

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, January 10, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—December 13, 2023 Regular Meeting & December 28, 2022 “Called” Meeting
7. Clerk’s Report
8. Mayor’s Report
9. New Business
 - A. Citizen Request for Speed Bump Installations on West Adams Street Between Miles Street and Maiden Lane
10. Old Business
 - A. Due to Scheduling Conflicts, Reschedule Joint Meeting of Council & Historic Preservation Commission for 5pm Monday, February 6th
11. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:30pm in Council Chambers, City Hall
12. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday January 16, 2023 in Observance of MLK Holiday
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, February 6, 2023
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, February 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 & Council Meeting
5PM Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Elected Officials present was Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Council Members, Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Yisrael.

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

Due to voice illness, Mayor ProTem Sherrod asked Councilman Yisrael to preside.

Councilman Yisrael called the meeting to order at 5:03PM followed by a moment of silence, The Lord's Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adopt the agenda; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes – December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting & December 28, 2022 “Called” Meeting

The minutes were tabled until the next monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

Clerk's Report

1. The Department of Transportation has arranged a two-day chainsaw safety course for ten City of Sparta personnel. To participate in the class, each employee must have chaps, hardhats, safety glasses, gloves, ear plugs, and other protective gear. On April 10 and 11, 2023, classes will be in Milledgeville, Georgia. They will learn about chainsaw maintenance and safety on April 10 and then cut down trees on April 11.
2. All department heads and supervisors will be required to submit a monthly report detailing each department's progress, needs, and issues beginning with the February 6th Work Session.
3. AirMed coverage, a city-paid benefit with no cost to the employees, went into effect on January 6, 2023, with 30 city employees signing up.
4. Employee W2 forms for 2022 will be printed and distributed on or before January 26, 2023.
5. Natassa Walker applied for a Special Use Permit for Parkway Drive. The residential property will be used as a commercial daycare facility. The hearing will be held at City Hall in the city council chambers on February 6, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Mayor's Report

1. With the assistance of the CSRA, the city, which has now achieved compliance, has submitted an application for a CDBG grant to refurbish two lagoons at the Waste Water Plant, which would cost between \$800,000 and \$900,000. The lagoons will receive cleaning and new liners maintenance for the very first time in 25 years. In relation to the grant funding, 400 obligatory surveys will be mailed out or handed out door-to-door to selected residents picked by computer. The surveys will require the number of residents in a household as well as the median income.
2. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has approved the city as a qualified local government.
3. FEMA has approved the city for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Now citizens can purchase flood insurance from local insurance companies.
4. In relation to the sewage spill, public notices, high water table resulted in runoff from the spray field #10 down into a wet weather creek. No damages done.
5. Mayor Haywood recognized Amanda Akins, Superintendent of the Waste Water Department, and Officer Tommie Walker of the Sparta Police Department for their collaborative efforts on a number of grants. They have currently received permission for four new firefighter outfits worth \$12,000 for the City County Fire Department.
6. The bypass project has been awarded a contract on October 20, 2022. The bid of \$16,198,386.59 was awarded to G.P.'s Enterprises. The project is expected to be finished by July 31, 2025. The bridge across Highway 16 will be the first to be built. The proposal calls for a \$110,000 payment to the city to relocate a major a gas line.
7. The mayor will attend an Overview meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2022; he received notice that Overview has recently been approved for \$287,666.10 in weatherization contracts.
8. Mayor Haywood invited Councilman Roberts to provide an update on the new police station. Councilman Roberts stated that the only thing left to do is talk to Chief Clayton about how he wants to arrange new lock doors and install the new locks.
9. A fire hydrant was knocked out of the ground as a result of a truck accident. The city has spent around \$12,000 on hydrant repairs. The city has opted to make a claim with GIRMA, the city's insurer. GIRMA will then seek reimbursement from the truck's owner.
10. Mayor Haywood asked Officer Tommie Walker to deliver the December 2022 Police Report. Officer Walker reported 156 "911" requests for help, 33 written citations, 28 of which were traffic offenses, also one arrest. Officer Walker expressed gratitude to the community for their overwhelming support in making the toy drive a success. Additionally, Christmas gift bags were distributed to every nursing home resident.
11. Jessie Thomas, a State Department of Agriculture animal inspector, was impressed by the animal shelter. A fire extinguisher, cedarwood chips, and heat will be required depending on the number of animals and the date the shelter opens. The next steps in

