

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, June 11, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting
7. Clerk's Report
8. Department Reports
9. Mayor's Report
10. Council Members Questions/Comments
11. Second Reading of Multiple Residence Ordinance
12. Second Reading of Purchasing Procedure Ordinance & Vote to Approve
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Monday, July 1, 2024
16. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, July 9, 2024
17. Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting at 5:30pm Thursday, June 13, 2024 in City Hall
18. City Hall Will Be Closed on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 in Observance of Juneteenth Holiday
19. City Hall Will Be Closed on Thursday, July 4 & Friday, July 5, 2024 in Observance of Fourth of July Holidays
20. Citizens' Input
21. Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters
22. Adjournment

City of Sparta

Mayor & Council Meeting

5PM Tuesday, June 11, 2024

The June 11, 2024 Mayor & Council meeting was conducted as an "informational meeting" due to the failure to have a quorum of Council members present and necessary to conduct business. Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood and Councilman Tom Roberts. Mayor ProTem Rav Yisrael called in by phone at 5:21 pm. Councilman Brandon Nolley was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict regarding his Hancock Central High School coaching obligation. Councilwoman Sandra Sherrod was not present and offered no reason for failing to attend the regular meeting.

Attorney John Hitchcock was not present. City Clerk Virginia Webb was not present.

Administrative Assistant Shephanie Hannah was present to record the meeting.

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

Adoption of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

Adoption of Minutes – May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting

Adoption of the minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

Clerk's Report

1. Virginia Webb, City Clerk, requested authorization from the Department of Transportation's engineering department in Tenille, Georgia, to put up new "Welcome to the City of Sparta" signs.
2. Webb approached the Historic Preservation Commission of Georgia, a state-created agency dedicated to historic preservation, to repair the sign in front of City Hall. A staffer from the Tenille DOT office proposed that the city post warning tape around the sign until the commission can fix it.
3. On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, Webb and Amanda Akins, wastewater supervisor, attended the second grant writing session at the Walter B. Williams Conference Room in Milledgeville, Georgia. SHINE (Supporting Healthy Initiatives and Nurturing Equality) hosted the workshop, which ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch was served.
4. The local Department of Public Health, City of Sparta, and Family Connection are organizing a "Back to School Bash." Our mission is to work with other churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals to guarantee that Hancock County children have access to free immunizations, immunization records, and school supplies.

5. The 2nd Annual City Employee Appreciation Luncheon is set for June 28, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall. Lunch will be provided by EMI, an engineering and management organization.

Departmental Reports – Street & Police

See pages 5-7

Mayor Report

1. Staffers of Progressive Steps, a non-profit organization from Atlanta, visited Sparta on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 to distribute free 7-days' meal kits for children ages infant to 18. The group will be in Sparta every Tuesday through July from 12 noon until 1pm to distribute free meals. Haywood said that he has visited several local churches in an effort to encourage participation. Progressive Steps' meal kits include: milk, apple juice and various food items. Haywood has provided a support letter to the Progressive Steps management team requesting an increase in the number of meals provided to accommodate more families.
2. Haywood gave an update on street repairs and paving in the city. The city only has fourteen miles of streets, which roughly estimates to \$25,000 for the State Department of Transportation's LMIG funding annually. In 2021 and 2022 the city spent \$238,000 on the streets in the city, mostly patching but included completely paving Reese Street and fixing others. The city did not to use any LMIG or TSPLOST funds in 2023 in an effort to compile enough money to be able to fund projects in 2024. Currently, about \$140,000 (LMIG & TSPLOST) is available to be spent on patching & street work this year. The city will be receiving an extra \$32,026.29 from the local road assistance program provided by Governor Kemp to help with the projects. LMIG funds on hand totals \$50,633.92. The TSPLOST discretionary spending account is \$95,511.06. Southern Asphalt has provided quotes for repairs and paving on city streets.
3. Two manholes were replaced on Hamilton Street.
4. The city has 44 employees including the mayor and council.
5. Mayor Haywood announced the coloring contest winners of It Takes A Village Expo as follows Carmale Crenshaw, age 4-8, Kaysen _____, age 9-13, and India Battle, age 14-18. Each winner will receive a gift card for their beautiful artistry and showing their love of their beloved City of Sparta.
6. Overview provided \$1,797.60 to help six residents with their utility bills.
7. To improve internet connectivity, Christopher Calloway will be working with city hall and all the city properties to remedy that problem.

