

# AGENDA

## Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, June 13, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting (tabled); May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting; May 23, 2023 Called Meeting
7. Departmental Reports
8. Clerk's Report
9. Mayor's Report
10. New Business
  - A. Discuss Rate Increases for Trash Collection
  - B. Recreation Funding Assistance Request
11. Old Business
  - A. City Attorney's Report on Progress with Listing Ordinances on the City Website - *covered*
  - B. Landfill Monitoring Services Discussion
12. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, July 13, 2023 in City Hall Council Chambers
13. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, June 19, 2023 to Observe Juneteenth
14. Mayor & Council Work Session for July TPD (To Be Determined) - *4pm July 11*
15. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, July 11, 2023
16. Citizens' Input (Please limit Questions/Comments to 3 Minutes)  
*City Hall closed July 4, 2023*
17. Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business
18. Adjournment

**City of Sparta**  
**Mayor & Council Meeting**  
**5PM Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Councilmembers Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Rav Yisrael. Mayor ProTem Sandra Sherrod arrived late at 5:12 p.m.

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

Mayor Haywood called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. 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. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

**Adopt Minutes – April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting (tabled); May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting; May 23, 2023 “Called” Meeting**

Councilman Yisrael motioned to approve April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve May 23, 2023 “Called” Meeting; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Councilman Yisrael abstained from the vote.

**Departmental Reports – Police**

Officer Tommie Walker indicated that there has been a problem with minors aged 15 to 19 possessing firearms, which the police department is actively working to remedy. If gunshots are heard, call the police.

(See Attached Page 6)

**Clerk's Report**

1. Jodie Hunt, the city's publication manager with Civic Plus, contacted City Clerk Virginia Webb on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. She will be providing information for the publication of the code of ordinances by Friday, June 16, 2023.
2. The city is currently fixing the floors at the animal shelter storage shed to provide an office area for storing records, dog food, and supplies.
3. On Tuesday, August 1, 2023, Sabastian Castillo, a Georgia Department of Transportation representative with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), will conduct a free chainsaw maintenance and safety class offered by the State of Georgia, and city

employees will have hands-on experience cutting down actual trees on Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

4. The Secretary of State's election board will offer a training session for the candidate qualifying review of House Bill 572 and State Bill 120 on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. The qualifying package will be available after July 11, 2023.
5. The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) will have its annual convention in Savannah, Georgia from Friday, June 23, 2023 through Monday, June 26, 2023.

### **Mayor's Report**

1. A coyote was observed on Hamilton Street. Police are aware and looking to see the animal so it can be removed.
2. Michael Graham, a wastewater plant employee, received a training scholarship from the Water and Government Federation.
3. Amanda Akins, waste water supervisor, passed the Class 1 certification test, which requires seven to eight years to qualify for the exam.
4. Mayor Haywood is working on a proclamation honoring and celebrating the Hancock Central Class of 1962–1963 in preparation for their class reunion on July 15, 2023.
5. In July, \$45,000 to \$50,000 will be spent to repair potholes on the streets, funded by the LMIG check and TSPLOST discretionary funds.
6. The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) approved the city's request for loan forgiveness. The city will receive \$6.8 million, with \$4.1 million for water and \$2.7 million for wastewater improvements. A new half-million-gallon water tank will be installed at Industrial Park, along with upgraded lines. Engineers will be able to submit proposals via the State's website. The final application deadline is set for November 1, 2023.
7. The CDBG funding application has been submitted. On Friday, June 9, 2023, the city wrote a check for \$102,759.27 to pay DCA back for misappropriated funds from the city's "revolving fund" to submit an application to request a million dollars. The misappropriation of funds was directly linked to the city's previous mayor and city clerk.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Discuss Rate Increases for Trash Collection**

Mayor Haywood stated Ryland is raising its garage collection rate by 5%. With the new Ryland rate including the 5% increase, Ryland will charge the city \$11.29 with an additional surcharge making the final cost \$12.37 per residential can.

Councilman Yisrael suggested that Council could discuss raising rates again in about a year from the last raise; asked if the city could look for other rates from different providers.

Mayor Haywood stated that the new rates start Saturday, July 1, 2023.

Council stated that the residential rates would stay the same.

(See Attached Page 7-8)

**B. Recreation Funding Assistance Request**

Sherry Sibert and Betty Hill requested \$2,500 on behalf of a group seeking to reopen the skating rink for youth activities. The rink would be a fun place for the kids to spend the weekend. New skates or skate parts are needed to ensure the children's safety. The rink would be open throughout the year.

Betty Hill noted that the skating rink was constructed for youth, not only for skating but also for training and mentoring. She stated that the county had consented to allow them to utilize the skating rink.

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the funds of \$2,500, if they are available, if the county allows them access to the building; Council Yisrael seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

**Old Business**

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

City Attorney John Hitchcock stated that the process was underway.

**B. Landfill Monitoring Services Discussion**

On Monday, July 12, 2023, a meeting will be held with Mayor Haywood, Timmy Griffin, and a representative of Advance Environmental Services (AES), to explain what landfill monitoring services the city is being billed for, what they are doing, and why they are doing it. Mayor Haywood contacted EPD; Stephanie K. Hill, an inspector, will arrive on Friday, June 16, 2023, to explain what the city would need to do to close the landfill and stop monitoring.

