

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, February 14, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting & December 28, 2022 “Called” Meeting (both were tabled in January 10 meeting) *(tabled)*
January 10, 2023 Meeting
7. Departmental Reports---Police & Utilities
8. Clerk’s Report
9. Mayor’s Report
10. New Business
 - A. Vote to Approve Zoning Special Use Permit for Latossha Walker’s Day Care
11. Old Business
 - A. Vote to Authorize City Attorney to Move Forward with Plan to Begin Posting All City Ordinances on the City’s Website
12. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, March 9, 2023 in City Hall
12. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, February 20, 2023 for In-Service Day
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, March 6, 2023
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, March 14, 2023
15. Citizens’ Input (Please limit Questions/Comments to 3 Minutes)
16. Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business
17. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & City Council Meeting
5PM Tuesday, February 14, 2023

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 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 Yisrael seconded. Vote unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes – December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting & December 28, 2022 “Called” Meeting (both were tabled in January 10, 2023 Meeting)

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to table December 13, 2022 minutes; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to table December 28, 2022 minutes; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to table January 10, 2023 minutes; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous.

Departmental Reports – Police & Utilities

(See Attached Pages 7-10)

Clerk's Report

1. The LMIG grant application was submitted. Maiden Lane, Front Street, and Hancock Street have been proposed for repair.

2. A parade permit has been submitted to the DOT for the 5K Rebel Dash, sponsored by John Hancock Academy, to be held on March 11, 2023. The race for runners and walkers will begin at 8 a.m.
3. Anthem has provided us with a renewal quote for employee health, dental, and vision insurance. The expected prices have risen. Our agent has requested price quotes from other businesses so that we can compare them. In March, the council will receive additional information. The current policy will be in effect until April 1, 2023.
4. Virginia Webb, City Clerk, has collaborated with Amanda Akins, Wastewater Supervisor, on numerous grants to provide much-needed funds for the Fire Department to replace worn-out turnout gear and other equipment. If funds are awarded, other items will be upgraded.
5. We are still conducting surveys for the CDBG grant to repair our Wastewater Facility lagoons. We ask that you complete it if asked by staff so that we can demonstrate that there is a need. To be considered eligible to apply for the grant, we must have 400 surveys completed by the middle of March.

Mayor's Report

1. Amanda Akins, Wastewater Supervisor, has been working on numerous grant applications and has been approved for a \$12,761 award for first responders' equipment.
2. The CBDG is making progress.
3. A check from Overview was received on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 for \$3200 to be applied to 11 utility accounts for customers, who qualified for assistance.
4. During the Executive Session, the mayor will meet with Council in regards to personnel for an animal control officer. With the interviewing process finalized, the candidate, who is a certified animal control officer and recommended by the state inspector, has provided the necessary documentation to proceed with ordering the equipment needed. On Monday, February 13, 2023, the city applied for certification from the state. The shelter will require two fire extinguishers and cedar chips. The county has agreed to help with expenses. A double cage, two noose sticks, 25 slip leashes, 8 water pails has been ordered. Volunteers will be needed to help maintain the facility. The animals will be handled in a humane manner and will be sent to several rescues.

5. The city has been paying for the closed landfill for over 25 years. In 2022, the city paid \$18,870 to monitor the landfill. Mike Biers, an innovative engineering strategist, will meet with Council in March to further explain how to efficiently monitor a landfill that is best for the city.
6. On Monday, February 13, 2023, Mayor Haywood addressed the Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at Hancock Central High School about education. The students were very interested in education post-graduation.
7. On Saturday, October 15, 2022, an accident occurred resulting in a fire hydrant needing to be replaced. The cost for replacement of the hydrant was \$11,895. The insured person has yet to come forward and the city will be filing with the city's insurance, GIRMA.
8. Mayor Haywood has made three trips since mid-January, two to Atlanta and one to Washington, DC. Senator Raphael Warnock invited the mayor to attend a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday, January 15, 2023, where he had the opportunity to meet President Biden. Senators Ossoff and Warnock were eager to assist the city with delegated spending. They have already written several letters of support for city's grants.
9. The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia invited the mayor on Monday, January 30 – Wednesday, February 1, 2023, along with four other mayors from towns of different sizes, to go to Washington, DC. The mayor met with 11 congressmen and both senators to discuss the importance of natural gas. Mayor Haywood emphasized the importance of natural gas to residential customers. Eatonton Mayor John Reid explained how they are producing natural gas from manure and will be shipping it to Dublin for industry.
10. The Georgia Hospital Association invited the mayor to join a panel to answer questions about rural healthcare in Atlanta.