Second Reading of the Multiple Residence Ordinance

The second reading was tabled until the next meeting.

Second Reading of Purchasing Procedure Ordinance & Vote to Approve

The second reading was tabled until the next meeting.

Council Members Questions/ Comments

1. Mayor ProTem Yisrael asked how could the city work to improve internet access for homeowners. Mayor Haywood noted that the city is working with Comcast and that a meeting would be scheduled in the near future.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Monday, July 1, 2024

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5 Pm Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting at 5:30pm Thursday, June 13, 2024 in City Hall

City Hall Will Be Closed on Wednesday, June 19,2024 in Observance of Juneteenth Holiday

City Hall Will Be Closed on Thursday, July 4 & Friday, July 5, 2024 in Observance of Fourth of July Holidays

Citizens' Input

1. Wilmertine Tolbert, a resident of the city, asked about the rough street paving area around IGA and shared that she thought a leak was across from Sydney Taylor's property.

Mayor Haywood responded the city will check on the possible water leak.

2. Dip Polatty asked for downtown property owners to please keep their trees trimmed. DiDi Hyder questioned whether Comcast would be able to provide coverage for the city and whether council members who arrive late for meetings would face consequences.

The internet would encompass the city, according to Mayor Haywood. Haywood stressed further that there isn't anything in place at the moment to penalize council members for being late. The charter states that mayors receive \$1000 a month in salary in addition to \$200 for automobile and phone use. For an out-of-town meeting, the compensation is \$60 plus mileage and meals. In his five years as mayor, Haywood said he has never

submitted a compensation request for meals. Council members are paid \$150 for each meeting; however, they are required to attend in person. When a meeting is held outside of the city, council members also receive \$60 plus mileage and up to \$50 for meals.

In his nine years as an elected official, according to Councilman Roberts, he has never submitted a compensation request.

3. Pamela Barnes, a county resident, inquired about the Boys & Girls Club and requested a meeting with Mayor Haywood. Mayor Haywood has agreed to meet with Barnes.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

The meeting ended at 5:49 pm.

Street Dept Report

June 11, 2024

- Conducted Safety Trainings-How to Prevent Heat Exhaustion & the signs & symptoms
- Cut back overgrowth on Lewis & Hancock Streets
- Trimmed overgrowth on both sides of Maiden Lane
- Installed new street sign on Jamie Kennedy Blvd
- Installed new "Yield" sign on Hancock Street
- Planning to implement "Keep Sparta Clean Project", encouraging citizens and business owners to ensure trash is disposed of properly & property is maintained according to the maintenance ordinance
- The chipper can only chip small branches up to 3 inches in diameter, no vines, cactus, thorns or excess dirt should be left beside road for removal. Any branches or logs larger than 3 inches will be the property owners/occupants responsibility. Trash/old furniture/boxes will not be picked up by crew



CITY OF SPARTA

POLICE

Tommie Walker, Jr.
Chief of Police

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

JUNE 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

(STATS BELOW ARE FROM THE MONTH OF MAY 2024)

226 - TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

127 - TOTAL WRITTEN TRAFFIC CITATIONS

- 46 - SPEEDING
- 46 - NO SEATBELT
- 1 - DUI
- 5 - OPEN CONTAINER
- 29 - OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

11 - TRAFFIC VIOLATION WARNINGS

5 - STATE WARRANTS ISSUED

2 - ARREST

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, June 7, 2024 We hosted the Stop Gun Violence Campaign at the Courthouse.
We're planning to host this every year on the first Friday of June.

We will Host a One Day with a COP camp. July 15 & 29, 2024. (See Flyer)

PREVIOUS MONTH STATS: APRIL 2024

197 - TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

67 - TOTAL WRITTEN CITATIONS

11 - TRAFFIC VIOLATION WARNINGS

10 - STATE WARRANTS ISSUED

12 - ARREST

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tommie Walker, Jr. - Chief of Police

PRESENTS

A DAY WITH A

COP

1 DAY CAMP

For Rising 8th - 12th Graders

This FREE camp will host two individual sessions. Five students each session.

"ONLY 10 SLOTS AVAILABLE"

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Traffic Laws
- Case Laws
- Making the right choices
- Leadership Skills
- Work of a Dispatcher
- Work of a Police Officer
- And Guest Speaker

CAMP DATES

July 15 & 29, 2024

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**STUDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

80 Monument Square, Sparta, Georgia 31087

