

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mayor & City Council

Called Meeting

6pm Thursday, October 27, 2022

IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Citizens attending are encouraged, but not required, to follow COVID-19 safety protocols in regards to wearing a protective face mask/covering and social distancing.

AGENDA

1. Executive Session—Personnel Matters
2. Adjournment

SPARTA MAYOR & COUNCIL

City of Sparta

Mayor & Council Meeting

5PM Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members, Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts. Rav Zuridan Yisrael arrived at 5:10 PM.

City Clerk, Virginia Webb and Attorney John Hitchcock were present.

The 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 motioned to adopt the agenda. Councilman Nolley seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt the minutes. Mayor ProTem Sherrod seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. The "Grant Bootcamp" will be attended by Virginia Webb, City Clerk, Amanda Akins, Supervisor of the Wastewater Plant and Mayor Haywood. There will be several meetings along with opportunities to apply for grants. To maximize the funds that the city currently has available, we are working on several grants for the Water, Police, Street and Fire departments. We received an email on Thursday, that Point Blank Ballistics, have awarded City of Sparta, 4 custom sized tactical police vests, valued at approximately \$400. Also, as a part of the one the grants for Wastewater, the city will be partnering with the school/community group to promote gardening/growing plants from seeds.
2. We have received and submitted Parade requests to Department of Transportation for The Hancock Central High School Homecoming Parade, 5K Clark Road Race, and Pine Tree Festival. Requests must be approved by DOT, when there is an interruption of the traffic on a state route and must be submitted 21 days prior to event.
3. We are preparing for our 3rd Quarter employee BUYBACK. This plan was put in place to allow employees to exchange accumulated time for money, in an effort to reduce the excessive number of annual leave/compensatory time that has been accumulated.
4. We have had great success with the retirement program and approximately 95% of employees that are qualified have chosen to participate in the 457(b) plan.

Mayor's Report

1. Breast Cancer Awareness Day is on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. The mayor signed a proclamation.
2. The USDA Rural Hometown Grant application has been submitted. The grant will be used to purchase \$216,000 worth of water, public works, and waste water department equipment. The Waste Water Department will acquire a Kubota M15/111 HDC tractor with four-wheel drive, a front loader bucket attachment with a stump jumper, a tree cutter with a gaffing attachment, a USD motor-powered pump, and aqua jets suction for aerators for approximately \$122,000. The Water Department will spend approximately \$79,188 on acquiring an AF7000 Streaming Current Monitor, a Hach with bench test service, and a Ductless Main Split Heat Pump with 4 Tons 5 Zones. A used street sweeper, Kubota Zero-Turn Mower, and Limb Beaver tractor attachment cost approximately \$104,350 for the Public Works Department. The USDA Grant will be matched by the city up to 30%.
3. A Solid Waste Handling Permit from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has been requested by the city. The application is expected to receive feedback in the coming months.
4. Matt Roper, from Roper Environmental, will inspect and give an evaluation on the landfill as to our next steps, in an effort to close it.
5. In collaboration with Comcast, Mayor Haywood sent a letter of support for a grant application for rural broadband.
6. Natural gas prices will increase this year. The failure of two significant pipelines in the northern states, the fact that Europe is paying \$40.00 per thousand cubic feet, and the fact that gas is being liquefied in the United States for shipment to Europe all contributed to an increase in natural gas prices. This year, the city will pay \$16.52 more per thousand cubic feet, which is double what it paid last year. This cost will be passed on to customers.

New Business

A. Adoption of the City's Complete Streets Policy

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the policy; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote was unanimous.

B. Voting on Contracting a Firm to Have All City Ordinances Be Electronically Prepared and Made Available to the Public for Online Access

Councilman Yisrael inquired about the state of the public accessibility of the city's ordinances, which he voiced months earlier. The city clerk, Virginia Webb, stated that she has spoken with one company and is awaiting another's response; her objective is to get the most affordable quote for the city.

Councilman Roberts motioned to table the vote to compare the second quote; Councilman Nolley seconded. No other discussion. Vote not unanimous. Councilman Yisrael voted "No."

Old Business

A. Update on Merging of 911 Emergency Communications' Service

The proposal to combine the three city dispatchers with the county's 911 system, as stated by Mayor Haywood, has been received. He will inform the council during the executive session.

B. Voting Decision to Require All Commercial Trash / Garbage Disposal Users in the City to Use the City's Contracted Disposal Service

Councilman Roberts motioned to vote and Mayor ProTem Sherrod seconded. Vote unanimous.

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

No one has been re-appointed by Mayor Haywood. His selection declined.

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

City Hall Will be Closed at 3PM Friday, October 28th for HCHS Homecoming

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30PM on Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5PM Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Citizen's Input

Wilmatine Tolbert, a city resident who has attended council meetings for 20 years, thanked the Mayor for being more transparent with city matters.

Mary Jackson, a resident of the city, asked why her water bill has increased. Mayor Haywood listened to her concern and invited her come to City Hall for further clarification.

Maxine Evans, a resident of the city, stated that she has observed a large number of stray dogs loose on the streets. She commends Chief Clayton for saving a child from being severely attacked by dogs.

Deedee Hider, a resident of the city, mentioned applying for housing grants with CDBG for the citizens of Sparta.

Dip Pollaty, a resident of the city, stated that 3% interest loans for downtown development properties rehabilitation are available through the DCA.

Executive Session for Personnel and Legal Matters

Councilman Yisrael motioned to enter executive session and Councilman Roberts seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Back Regular Meeting

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to go back to the regular meeting; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilman Yisrael made a motion to hire Tommie Walker as an officer with the Police Department. Councilman Roberts seconded the motion. The vote was not unanimous. Mayor ProTem voted "No".

Councilman Roberts made a motion to hire Michael Graham as a Wastewater employee, that will also help with the Street Department. Councilman Nolley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Adjournment

Mayor ProTem Sherrod made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Roberts seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:55 PM..

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, December 13, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—October 11, & November 14, 2022 Regular Meetings
7. Clerk’s Report
8. Mayor’s Report
9. New Business
 - A. Schedule a Joint Meeting with Council & Historic Preservation Commission for 4:30pm Thursday, January 12, 2023 in City Hall
 - B. First Reading of Business License Fees’ Ordinance
10. Old Business
 - A. Confirm the Mayor’s Selection of Lois Clark (Headstart Nurse) to Fill the Seat on the Hancock County Health Board Left Vacant by the Passing of Mayor-Appointed Dr. Bradford Brown
11. Three Public Hearings Are Scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall
 - A. 4:00pm “Round-up Package Store” Retail Liquor License Application
 - B. 4:15pm “Sugar’s Package Store” Retail Liquor License Application
 - C. 4:30pm Proposed Annual City Business License Fees
12. A Called Meeting Will Be Held at 4:45pm Wednesday, December 28, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall, to Vote on Renewal of Liquor Licenses for “Round-up Package” & “Sugar’s Package”; Second Reading & Vote on Proposed City Business License Fees

13. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, January 12, 2023 in Council Chambers, City Hall
14. City Hall Will Close at 5:00pm Thursday, December 22, 2022 for Christmas Holidays and Re-open at 8:00am Tuesday, December 27, 2022
15. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday January 2, 2023 for New Year Holiday
16. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2023
17. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, January 10, 2023
18. Citizens' Input (Please limit Questions/Comments to 3 Minutes)
19. Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business
20. Adjournment