New Business

A. Vote to Approve Zoning Special Use Permit for Latossha Walker's Day Care

Councilman Yisrael motioned to approve zoning for the special use permit for Latossha Walker's daycare; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Old Business

A. Vote to Authorize City Attorney to Move Forward with Plan to Begin Posting All City Ordinances on the City's Website

Councilman Yisrael stated that Municode with CivicPlus would be best for the city, because it would provide easier navigation of codes, put the city in compliance, and provide access transparency for the citizens.

Attorney John Hitchcock stated that Goebel will have a link to each code and it will be not be a continual PDF.

Councilman Yisrael motioned for the city to authorize Municode with CivicPlus to begin posting the city's ordinances on the city's website; Councilman Nolley seconded.

Mayor ProTem Sherrod voted "Yes." Councilman Nolley voted "Yes." Councilman Yisrael voted "Yes." Councilman Roberts voted "No," after pointing out the cost has not been determined. Vote not unanimous.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, March 9, 2023 in City Hall

City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, February 20, 2023 for In-Service Day

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, March 6, 2023

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, March 14, 2023

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

1. ProTem Mayor Sandra Sherrod, a city resident, reported that during a work session meeting, Mayor Haywood and she disagreed. She afterwards received a distressing text message from the mayor saying that she labeled him a "liar". Throughout the message, he also warned that if she did not stop slandering his reputation without providing evidence, he would not continue to press her to pay thousands of dollars in city utility bills that she owes. She stated that those claims were false, and that she did not appreciate or respect the way Mayor Haywood addressed her. Mayor ProTem Sherrod repeatedly asked for proof of the bill in her name.

Mayor Haywood said he would show proof.

2. Dip Polatty, resident of the city, stated that on Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) and Holsey Church will be cleaning up the access road around the Ebenezer Cemetery from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

3. Maxine Evans, resident of the city, shared her concerns about Chief Thomas Clayton. She stated that Officer Tommie Walker was brought in over the chief and he took over. Chief Clayton received a demotion letter requesting his decision in ten days to the offer of sergeant, to which he turned in his uniform resigning from the force. She gives Chief Thomas Clayton her support.
4. Officer Larry Chapman, a city resident, said Chief Clayton served a warrant on his last day of work. He stated that he is only paid \$16 per hour, which is insufficient for officers who put their lives on the line every day. Officer Chapman discussed his career history, which included three retirements from the military, the state, and the sheriff's department. He also claims that he is unable to work in a toxic environment.
5. DeeDee Hider, resident of the city, remarked that when she first saw Chief Clayton in his civilian clothes, she was shocked that he resigned. She inquired about who makes the decisions upon hiring someone.
Mayor Haywood answered that it is the mayor's responsibility to hire, fire, or demote. The employee has the right to appeal the mayor's decision by going before the council.
6. Officer Jada Baugh, resident of the city, told of her encounter with Chief Thomas Clayton on his last day of duty. Chief Clayton told her that he felt unappreciated and that it would be best for him to retire rather than face further disrespect in trying to keep his position as chief. Officer Baugh noted that she and Officer Larry Chapman have been working 12-hour shifts day and night to uphold the hefty responsibilities of serving the community properly while being understaffed. She went on to recount two phone calls she received while on duty. The first call was about three people attempting to defraud the lottery machine, while the second was about a man indecently exposing himself outside of Golden Pantry. She also mentioned that Officer Tommie Walker and all the officers are attempting to operate as a cohesive police agency that is best suited to the community.
7. Wilmatine Tolbert, a city resident, asked if more police officers should be employed.
8. Martha Harris, a resident of the county, from Dog Group, stated that she had not noticed any extra dogs around the city. She is excited to work with the volunteers to assist with the care of the dogs once they are captured. The ordinances of the county must be updated. There have been 144 calls to the city since 2016: 74 for stray dogs, 45 for bite incidents, 11 for animal cruelty, 5 dead dogs, two of which were killed by residents, and

one missing dog. There are 30 dogs, which are two large litter of puppies, that are currently being taken care of and there are a need for fosters. The animal control officer is needed to assist in the development of community connections.

