.
6. Civicplus has been contracted to codify the ordinances. The information requested has been forwarded to them and we are waiting for a response with the quote.

Mayor's Report

1. On July 12th, the bidding to construct Pedestrian Park began. EMI, the engineering firm handling the bids, sent out 24 bid packets to date. Bids will be opened, August 22, 2022 @ 2pm at City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The grand opening of the new flower shop, Roses Are Red, Sometimes Blue, opened on August 5, 2022. It is located on Powelton Avenue across from the Mushroom Factory.
3. The surcharge for garbage collection for the month of July 2022 was \$450. Since the contract had been signed for Ryland Environmental, diesel fuel has tremendously increased. A surcharge to cover the rising cost was suggested to offset the extra expense. This fee will vary monthly based on the fluctuation in the fuel cost.
4. There will be a called meeting to discuss the increase in the garbage rates. This meeting will be held on August 18, 2022, along with the Adoption of the Budget, at 4:00 pm in the council chambers.
5. A representative will be here on August 24, 2022 from GRWA to complete an analysis of the cost of treatment of the drinking water. Shane Harper, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, has provided information on the increase in the cost of the chemicals used to treat the drinking water. There may be an increase in the water rates due to this and other factors. The City of Sparta has not had an increase in water rates since 2013.
6. The Animal Shelter, located on Fairmont Road, is awaiting blowers and gates to be installed before an inspection can be completed.
7. Jimmie Watkins, an employee at the Water Filter Plant has obtained his Class II operator's license.
8. The Historic Preservation Commission and Department of Community Affairs have loans available for Downtown Development. These loans are available to business owners in the downtown area to restore/purchase downtown

- properties. Applicants must follow the design guidelines and comply with rules to be eligible for loans. The loans must first be presented to the Hancock Development Authority for approval, then forwarded to Tina Hutchins at DCA
9. The Hancock Health Improvement Partnership (HHIP) is challenging Hancock County residents to get 22 minutes of physical activity every day from June 22 to August 22. The “Get 22 in 22” is a challenge to promoting physical activity. HHIP has advertisements on several of the local television stations about the importance of exercising. The goal is to get residents healthier through encouraging exercise. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that all adults get a minimum of 150 minutes of exercise per week. Prizes will be awarded for everyone completing the challenge. For more information contact HancockHIP@Gmail.com or visit the office at 432 Boland Street, Sparta, Ga 31087.
 10. A request has been made for the placement of a marker at pedestrian park to commemorate General Lafayette’s visit to Sparta. The request is one of many to place a marker along the “Lafayette Trail”. A letter will be prepared by Mayor Haywood in support of the placement.

Old Business

A. Update on Merging of 911 Emergency Communications’ Services

GCIC and ORI terminal will be moved to the Hancock County Jail and the current phone number, (706) 444-5777, will rollover to the 911 call center.

B. Update on Hadden Park Design, Karen Ebey-Tessendorf Report

Alta Planning and Design will meet virtually to collect feedback and discuss how to reach the requirements to complete the streets policy.

Morgan McLendon is the new Community Health Coordinator for REACH.

A survey was completed, with the community’s input, concerning bike parking. The design options for the parking are yet to be determined. The historic walking tour, developed by the Historic Society, requires feedback on the signage that will be within the tour.

A virtual meeting will be held next week to meet with community leaders to gain feedback to complete the doodle poll.

New Business

A. First Reading of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Required Adoption of Ordinance to Join FEMA National Flood Insurance Program

The first reading was done.

The adoption of the ordinance to join FEMA will be added on September 6, 2022, special "Called Meeting" at 5 PM.

FY 2022 City Government Budget Public Hearing at 4PM on Thursday, August 11, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, August 11, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall

Mayor & Council "Call Meeting" to Adopt the FY2022 City Government Budget at 4PM on Thursday, August 18, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30PM on Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Mayor & Council "Call Meeting" at 5PM on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 to Adopt the Property Tax Millage Rate for 2022

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5PM Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Citizens' Input

Teresa Hines, resident of Washington County, commented on an article in the Sparta Ishmaelite and requested a picture of the Development Authority Board.

Willmatine Tolbert, resident of city, wanted clarification that the Street Scapes projects is the same as Complete Street Project.

Mary Jackson, resident of the county, stated that there is an overgrowth of grass in the sidewalks and tore up streets on Powelton Avenue. Paving is scheduled to start

in this area next month. The Street Department will work on clearing the grass from the sidewalks.

Dip Polatty, resident of the city, thanked Charles and Mary Jackson, for revitalizing the house next door to the Post Office and being in compliance with HPC.

New hours for the Powelton Ave. Farmers' Market are 2-6, every Friday.

Murals have been discovered on the building on Broad Street. Sherrod Kennedy, owner of the property, agreed to preserve them. Several businesses will be opening up on Broad Street as well.

Executive Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to enter executive session and Councilman Nolley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Back to Regular Session

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

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to hire Jada Baugh for employment at the Police Department. Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Councilman Roberts motioned to enter into a real estate lease for housing the Police Department on Monument Square. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was over at approximately 7PM.