

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—March 12, 2024 Regular Meeting
7. Clerk's Report
8. Council Members Questions/Comments
9. Department Reports
10. Mayor's Report
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Monday, May 6, 2024
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, May 14, 2024
15. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting at 5:30pm Thursday, April 11, 2024 in City Hall
16. City Hall Will Close at 10:30am on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 for Staff In-Service Workday
17. Citizens' Input
18. Executive Session
19. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Regular Meeting
5 PM Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Elected Officials present were Mayor R. Allen Haywood, Councilmembers Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Sandra Sherrod. Mayor ProTem Rav Yisrael was absent while listening via phone. Yisreal could participate in conversation, but not allowed to vote by phone. Presence required to vote on motions.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Haywood followed by a moment of silence, The Lord's Prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

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

Adoption of Minutes – March 12, 2024 Regular Meeting

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt March 12, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. Erin Halverson, a caseworker assistant for Senator John Ossoff, attended City Hall on Saturday, March 13, 2024. She was accessible from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help the public resolve difficulties with government agencies. His office will also host a Georgia Service Academy Day on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Dobbins Air Force Base for high school students and families who want to learn more about the application and congressional nomination process for the five United States Service Academies. Students and their families will be able to visit Senator Ossoff and military officials. Please email his office at Ossoff.senate.gov/Academy Day to begin the process.
2. The City of Sparta collaborated with the Hancock County Board of Commissioners, Health Department, schools, and Sparta-Hancock Chamber of Commerce to launch the inaugural "It Takes a Village" Festival, Parade, and Community Expo. This free event will be hosted at the Old Football Stadium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 27th.
3. Congressional Discretionary Spending refers to funds provided to each U. S. Senator, who can choose to give these funds to the governments in their states. The City of Sparta solicited quotations from vendors for the needed equipment and wrote letters of support on behalf of the asking department. Grants were requested on behalf of the Fire and Police Departments for emergency services' equipment. And the requests were

made to fund for the Public Works Department a finishing mower, a street sweeper, and a cutting arm. All of those items were applied for and are currently being reviewed for funding.

Council Members Questions/Comments

Mayor Haywood thanked Council for attending the work session and the ethics training that was held by City Attorney Hitchcock.

Departmental Reports –Animal Shelter, Police, Street, and Waste Water

See Pages (5-11)

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Haywood stated the city will be DOT patching portions of the city's sidewalks and street potholes. The LMIG account currently has \$50,633 and the TSPLOST account has about \$85,000. The city only has 14 miles of streets, so LMIG funding is only \$25,000 a year to repair the streets. A list of sidewalks that need to be repaired is being prepared.
2. Interviews are being scheduled for an animal care specialist, who will be working alongside Courtney Johnson, lead animal shelter caretaker.
3. The animal shelter is a "funnel" of money for the city. All donations that have been received have helped the city out tremendously. Currently there are 14 dogs in the shelter.
4. The city will be conducting interviews for a Street Department employee.
5. Leon Brown, a Hollywood producer, has selected a few of the downtown buildings and the exterior of the hospital to be filmed in one of his movies. Mayor Haywood is awaiting further information.
6. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each pinwheel placed outside of City Hall represents a child that has been abused in the past year.
7. Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee has the world's fastest super computer. A virtual tour will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 11am as part the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.
8. Gilbert du Motier de Lafayette, as the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French aristocrat and prominent officer in George Washington's Continental Army. Lafayette was considered a hero when he traveled the twenty-four American states in 1825. Lafayette, a prominent backer of American independence and the abolition of slavery, is today regarded as a cherished historical figure who exemplifies America and Europe's long-standing alliance and friendship. Sparta was one of the stops on his return tour of Georgia. In 2019 a historical event was held in Sparta to commemorate General Lafayette's visit here in 1825. He spent one night in the Drummer's Home during the tour. Sparta will be on the list of towns that will participate in the 200th Anniversary of his tour next March. The commemorative tour will begin in Savannah.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed in the meeting.

New Business

There was no new business discussed in the meeting.

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Monday, May 6, 2024

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting at 5:30pm Thursday, April 11, 2024 in City Hall

City Hall Will Close at 10:30am on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 for Staff In-Service Workday

Citizens' Input

1. Aisha Yisrael, resident of the county, asked if the TSPLOST is just for the city and Mayor Haywood explained that the TSPLOST is a regional sales tax that funds transportation projects in the cities and counties of CSRA Region 7.
2. Teresa Hines, Sparta Ishmaelite Editor, inquired if Sparta will receive a historic marker indicating Lafayette traveled through the city.
Mayor Haywood stated the city is in the process of receiving a historic marker.
3. DeeDee Hyder, a resident of the city, stated the street department is doing a great job and inquired about the old police station sign.
Mayor Haywood explained that the sign which lists the building as a "Welcome Center" does not commit the city to use the building as a welcome center. The designation is in name only.
4. Tomeka McClendon, resident of the city, stated that Sparta needs a Welcome Center.
5. Pat Morgan, a resident of the county, shared that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Political Primary Forum on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6pm located at the Youth Center. Everyone is invited to attend.
6. Marion Warren, a resident of the county, stated that the Sparta Police Department is doing a great job serving and protecting the community. He asked where the funds are going from the citations collected.
Mayor Haywood answered the funds go to probation, court and police department expenses.

