

MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF WATKINSVILLE

April 20, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

NOTE OF RECORD: These summarize the action at the meeting. A full video recording is available online at www.cityofwatkinsville.com.

PRESENT: Brodrick, Massey, Campbell, Garrett, Thomas, Tucker, Reitman, Dickerson, Brock, and Klein. Brodrick opened the in person public and simultaneous online broadcast SuiteOne video meeting at 6:30 PM. In attendance in person at City Hall were 9 citizens.

WELCOME: At 6:30 PM, Brodrick opened the meeting.

QUORUM CHECK: At 6:30 PM, Brodrick acknowledged a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:30 PM, Brodrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 23, 2022, Regular Meeting

At 6:33 PM, Tucker moved to approve the March 23, 2022, minutes as presented. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At 6:33 PM, Tucker moved to approve the agenda as amended adding funds for Layle Lane emergency road work under New Business. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Input Process: At 6:34 PM, Brodrick briefed those present about the public input process. Per City Code Section 2-26(d), Brodrick explained if anyone wished to address Council they could do so at the noted times on the agenda or at the discretion of Council. Brodrick noted comments should be related to items on the agenda and they should speak from the podium, no more than four minutes per person, and Council does not allow for debate, argument, personal attacks, or irrelevant discussion.

2. **PROCLAMATION – Municipal Clerks Week, May 1 – 7, 2022:** At 6:34 PM, Brodrick read a proclamation in support of Municipal Clerks Week and recognized Julie Klein and expressed appreciation for her 25 years of service to the city in her position as City Clerk.
3. **Financial Reports – General, Fund Reserve, SPLOST I, II, and III Funds, and ARP Funds:** At 6:39 PM, Dickerson provided the General Fund, SPLOST I, II, and III financial reports for March 2022 and presented the American Rescue Plan Act Fund Report.
4. **Economic Development Reports – Business Licenses, Building Permits:** At 6:44 PM, Dickerson provided the Economic Development reports noting 39 business licenses and 14 building permits were issued in March 2022. No alcohol licenses were issued.
5. **Police Department Report:** At 6:45 PM, Brock presented his report. He noted the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success and reminded all of the Cops & Bobbers Fishing Tournament on May 7.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. RESOLUTION to Elect Standard Allowance for ARPA Funds

7. ORDINANCE: Amendments to Alarm Systems

8. RESOLUTION: Approve Surplus of Conduit (Public Works)

At 6:48 PM, Thomas moved to approve consent agenda as presented. Garrett second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:48 PM, per City Code Section 2-26(d), the public hearing proceeded per the rules and regulations for public hearings - anyone wishing to be heard is to please wait to be recognized; Speakers will state their name and address; Speak only from the podium; Four minutes per person; Refrain from debate, argument, personal

attacks, or irrelevant discussion; Address only the merits of the pending matter, and address remarks directly to council; Council cannot speak to potential litigation, attorney client or personnel matters; Public input will be allowed after Council receives reports from staff and/or the applicant.

9. Public Hearing: Public Input for Fiscal Year 2023 Capital and Operating Budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

At 6:49 PM, Brodrick opened the public hearing. No comments. Public hearing closed at 6:50 PM.

APPEARANCES

10. Waters Walk Age-Restricted Independent Living Retirement Community at Durham and Water Streets/Tax Parcels #W 05 038, #W 05 056, #W 05 039, #W 05 055 – co-applicants Beverly J. Searles Foundation, Jimmy L. Christopher, Gwendolyn C. Greenway, and Helen M. Booth – W & A Engineering – Site Improvement Construction Documents, Demolition Permit

At 6:51 PM, Engineer Campbell provided staff report.

Scott Haines of 2081 Clotfelter Road noted the developer did receive tax credits for the project and between 5 to 6 acres of greenspace will be deeded to the City upon completion. Haines noted the three houses shown will need to be removed. Once the construction documents and demolition permit for the three structures are approved, the developer will be ready to present the Urban Forest Plan for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Tucker inquired about the changes to the initial plan and if all planned facility amenities were still in place.