9. Dee Dee Hider, a resident of the city, stated that on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., an outreach event will be held at the library with the Hancock County Extension Department, Rural Development, USDA, Michael Carrey, and the University of Georgia, among others, to provide resources and information for grant money to fix up homes, farming equipment, and educate the community. The information will be posted around the city.

Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business

Councilman Roberts motioned to enter Executive Session; Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote unanimous.

Back to Regular Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to return to Regular Session; Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the hiring of Summer Bilbrey for the position of animal control officer; Councilman Nolley seconded. Mayor ProTem Sherrod voted "Yes." Councilman Yisrael voted "No."

Adjournment

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor ProTem Sherrod seconded. Vote unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.



CITY OF SPARTA

POLICE

Thomas Clayton
Chief of Police

365 SPRING STREET • SPARTA, GEORGIA - 31087
OFFICE: 706-444-5777 / FAX: 706-444-0827

Tommie Walker, Jr.
*Administrative
Officer*

JANUARY 2023

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

174 – TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

35 – TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

35 – TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

0 – DRUG VIOLATIONS

0 – DUI

0 – OTHER

0 – ARREST

Water Production

While freezing temperatures in late December had a negative impact on treatment, production, and delivery of water to customers, and while many neighboring utilities were forced to issue Boil Water Advisories to their customers, the hard work of water treatment and distribution personnel kept system operations running as smoothly as possible and ensured that at no time did the City lose control of water quality. In fact, even with the added demand imposed by inclement weather, Sparta's Water Treatment Plant continued on its trend of improved efficiency and lower demand compared to the same period the year before.

Highlighted days indicate continuous 24-hour operation days due to increased demand from frozen water lines. Numbers are expressed in MG (Millions of Gallons)

December Water Flows

2021				2022			
	Processed or Treated thru Plant (MG)	Treated Water Pumped to Dist. System (MG)	Total Hours Plant Operated (hrs)		Processed or Treated thru Plant (MG)	Treated Water Pumped to Dist. System (MG)	Total Hours Plant Operated (hrs)
1	1.1	0.97	15.4	1	0.93	0.77	13.6
2	1.28	1.05	17.5	2	0.95	0.77	13.8
3	1.17	0.98	15.8	3	0.98	0.72	13.8
4	1.23	1	17	4	0.96	0.75	18.1
5	1.38	1.06	19.3	5	0.86	0.76	12.3
6	1.12	0.97	15.5	6	0.94	0.71	13.8
7	1.1	0.94	14.7	7	0.95	0.81	13.9
8	1.09	0.87	15.1	8	0.93	0.73	13.9
9	1.25	0.96	17.5	9	0.91	0.75	12.8
10	1.15	0.94	16	10	0.89	0.65	12.8
11	1.14	0.95	15.3	11	0.9	0.78	13.1
12	1.14	0.94	15.3	12	1	0.76	14.6
13	1.23	0.98	17	13	1.02	0.76	15.5
14	1.17	0.92	16.4	14	0.8	0.72	11.8
15	1.08	0.94	14.9	15	1	0.82	14.5
16	1.47	1.09	19.9	16	0.99	0.71	14.2
17	1.24	1.08	16.8	17	0.95	0.78	13.8
18	1.27	1.03	18.6	18	0.89	0.73	13.7
19	1.41	1.02	20.4	19	0.94	0.78	13.9
20	1.09	1.02	16.5	20	0.83	0.75	12.1
21	1.15	0.96	17.4	21	1.05	0.82	15.3
22	1.18	0.95	17.7	22	1.1	0.86	17.6
23	1.3	0.94	19.5	23	1.05	0.81	18.6
24	1.1	0.99	16.4	24	1.42	1.08	20.9
25	1.14	1.01	16.6	25	1.46	1.42	21.5
26	1.22	1	18.3	26	1.63	1.35	24
27	1.15	0.92	16.8	27	1.63	1.31	24
28	1.27	1.02	17.5	28	1.63	1.1	24
29	1.35	1.03	18.5	29	1.24	1.01	18.4
30	1.15	0.93	15.6	30	0.93	0.97	13.6
31	1.07	1	14.2	31	1.28	0.9	18.8
	37.19	30.46	523.4		33.04	26.64	492.7

