

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, April 11, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting
7. Departmental Reports
8. Clerk's Report
9. Mayor's Report
10. New Business
 - A. Annual Designation of Mayor (voter) & Utilities Superintendent (alternate) to Represent City for Gas Authority Board Election in May
11. Old Business
 - A. Second Reading of Amendment to Zoning Ordinance (business district) and Vote on the Amendment
 - B. Approval of Professional Services Contract (monitoring & training staff) for City Landfill
 - C. City Attorney's Report on Progress with Listing Ordinances on the City Website
12. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, April 13, 2023 in City Hall Council Chambers
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, May 1, 2023
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, May 9, 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 Regular Meeting
5PM Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Elected officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod, Councilmembers, Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Yisrael.

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

Mayor ProTem Sherrod called the meeting to order at 5:00PM 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. Vote unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes – March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt the minutes; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Departmental Reports - Police

(See Page 7)

Clerk's Report

1. The Sparta-Hancock Library, located at 8984 E. Broad Street, Sparta, will host a Community Health Fair on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be free giveaways and free services available, such as blood pressure checks, BMI checks, and other nutritional information. Please contact Amanda Martin, Wastewater Supervisor, or Virginia Webb, City Clerk, at 706-444-5753 if there are any questions.
2. The chainsaw safety class was held on Monday, April 10, 2023, at the Milledgeville Public Works Department. Sebastian Casillas of the Georgia Department of Transportation led the training. All participants received certificates.
3. The Utility Department has been working door to door to complete surveys necessary to apply for CDBG grant to repair lagoons at the wastewater facility located on Johnny Britt Road. We have 354 completed. Surveys will be picked up by the CSRA Regional Office by the end of the week.
4. The City of Sparta is seeking bids to repair the old police station at 12688 Broad Street in Sparta. Bids must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023.

5. Letters were sent out last month, reminding property taxpayers of unpaid taxes. The letters have helped with outstanding taxes.
6. Virginia Webb, City Clerk, attended the Georgia Public Service Commission-mandated Gas Section Class at the Macon Marriott Center on Monday, April 3, 2023, as Drug & Alcohol coordinator. Timmy Griffin, Utilities Supervisor, also attended the training on April 4-6, 2023.

Mayor's Report

1. The library will host a Community Health Fair on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering a variety of health services.
2. The city has \$20,000 to conduct DOT patching on potholes located on the streets of Adams, Hancock, Hamilton, Maiden Lane, Boland, Pine Drive, and Providence.
3. On Monday, March 13, 2023, Lois Clark was sworn in to fill Dr. Brown's vacated seat on the Hancock County Health Board.
4. Construction on the animal shelter is complete, and certified animal control officer Summer Bilbery is preparing to gather the stray animals. Mayor Haywood thanked Councilman Roberts for managing the construction of the shelter.
5. Stephanie Hannah, municipal court clerk, has mailed out delinquent tax letters and the citizens are coming in paying their back taxes.
6. Mayor Haywood authorized a letter on behalf of the Council and City to support the five-year extension application for the REACH grant.
7. Natural gas prices have gone down from \$12.51 per thousand cubic feet last month.
8. Engineering Management Incorporated (EMI) has been selected to handle the CDBG grant.
9. The annual signing of the proclamation for child abuse prevention and awareness was April 11, 2023. Mayor Haywood acknowledged Regina Butts for all the work she has done with promoting and spreading awareness. Currently there are fifteen children in the county that are in foster care in need of good foster parents.
10. Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has selected the city for a principal forgiveness opportunity.
11. Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) will be having an apprenticeship program this year. There are many students, ages 17 to 18 years of age, that are interested in wastewater careers. The city will have to check with GMA for insurance purposes.

New Business

A. Annual Designation of Mayor (delegate) & Utilities Superintendent (alternate) to Represent City for Gas Authority Board Election in May

Mayor Haywood stated that no vote would be required, but it is required to be on the agenda.

Old Business

A. Second Reading of Amendment to Zoning Ordinance (business district) and Vote on the Amendment

Attorney Hitchcock stated that at the last council meeting he presented an amendment to the zoning ordinance to add mixed-use (commercial/residential) to the downtown area. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023 and it must also be advertised.

B. Approval of Professional Services Contract (monitoring & training staff) for City Landfill

Mayor Haywood stated that he asked for a revised agreement to include Councilman Yisrael's concerns. Also, choosing this service saves the city money and a consultation that the city will be able to receive that it is not provided by Advance Environmental. The city is paying Advance Environmental over \$20,000 a year. Mayor Haywood further explained that if approved, during the second year after Michael Biers trains the city employees to do the monitoring of the methane and it will save the city about four thousand dollars a year. With the guidance of Biers, it will be three to five years that the city can officially not have to monitor anymore at all, saving the city \$20,000 a year.

Councilman Yisrael asked for clarification on whether the consultation would be an additional cost or would the consultation be included in the initial cost and what extra services are included in the agreement.

Mayor Haywood offered to have Michael Biers come back during the May work session and answer any questions that Council may have concerning the agreement.

Mayor ProTem Sherrod motioned to table the vote; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

C. City Attorney's Report on Progress with Listing Ordinances on the City Website

Attorney Hitchcock stated that the quote has increased since the initial one that was originally presented to Council.

