

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 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. Attorney Hitchcock was present. Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Hannah 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

Councilman Roberts motion to change the order of the agenda. Councilman Nolley seconded.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilman Yisrael motion to adopt the minutes. Councilman Nolley seconded.

Clerk's Report

No Clerk's Report.

Mayor's Report

1. Amanda Akins, Waste Water Supervisor, and Deborah Butts, City Treasurer, along with an employee at CSRA Planning Commission are working together to fill out grants for the city. These grants, worth \$216,000, are USDA rural development for community facilities funding to purchase equipment for the Public Works Department, Water Department and the Waste Water Department. Applications will be submitted in the following weeks. A public hearing was held today, September 13, 2022 at 4PM.
2. Due to the errors, found by the State Election Board in regards to the 2015 and 2017 elections, the city must pay a \$1,500.00 fine to the Secretary of State by October 3, 2022.
3. The lagoon, located at the Waste Water Plant, didn't received funding for refurbishing, but the city is working with Senator Warnock's staff to find more grant opportunities.
4. As of today, 92% of 2021 Property Taxes have been collected by Property Tax Clerk Hannah.
5. A grant writing online bootcamp begins Thursday, September 15, 2022.
6. Pedestrian Park has not received any bids, but local contractors are interested in sub-contracting to complete construction of the park.

Old Business

A. Update on Merging of 911 Emergency Communications' Services

The Chief of Police and the Sheriff have completed signing for transferring the GCIC equipment.

New Business

A. Discussion of Proposed AirMedCare Membership for All City Employees

Mayor Haywood asked to adopt the plan for AirMedCare to all city employees.

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adopt the plan. Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Haywood asked to adopt the plan for three years.

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adopt the plan for three years. Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote.

B. Proposal to Create Ordinance Requiring All Commercial Trash/Garbage Disposal Users in the City to Use the City's Contracted Disposal Service

Attorney Hitchcock stated that there may be an ordinance already in place for the garbage disposal users to use the city's contracted disposal service, but he would check to make sure.

C. Confirm the Mayor's Selection to Fill the Seat on the Hancock County Health Board Left Vacant by the Passing of Mayor Appointed Dr. Bradford Brown

The mayor was not ready to make an appointment. The position doesn't have to be filled until the October or November meeting.

D. Discussion and Vote on Adding Three Paid Holidays for City Employees Beginning in FY2023 (Calendar Year): Good Friday; Juneteenth; and Veterans Day.

Councilman Yisrael motioned to approve adding the three additional paid holidays for employees. Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Historic Perseveration Commission Regular Meeting 5:30 pm Thursday, October 13, 2022 in City Council Chambers, City Hall

Mayor and Council Work Session at 4:30 PM Monday, October 3, 2022

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting at 5 PM Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Citizen's Input

Stephanie Hannah, resident of Wrens, stated that the 2022 property taxes should be mailed out by October 15, 2022 and will be due at the end of the year.

Marion Warren, resident of the city, presented a budget to fund a program with ARPA funds. In the program funds would be collected from the City, County, and Board of Education. Then after that, grants would be used to continue the program yearly.

Paula Barnes, resident of the county, asked if a decision had been made about the solid waste transfer station to the landfill and about the progress of the bike trail. She also asked that if an employee quits or is fired what happens to the funds that were invested in that person with AirMedCare is concerned. Mayor Haywood said there has been no decision made yet and the city is waiting for information from Ryland. Also, stated that the technicalities of bike trail have not been finalized at this time. Mayor Haywood answered that the funds would be reimbursed.

James Culver, resident of the city, stated that fines have already been paid and to check in order to ensure that fines are getting paid twice. Culver asked for clarification of when was the vote on consolidation of the 911 call center done and what "commercial trash pickup" means.

Mayor Haywood stated the vote was done two to three months ago.

Councilman Yisrael said that he preferred the use of a E911 board.

Sheila Bryant, a resident of the city, stated that, as someone with limited transportation, it is not easy to get assistance from Overview to meet for appointments. There should be an Overview in Sparta for the betterment of the underserved community of citizens, who have no transportation and are not computer savvy.

Executive Session

Councilman Yisrael motioned to enter into executive session; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous.

Adjournment with no action taken regarding the Executive Session.

The meeting was over at approximately 7:30 PM.