City of Sparta Water Treatment Plant Operations Report

January 2023

For further illustration of this point, compare the following production numbers for the months of January for this year and the 4 previous years.

January Flows, Five Year History

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Hours Plant Operated	491.2	540.6	604	527.9	551.3
Pumped From Lake (Million Gallons)	32.4	37.9	41.52	38.36	37.58
Pumped To Town (Million Gallons)	25.8	30.06	37.2	33.01	31.92
Plant Use & Waste	6.6	7.84	4.32	5.35	5.66

Other Areas

Facility

An order was placed with Overhead Door of Macon to repair and upgrade the roll-up door at the plant. This door is used for the delivery of equipment and chemicals, and it has been malfunctioning for the past year, requiring repair after each use. The door, which is currently operated manually, will be upgraded with an electric motor for easier and more reliable operation.

The injection point for our Fluoride feed is leaking, and needs repair. Flash Mixer #1, the point of initial mixing in our treatment process, has failed and needs to be replaced.

Personnel

Bill Beall, an operator with three years of service with the city, was moved to day shift after working exclusively on night shift since his employment began. Currently a Class 3 Operator, Bill will begin attending classes required to take the exam for a Class 2 Operator license. TerMarion Hunt is now on night shift, and continues to study for his Class 3 exam.

All Georgia-issued Water Operator licenses will need to be renewed by the end of June this year. City of Sparta Water Operators will spend the next several months acquiring classroom training to meet Continuing Education Certification Points required for the renewal of their specific license. While we do our best to utilize free training provided by GRWA, some situations may require operators attend paid training classes.

Compliance

Water Loss Audits are required to be completed and submitted to GA EPD by March 1st each year. These audits cover the water withdrawn, treated, pumped, and sold for the previous calendar year. Data is collected and analyzed from the treatment plant, the distribution system, and from billing records to produce a report that shows how much water was lost throughout the year – an indicator of the efficiency of the system. We have begun work on this year's audit and expect to have it submitted by the deadline.

The Treatment Plant's Operations Records are required to be shared with GA EPD every month, with reports being due by the 10th day of the following month. EPD's Reporting website has been down for 3 months now, so reports must be manually compiled and emailed to our Drinking Water Inspection Team representative. This has created a small amount of additional work for City employees, but has so far been manageable. Mayor Haywood has put us in contact with a private company who offers data collecting and reporting solutions. We have a ZOOM meeting set for Tuesday the 7th at 11am to discuss what services their company could provide to the City.

January Report for Distribution System

Water

- Crew repaired multiple service line and meter leaks. We also repaired two leaks on 6" main and did three 2" main repairs.
- Two new services were installed.
- During the extremely cold temperatures in December, we were able to maintain water service to our customers. The filter plant had to run around the clock for 3 or 4 days to maintain. We need to be looking into increasing our storage capacity in the distribution system. Thanks to all for their hard work.

Sewer Collection

- Crews installed one new service tap.
- Repaired four lift stations.
- Cleaned out two sewer mains.
- Monthly service on lift stations.

Gas

- Responded to three possible gas leaks.
- Monthly readings were taken on rectifiers and odorization systems.
- One new gas service was installed.
- Two gas meters were replaced.
- Yearly test was performed by our gas consultants on our regulator stations.

Street

- Chipper was repaired and crews caught up on the chipping.
- Crews started cleaning out ditches.
- Tony Smith Paving finished the patching that was contracted with him. We still have more roads that need patching when funds are available.