Haines explained two of the direct access points were removed, a slight reconfiguration of the parking lot was made to better accommodate both service and emergency vehicles, and the dumpster was relocated closer to the building and screened.

David Russell of 1115 Braxton Way, Roswell, Georgia, Director of the Beverly J. Searles Foundation, reiterated all amenities were still in place as described in the development agreement.

Thomas asked when the project would be complete and how the developer planned to ensure local citizens would have access to the development.

Russell stated they plan to break ground July 1 and complete construction within 15 months. He noted marketing will be local and in about a month a sign would be placed on the site to provide information about leasing. Plans are to provide information at Council meetings and notifications through other local media means inside Watkinsville. Once construction starts, leasing staff will be available, and the age-restricted leases will be income driven.

Brodrick asked whether the sidewalks in front and the ones connecting the parking area and the building on the back side were wide enough and strong enough for emergency vehicles.

Haines noted the project has been designed to accommodate rear accessibility for emergency vehicles and stated they would be happy to evaluate the sidewalks on the front.

Brodrick suggested for Haines to discuss with the engineer to work through this issue to ensure the City does not have to dealing with cracked sidewalks.

At 7:13 PM, Thomas moved to approve the site improvement construction documents as presented and approve the demolition permit for the three existing structures. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

OLD BUSINESS**11. 41 Barnett Shoals Road/Tax Parcel #W 07 016 (Henrietta Patterson, Lisa Culbertson) – Demolition Permit**

At 7:14 PM, Dickerson reported the applicant had notified the City they would be working to give the home away so it could be moved from their property. A sign to that effect was placed on the property. Dickerson stated the owner will have six months to move the home. She will provide Council with applicant's update in 90 days or as soon as new information becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS**12. Consider funds for Layle Lane emergency road work:**

At 7:15 PM, Tucker moved to approve appropriating up to \$50,000 from the remaining LMIG Funds and SPLOST II Funds to make the necessary emergency repairs to the Layle Lane roadway. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

At 7:18 PM, Brodrick shared that Watkinsville is continuing to get great reviews and referenced a Georgia Trend writeup on Wire Park.

He noted ESP's Miracle League Ball Field was rounding third base and shared the news that great progress had been made on the landscaping, and earlier in the day the remaining turf had been installed on the playground. Brodrick stated Dickerson had received the maintenance paperwork for and equipment warranties from ESP and the opening celebration would likely be in early June.

Brodrick noted the city continues to see pressure on historic assets in Watkinsville, including demolition requests. He stated his intention to look at historic preservation and said he would work with Councilwoman Tucker over the next few months to look into suggestions on how to preserve some of the City's remaining assets.

COUNCIL REPORTS

13. Chuck Garrett – No report.

14. Connie Massey – No report.

15. Brett Thomas – Thanked Chief and Police Department Staff for the Easter Egg Hunt and for being a light in the community.

16. Christine Tucker – Noted progress on the Harris Shoals Park Master Plan is continuing, the committee would be meeting soon and quotes for work were being obtained. She and Councilman Campbell were continuing to look at other communities regarding their downtown programs, and recently met with officials in Madison. She stated they would have more information soon.

17. Jeff Campbell – Agreed with Tucker that they had a good meeting in Madison. Tucker would be attending training on Downtown Development Authorities in Savannah in June, and he would be taking the online course. Offered congratulations to Brodrick for his son, Aaron's Middle School State championship win in the 3200 Meter and for setting a new Middle School state record.

Brodrick appreciated Campbell's comments and noted Aaron had worked hard.

Brodrick followed up by thanking Chief Brock for the new sign to deploy messages about speeding and suggested purchasing a few more over time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 PM, Tucker moved to leave regular session and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing threatened and potential litigation. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0. After a break, the chambers were cleared, and the executive session began.

At 8:27 PM, Tucker moved to leave executive session and return to regular session. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADJOURN

At 8:28 PM, Tucker moved to adjourn. Campbell second. *Opportunity for discussion.* Motion carried 5 to 0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JULIE A. KLEIN, CMC