Executive Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to go into executive session; Councilman Nolley seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod refused to vote. No discussion.

Back to Regular Session

Councilman Nolley motioned to return to regular session; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Councilwoman Sherrod refused to vote. Motion passed.

Councilman Nolley motioned to hire Timothy Legette to serve as a police officer; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Councilwoman Sherrod refused to vote. Motion passed.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

January – March 2024 (Quarter 1) Superintendent Report

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Animal Shelter | | |
| Humane Society | Signed up for B2B program for low cost food, spay-neuter, and other vet services if need through the year when ORHS is unavailable. | Finalizing paperwork. |
| Shelter License | Renewed license. Posted on wall and notified Dept of Ag. | None until 2025. |
| Department of Agriculture | Received inspection. Worked with Dept of Ag on local rescue case. | No action required. Passed. |
| Donations | Continued to receive food, blankets, collars, etc. from ORHS and COFAS | Requesting as needed. |
| Empty the Shelters | Low-Cost Adoption, Pays City \$50 Per Dog | Occurring in May 2024 |
| Intakes and Outgoing | January – 0 Intakes, 2 Adopted February – 8 Intakes, 7 transferred, 1 euthanized March – 1 intake, 1 transfer, and 1 return to owner Current Status – 13 dogs | Shelter at capacity. Need adoptions. |
| Spay Neuter Status | All dogs spay-neutered and given rabies shot except for 9 month old labrador puppies who are still anti-social | Continue working on making labs social and determine if adoptable |
| Establishing Accounts | Set up accounts through Shelters United for low cost medications and supplies | Ordering as needed. |
| Employment | 1 employee resigned prior to termination in March and 1 is leaving in April for college | Interviewing applicants in April |
| Complaints | Responded to multiple complaints over 3-month period. Provided assistance when able to keep dogs in home. Impounded dogs. | Respond as needed. Continue working on streamlining complaint process. |
| Transfers | Setup dog transfers with GA Dawg Squad which transports them to Greenville, SC Humane Society (no-kill shelter) for adoption and ORHS | Transferring dogs as openings occur |
| Daily Operations | 4 Hours Cleaning Kennels/Feeding/Water | Hiring more staff. |

January – March 2024 (Quarter 1) Superintendent Report

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | 4 Hours Socializing (15 mins per dog per ASPCA) | |
| Paperwork | Created multiple forms for court cases, dept of ag regulations, and general staff Created Google Drive shared folder for staff to upload and view as needed (updated daily) | Creating as needed. |
| Social Media | Over 600 followers and likes on Facebook Uploaded all dogs to PetFinder for adoption | Continue expanding social media presence to increase adoptions |
| Volunteers | Called volunteers and worked out schedules | Begin training after new staff hired |
| General Housekeeping | Picked up trash all over the animal shelter. Repaired broken kennels and made building repairs | Continue improving facility. |

January – March 2024 (Quarter 1) Superintendent Report

| City of Sparta, GA Projects | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Wastewater | Current Status | Next Steps |
| Decommissioning of Groundwater Wells | Gathered Data, Groundwater Specialist Assessment, Review by Engineer, Submitted to EPD | Waiting on EPD Response |
| Preventive Maintenance | Worth with GRWA to create preventive maintenance program to meet EPD requirements. | Continue expanding preventive maintenance program. |
| Daily Operations | Check facility 3 times per day to ensure no fluctuations and perform maintenance and groundskeeping in between checks. | Continue as normal. |
| Reactive Maintenance | Repaired various equipment including doors, vehicles, equipment, and more. | Continue repairs as needed |
| Pond Issues | The ponds are having random pH dips due to low alkalinity in influent. | Purchase Sodium Bicarbonate if needed |
| Prison Lift Stations | Apply duckweed killer to Pond 1 and Sludge Rx. | Continue Pondzilla and Sludge Rx Application. |
| Spray Field | The prison fixed its lift station which went down in May 2023. | Determine what changes in flow this will result in. |
| Harvesting Hay | Turn off Field 10 completely – Remove spray heads for use in other fields until grants come in. Field 6 down due to busted lines. Field 4 down due to GWD-5 and GWD-6 E. Coli results. | Waiting on parts from Utilities Director Waiting on EPD commentary |
| Overgrowth | The contract with the farmers was not renewed as staff needed the grass to be kept shorter to continue repairs on the fields. Continued clearing around fence lines and in fields. | Seek alternative harvesters or cut the grass ourselves. Bring in wood chipper. Need assistance from Public Works. |