ensuring the shelter's proper operation will be the hiring of an animal control officer and an animal catcher. Animal control officers in Georgia are not required to be certified by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. To transport captured animals, the catcher must be certified and have noose sticks and a kennel.

12. GMA contacted the mayor to join a zoom panel with legislators in regards to increasing the weight limit of heavy trucks.
13. Tony Smith Paving was hired to patch approximately 20 patches from Boland St. to Hamilton St. and Boland St. to Hwy 15&16 around the city costing about \$9,600.
14. Mitchell Ray Perritt, an employee at the Waste Water Department, was recommended to acquire certification by attending a two-day water distribution course in Columbus, GA.
15. A 6-inch watermain ruptured in front of Hills Farm Supply during the frost on Thursday, December 22nd. While repairs were being made, some residential customers' meters were turned off.

New Business

A. Citizens Request for Speed Bump Installations on West Adams Street Between Miles Street and Maiden Lane

John Buchanan of West Adams Street has requested that the city build speed bumps to reduce the amount of speeding and screeching tires on his street. He stated that increased speeding has made it risky for anyone walking alone, with their pets, or exercising in the area. If the city could not help, he and a couple of his neighbors offered to pay for the necessary speed bumps.

Mayor Haywood proposed that the city pay for the speed bumps. Timmy Griffin, Utilities Superintendent, would have to assess the area for proper placement and determine what type of speedbump will function best in the area, according to the mayor.

Old Business

A. Due to Scheduling Conflicts, Reschedule Joint Meeting of Council & Historic Preservation Commission for 5PM Monday, February 6th

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

City Hall Will Be Closed Monday January 16, 2023 in Observance of MLK Holiday

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30PM on Monday, February 6, 2023

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

DeeDee Hider, a city resident, wanted to know how the city prioritizes its budget when deciding whether to put speed bumps or rehabilitate streets.

Mayor Haywood stated that the city has spent about \$240,000 to fix the streets and potholes in the last 12 months.

Ronnie Evans, resident of the county, who started his career in 1978 and was acting Police Chief in 1992 for the City of Sparta, asked for help resolved with his retirement situation.

Paula Dixon, resident of the county, inquired about the department reports.

Burnestine Strother, a county resident, inquired about the water loss and whether residents would receive a bill reduction as a result of the freeze.

Mayor Haywood stated that the issue would be discussed and possibly a percentage decrease for customers who had leaks.

Maxine Evans, a city resident, inquired about the low water pressure on her street and requested that the city increase it. She expressed a desire to assist Officer Nasser Thompkins, who recently lost his home in a fire, and stated that her students would like to do something special for him to show their support and appreciation for all that he has done in the community.

Officer Tommie Walker stated that the police department has set up a GoFundMe account for Officer Nasser Thompkins, which will be active from December 27th to January 27th. With the assistance of Mayor Haywood, an account is opened at the Bank of Hancock, and the two accounts combined should result in a nice amount of funds for Officer Thompkins.

Sherry Buchannan, a resident of the city, asked about how many kennels are there in the animal shelter.

Mayor Haywood stated that there will be eight kennels. The city has invested about \$30,000 in constructing the shelter. The captured animals will be cared for by volunteers from the community.

Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business

Councilman Roberts motioned to go into Executive Session; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Back to Regular Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to return to Regular Session. Councilman Nolley seconded. Vote unanimous. No motions were made to address matters discussed during Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15PM.