

# 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

**City of Sparta**  
**Mayor and City Council Meeting**  
**5PM Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members, Tom Roberts and Rav Zuridan Yisrael. Councilman Brandon Nolley, due to the flu, was present via phone.

City Clerk, Virginia Webb was present. Attorney John Hitchcock was present.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem Sherrod at 5:07 PM followed by a moment of silence, The Lord's Prayer, and The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Amend Agenda**

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to added October 11, 2022 minutes to the agenda. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote unanimous. Although Councilman Nolley was present via phone his vote will not be counted.

**Adopt Minutes- October 11 & November 8, 2022 Regular Meetings and October 27, 2022 "Called Meeting"**

Councilman Roberts made a motion to make corrections to October 11, 2022 minutes. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote not unanimous. Councilman Roberts voted "Yes." Councilman Yisrael voted "Yes." Mayor ProTem Sherrod voted "No."

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the October 27, 2022 "called meeting" minutes. Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote not unanimous. Councilman Roberts voted "Yes." Councilman Yisrael voted "Yes," Mayor ProTem Sherrod voted "No."

Due to the absence of two council members, the November 8, 2022 regular meeting did not have a forum to allow votes. The clerk and mayor gave reports. No action taken.

**Clerk's Report**

1. The administrative staff has begun preparation for end of year reporting. We have attended several webinars pertaining to completion of these reports. If any address changes need to be made, please do so before December 30, when W2's & other reports will be prepared to be sent out.
2. The city has completed the annual contract for assistance with the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. Contact Overview at 478-453-4111 for an appointment to determine eligibility. Overview will process applications and award

funds to the City of Sparta's utility department to be applied to applicants' account, if eligible.

3. We would like to thank our Street & Utility Departments for a job well with the Christmas decorations downtown Sparta. A special "thank you" to Della Smith for donating her time to help with this project. Also, there will be a decorating committee formed early next year, to ensure that all decorations are presentable. Interested persons should contact me at 706-444-5753 option 5.

### **Mayor's Report**

1. Mayor Haywood thanks Shane Harper, Superintendent of the Filter Plant, for having four working main pumps, two of which had been out of commission for several years. Two pumps have been rebuilt, while the other two are brand new. EPD had approved the pumps for safety and sanitary reasons.
2. Amanda Akins, the Waste Water Plant Superintendent, has received the permit for waste water land application. There are now ten spray fields, five of which were previously unavailable for use.
3. Mayor Haywood received an email from DCA stating that Sparta is recertified for broadband internet.
4. This year, the city received \$23, 957.88 in federal funding from Overview. The city has spent \$213,776.55 to patch, repave, and repair the city streets.
5. Mayor Haywood stated that he has attended three webinars hosted by the US Treasury regarding housing and ARPA funding from the state, which he plans to apply for in 2023.
6. Amanda Akins, the Waste Water Plant Superintendent, has written grants for the Preservation Commission to restore the old police station. She is currently working with Administrative Officer Tommie Walker of the Sparta Police Department on obtaining funds through grants for supplies and equipment needed by the police department through the Georgia 1033 program.
7. Councilman Roberts provides a status update on the police station relocation. The interior work of the building has now been timetabled by the contractors. He also mentions that a handicapped ramp will be installed.
8. Sheriff Primus and Administrative Officer Walker have collaborated to connect city and county officers to 911, putting all officers on the same frequency when an emergency occurs.
9. The mayor recognized Officer Tommie Walker, who stated that there will be an Annual Christmas Toy Drive Giveaway on December 16, 2022 at 4PM-6PM at the police department with the help of citizens and business leaders of the community by donating toys and funds for children. This event will provide a Santa Claus, a festive backdrop for photographs, and each child, ages 3 to 13,

present will receive a wrapped gift. He is excited that there will be more events throughout the new year.

According to the Sparta Police Department Activity Report, there were 208 “911” calls for assistance in November 2022; 37 written citations, 34 of which were traffic violations. All officers now have new body cameras. New uniforms have been issued to all officers and dispatchers. To ensure that all officers have matching badges, new badges have been ordered for all officers. A new recording system has been installed for easy access and ample space for storing sensitive information such as photographs and videos. The new vehicles are being properly maintained.

The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association provided Ballistic Vests (Bullet Proof Vests) to four officers. The Sparta Police Department received a \$1,000 grant from the National Police Association with the assistance of Amanda Akins, Waste Water Department Superintendent, for equipment. A \$1800 grant was also given to the Police Department for NARCAN Nasal Spray and Fentanyl test strips. Three other grants have been applied for and are awaiting approval to obtain laptops, printers, additional patrol cars, and desktop computers.