City Clerk Webb stated that the quote, \$8,995 plus the annual \$2,724.75 originally given was valid for only 60 days and the new price is \$11,445 upfront, plus annual fee.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, April 13, 2023 in City Hall Council Chambers

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm on Monday, May 1, 2023

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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

1. Donnie Spencer, resident of the city, stated that he would like Sparta to have an evacuation center, in case of tornadoes or other natural disasters, a homeless shelter, and a medical center. He stated that there are many homeless people that are in the city
2. Cory Parker, the administrator of Sparta Health and Rehabilitation, thanked the city's mayor, council, and residents for their warm welcome. When the Sparta Health and Rehabilitation Center was rumored to be closing a few months ago, he addressed the rumors and stated that it would not be happening. Although it has been leased for some time, Ethica Health has never owned the building or the land. The owners decided to sell all their properties, but Ethica's offer was rejected. Ethica Health later purchased the building and will remain here indefinitely. He credited the staff with having one of the company's highest retention rates. Parker stated that plans will be made to repair the property and the building. New signage, mattresses, and bedding will be available. He requested that everyone spread the word about Sparta Health and Rehabilitation, a skilled 24-hour nursing facility. Anyone looking for work in nursing, CNA, housekeeping, dining services, or maintenance should apply for one of the many job openings. He stated that he is looking forward to working with Sparta's businesses.
Councilman Roberts stated that the city appreciates having Sparta Health and Rehabilitation being a part of the community.
3. William Evans, a city resident, stated that he wanted to remind the council on behalf of Sheila Lewis and Zanetta Robinson about the agreement upon purchase of the old flower shop area, which would be dedicated to the memory of Marvin E. Lewis, Sr., Georgia's first black superintendent. He showed proof of the purchase and sale closing memorandum.
4. DeeDee Hider, a city resident, wanted to address the city's junk car problem and inquired whether the problem was governed by an ordinance.
Attorney Hitchcock stated that he would make a note of it and speak with the police department about the matter.
Mayor Haywood stated that this is also part of the city's new maintenance ordinance.
5. Wilmatine Tolbert, a city resident, asked if the junk car ordinance would extend to people's yards and mentioned that Bibb County has blight ordinances and has received funds to clean up the community, which could benefit the city.

Attorney Hitchcock responded that the ordinance would cover both commercial vehicles and vehicles parked in a right of way or in people's yards. He stated that he would research the matter.

She also inquired about the distinction between residential and commercial building codes.

Attorney Hitchcock responded that it depended on the zoning.

6. Larry Meeks, a city resident, stated that he lives on Boland Street and has witnessed a lot of speeding in his neighborhood. He has asked for speed bumps in front of his house, as well as Child Play signs or warning strips. He offered to pay for the speed bumps if the city agreed.

Mayor Haywood stated that the city would request that officers patrol that area more frequently; speed bumps could not be installed on that road due to the volume of traffic. He said he would research it.

Officer Tommy Walker stated to increase police patrol on Boland Street.

7. Dip Polatty, a city resident, requested that Attorney Hitchcock look into junk trailers with caved-in roofs.

Attorney Hitchcock stated that it would fall under the maintenance ordinance, but he would look into the matter further.

Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business

Councilman Roberts motioned to go into Executive Session; Councilman Yisrael seconded.

Back To Regular Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to go back to regular session; Councilman Yisrael seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilman Yisrael motioned to approve the hiring of Larry Young as an employee of the police department; Councilman Roberts seconded.

Councilman Nolley voted "yes." Mayor ProTem Sherrod voted "no."

Adjournment

Councilman Yisrael motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Roberts seconded. Vote unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.



CITY OF SPARTA

POLICE

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

MARCH 2023

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

214 – TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

48 – TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

- 44 – TRAFFIC
- 4 – OPEN CONTAINER

0– ARREST

PREVIOUS MONTH STATS: FEBRUARY 2023

160 – TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

15 – TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

3 – ARREST

UPDATES:

- OUR EASTER EGGSTRANSVAGANZA THAT WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023 FROM 11AM TO 1PM WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. WE WERE ABLE TO PARTNER WITH OES CHAPTER #53 (Worthy Matron Excelsior), BIGGER BLESSINGS LLC, AND COMPASS LODGE 160 (Masons). WE HAD MANY AMAZING CITIZENS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE EVENT, HELPING IT BE SUCCESSFUL.
- OUR DISPATCHERS NO LONG HAVE TO HAND WRITE THEIR CALL FOR SERVICE LOGS. THEY NOW OPERATE OFF OF A CAD SYSTEM (Computer Aided Dispatch) THAT ALLOWS THEM TO KEY IN IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND HELP THEM KEEP A BETTER RECORD OF STATISTICS.
- ON THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023 ESCAPED INMATE DSHAWN GARRISON FROM JOHNSON STATE PRISON ALONG WITH TWO OTHER ACCOMPLICES WAS TAKING INTO CUSTODY. THEY WERE CAPTURED OUTSIDE OF THE CITY LIMITS ON SANDERSVILLE HWY. THE INMATE AND HIS ACCOMPLICES TOOK OFFICERS ON A HIGHSPEED CHASE FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY INTO HANCOCK, CRASHING IN THE CITY LIMITS OF SPARTA AT THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 22 AND JAMES KENNEDY BLVD. ON THE PROPERTY OF DAWSON MORTUARY.