The city has received another quarterly bill for \$5,900. AES appears to have double-billed the city this past year.

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

**City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, June 19, 2023 to Observe Juneteenth**

**Mayor & Council Work Session for 4pm Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

**Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

## City Hall Will Be Closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023

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

Elizabeth Havier, a resident of the county, stated that racial bias against African Americans has hindered Sparta's growth as a municipality. She claimed Sparta received its last grant when the Drummer Home was built, because if African Americans remained in office no other grants would be given to the city. She stated former Mayor William Evans did not steal any money from the city, because there was no money to steal. The money was not misappropriated, but the people who took out the loans simply did not pay them back. The taxpayers are paying it now. She would like to move forward and come together.

Mayor Haywood stated the city is making progress.

Lillie Tripp, a city resident, asked whether the city was attempting to collect on unpaid loans. She suggested holding the youth summit at the skating rink because it would be the ideal location. She stated individuals who require support in attempting to create recreational activities for the community should be automatically provided with recreational funds. She suggested that something be done under a city-county fund. She offered to speak at the youth summit.

Mayor Haywood stated the county has a recreation department and the city does not have one.

Maxine Evans, a city resident who pays both city and county taxes, expressed her delight that the council opted not to hike residential garbage costs. She explained that many citizens must choose between buying medicine and food. She advocated for increased attention to be paid to the city's senior population. She was "profoundly affected" by the disrespect shown to Chief Thomas Clayton and believed that the city should throw him a party or offer him a token of appreciation for all his years of service. She wanted to see more tax dollars be invested in the youth in the community.

Councilman Yisrael stated that the Council has already discussed doing something to honor Chief Thomas Clayton for his years of service.

Paula Barnes, a county resident, stated that there will be a tutoring program at the skating rink from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the last three weeks of July. The weekly fee for the program is \$60. The first week is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade; the second week is for kids in sixth through eighth grade; and the third week is for students in ninth through twelfth grade. She also mentioned that the new skates needed to be purchased for the skating rink. She added that the county will begin its own ambulance service and questioned why the city does not begin its own trash collection rather than depending on outside suppliers. She wanted to know the difference between criminal trespassing and trespassing.

Officer Tommie Walker answered that criminal trespassing is when an individual is doing more than just walking on someone's lawn. Many factors come into play if an unknown person is on a person's yard without permission. The police should be called to ensure the safety for all.

Ronnie Evans, a resident of city, stated that he wants his retirement. He shared that when people have worked and become familiar with the community then they will better serve the community.

Sheila Bryant, a resident of the city, stated that she has kids aged 15 and 16 and does not want them to have their bookbags checked, nor stopped by the police.

Mayor Haywood stated that the school system will require clear bookbags for 2023-2024 school year.

**Executive Session: Legal and Personnel Business**

Councilman Roberts motioned to go into executive session; Councilman Yisrael seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

**Back To Regular Session**

Councilman Yisrael motioned to return back to regular session; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

No motions were made to address matters discussed during executive session.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Roberts motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Yisrael seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.



CITY OF SPARTA

**POLICE**

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

**MAY 2023**

**SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

191 – TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

35 – TOTAL WRITTEN TRAFFIC CITATIONS

2 – ARREST

- 1 ARREST ON STATE WARRANTS:
  - OBSTRUCTION
  - TERRORISTIC THREATS
  - PUBLIC DRUNKENESS
  - DISORDERLY CONDUCT
- 1 ARREST FOR:
  - DRIVING WHILE *Unlicensed*
  - DRIVING W/SUSPENDED REGISTRATION
  - NO VALID INSURANCE
  - NO CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINTS

**PREVIOUS MONTH STATS: APRIL 2023**

214 – TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

45 – TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

5 – ARREST

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023 YOUTH SUMMIT ... LOCATION (TBD) ... 11AM-1PM

FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES IN FALL 2023

SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED: CASE LAWS, TRAFFIC LAWS, HOW TO COMPLY, BULLYING

*[*WE ARE IN NEED OF SPONSORSHIP*]*



Attention: City of Sparta  
05/30/2023

We appreciate your business. Ryland Environmental sincerely values our relationship with you as a customer and partner. The City of Sparta has been a pleasure to serve.

As you may recall by contract, we were eligible for a CPI July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, based off the Consumer Price Index for Water, Sewer, and Trash published by the Department of Labor, bound by 0 to 5%. The CPI for Water, Sewer, and Trash for the 12 months ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 is 5.41%. Therefore, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Ryland Environmental will implement a 5.00 % increase on the City of Sparta residential and commercial rates. This current residential rate is \$10.75 per home and will increase to \$11.29 per home. The current commercial rate of \$3.75 per yard will increase to \$3.94 per yard. Please contact me with any questions.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Nail".

John Nail  
General Manager  
912-278-9129



## Rates for Garbage Services

	City of Sparta	Ryland	Ryland New Rate
Residential	\$16.56	\$10.75	\$11.29
Residential X 2	\$31.06*	\$21.50	\$22.58
4 Yard	\$85.00	\$64.97	\$68.24
6 Yard	\$125.00	\$97.43	\$102.36
8 Yard	\$165.00	\$129.90	\$136.48

\*Second trash bin for residential customers \$14.50

$$16.56 + 14.50 = \$31.06$$