10. On Tuesday, December 20, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Hancock Health Improvement Partnership (HHIP) and the Hancock County Health Department will distribute free Visa Gift Cards for COVID and Flu vaccines at the Hancock County Health Department, which will be available only to Hancock County residents and employees. Residents and employees are required to provide proof of residency. A \$100 gift card for the first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and a \$25 gift card for the flu vaccine per person. COVID testing kits are distributed at a kiosk outside the health department.

## **New Business**

### **A. Schedule a Joint Meeting with Council & Historic Preservation Commission for 4:30PM Thursday, January 12, 2023 in City Hall**

Mayor Haywood suggests to bring the Council and Historic Preservation Commission together at 4:30PM, instead of 5:30PM. Council approves.

### **B. First Reading of Business License Fees' Ordinance**

Attorney Hitchcock introduced the Business License Fees' Ordinance.

## **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**

Mayor Haywood recommended that Headstart Nurse Lois Clark serve until December 31, 2024. Councilman Yisrael moved to elect Nurse Lois Clark to the health board, and Councilman Roberts seconded. There was no debate. "Yes," says Councilman Roberts. "Yes," says Councilman Yisrael. "No," says Mayor ProTem Sherrod. Vote 2-1.

### **Three Public Hearings Are Scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, 2022 in Council Chambers, City Hall**

**A. 4:00 PM "Round Up Package Store" Retail Liquor License Application**

**B. 4:15 PM "Sugar's Package Store" Retail Liquor License Application**

**C. 4:30 PM Proposed Annual City Business License Application**

**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**

**Historic Perseveration Commission Regular Meeting 5:30PM Thursday, January 12, 2023 in Council Chambers, City Hall**

**City Hall Will Close at 5:00PM Thursday, December 22, 2022 for Christmas Holidays and Re-open at 8:00AM Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

**City Hall Will Be Closed Monday January 2, 2023 for New Year Holiday**

**Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30PM on Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**Mayor & Council Work Regular Meeting at 5PM Tuesday January 10, 2023**

### **Citizen's Input (Please Limit Questions/Comments to 3 Minutes)**

1. Cathy Ransom, Manager of the Hancock County Public Library, and a city resident, looks forward to the new year of 2023. She stated that the library would hold a basic computer class for the public in January or February 2023 to help citizens become more familiar with using and understanding computers. There are currently five laptops, hot spots, and launch pads available at the library. A weekly/monthly program with a focus on developing good habits that is awaiting approval from the regional office. She intends to collaborate with Headstart to allow field trips to the library. Hopefully, by February or March 2023, the library will host a program like Read Across America or a celebration of Dr. Suess' birthday. It is hoped that by sharing the professions of community business leaders and servicemen and women, children will learn more about the people of Hancock County. The library is open Monday through Saturday. She is grateful for the county and city's assistance.
2. Elizabeth Havier, a county resident, would like the opportunity to help the community she loves and cares about. She expresses her support for Police Chief Thomas Clayton and recognizes and appreciates his years of service to the community. Her wish is for the city and its citizens to work together to make Sparta a more cohesive, close-knit municipality.
3. Ronnie Evans, a city resident, and former chief of police with 41 years of service, claims that after taking office, he was promised the equivalent of his predecessor, Chief Garrett, upon retirement; he has yet to receive his police unit, a duty weapon, and a retirement party honoring him for his years of service. He claims that he has been unfairly treated; he is concerned about his retirement through the Peace Officers A&B fund. He shares his experience as a former law enforcement officer, praising Chief Clayton, his staff, and himself for keeping the town safe.
4. Troy Harden, a Sparta resident, believes that he and other citizens believe Chief Clayton has been disrespected in his position within the police department and the city.
5. Maxine Evans, a resident of city, states that she believes Chief Clayton has been mistreated and expresses her support for him, valuing his years of service.
6. Chief Thomas Clayton, a city resident, claims that he is not involved in many of the decisions made, such as the Christmas Toy Drive Giveaway. He believes he has been

unfairly treated. As chief of police, he wants more respect. As an officer, he has put his life in danger to ensure the safety of everyone in the community.

Mayor Haywood has invited Chief Clayton to meet with him and the council during the Executive Session. Chief Clayton refused.

#### **Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business**

Councilman Yisrael motioned to go into executive session. Councilman Roberts seconded.

After meeting for over one hour in Executive Session, Council returned to regular meeting.

No motion was made regarding any actin discussed in Executive Session.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned approximately 7:30PM.