January – March 2024 (Quarter 1) Superintendent Report

| Grants | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Operation Roundup | \$8,000 to purchase shoes for all employees | Waiting on determination |
| Atlanta Humane Society | \$50,000 for capital improvement at the Animal Shelter | Waiting on determination |
| Congressional Discretionary Spending | \$150,000 for Public Works for Equipment \$25,000 for Police and Fire Dept for Technology | Waiting on determination |
| FEMA | 14 full sets of turnout gear (\$60,000) for Fire Department | Waiting on determination |
| FEMA | Hire 3 full-time employees for the Fire Department for 3 years – 1 for each station (\$405,000) | Submitting in April |
| GEFA | \$5 Million for Wastewater GEFA – Submit data and requested items to engineer. | Waiting on determination |
| First Responders Microgrant | \$17,000 for EMS Ventilators | Handed off to County |
| Operation Roundup | \$5,000 for free bloodwork panel at Health Fair | Signing contract with DPH |
| Water Environmental Foundation | \$16,000 for Auto Sampler and Flow Meter for Wastewater | Waiting on delivery |
| Requested to Remain Anonymous | 10x12 Storage Shed for Animal Shelter (\$4,000) | Delivery on week of April 29 th |
| Department of Agriculture | \$9,000 for Spay/Neuter at Shelter and in Community | Waiting on determination |



APRIL 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

(STATS BELOW ARE FROM THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024)

298 - TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

172 - TOTAL WRITTEN TRAFFIC CITATIONS

- **51 - SPEEDING**
- **27 - NO SEATBELT**
- **4 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
- **78 - OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

46 - TRAFFIC VIOLATION WARNINGS

28 - STATE WARRANTS ISSUED

12 - ARREST

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 5:30 PM at the Sparta-Hancock Public Library we will be starting our Neighborhood Watch Program. We invite all citizens to come out and be apart of our first official meeting.

PREVIOUS MONTH STATS: FEBRUARY 2024

267 - TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

162 - TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

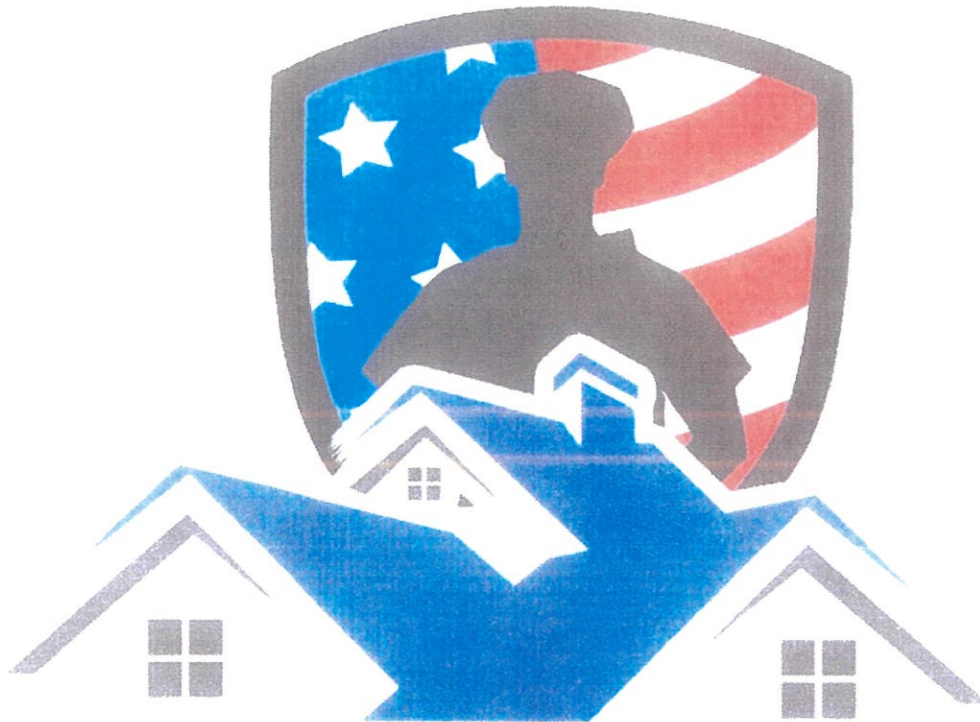
83 - TRAFFIC VIOLATION WARNINGS

19 - STATE WARRANTS ISSUED

18 - ARREST

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

host first



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

Sparta-Hancock Public Library

Meeting is currently for citizens who reside in Sparta City Limits

Any questions or concerns contact us at (706) 444-5777

Tommie Walker, Jr. - Chief of Police

Street Dept Report

April 9, 2024

- Started grass cutting throughout City streets
- Coordinated with Department of Transportation Crew to assist with traffic control and clearing of hill near Burwell & Broad Street (Hwy 22 West) to ensure visibility for traffic exiting Jamie Kennedy Blvd
- Continuing to edge city streets including East Broad Street, Augusta Hwy 16
- Collaborated with Supervisor for additional equipment necessary for departments.
- Met with Wastewater Supervisor to voice needs for department-possible funding through grants
- Cold patching obtained and filled some potholes on city streets
- Repaired speed break on Burnett Street
- Working with the County to assist in cutting back of overgrowth with cutter
- Replaced starter on Dodge Ram truck
- Continuing to perform maintenance on mowers, weed eaters, edgers, blowers, etc.
- Assisting Wastewater supervisor in preparation for Community Expo to be held April 20