

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Whigham City Hall with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and Robert Porter opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Joel Singletary, Andrew Walden, Robert Porter, Chief Black, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson. Members of the public present: Mrs. Jane Trulock, Mr. Jerry Pritchett, Ms. Judy Sullivan and Ms. Margie Eubanks.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the agenda. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter to adopt the minutes from the January 9th meeting. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Fantastic 4 Dynasty, LLC Alcohol License: 114 E Broad Ave.

Tina Patel made application for a new alcohol license at 114 E Broad Ave, currently Hud's 5 run by K&S of Whigham. City Clerk Jenson informed the Council that Ms. Patel currently holds responsibility for the alcohol license at Bishop's Express in Whigham, 248 W. Broad Ave. **Jim Sellers made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Ms. Patel for the 114 E. Broad Ave location. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Public Participation

Jerry Pritchett: Christopher Ave. nuisance lot

Mayor Gainous informed Mr. Pritchett the floor was his to speak to the Council. Mr. Pritchett said he came to the meeting to see what could be done about the home and property across the street from him, 155 NE Christopher Ave, as it was extremely unsightly and in obvious violation of the unclean lots ordinance. Chief Black asked if he could address Mr. Pritchett to which Mayor Gainous allowed. Chief Black stated that there were procedures that had to be taken that the City was following, per the ordinance. Photos have been taken of the property with the initial complaint and then with the follow-up showing no action had been taken. A certified letter had been sent to the occupant of the home which came back undeliverable. The officers were riding by at all hours of their shifts to see if they could catch the occupant at home to issue a citation to appear in court and finally caught up with the occupant. Black stated he was to appear in front of Judge Bell on March 4th. Pritchett asked could we find the occupant and give him so many days to which Black responded no, the Judge was the only one with the power to fine. Pritchett thanked the Council for their time and left the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Gainous told the council the City needed to address a tiny home variance that had been discussed initially when late Mayor George Trulock brought up in 2018. The City had been contacted by Mr. Donnie Maxwell about redoing an existing building on a foundation located at 179 NW Harrell Ave and making it into a tiny home. Currently, we have no tiny home ordinance. **Jimmie Laing made a motion that as long as Department of Health and Environmental Health approved the build structure and it met code enforcement's approval, the City would allow the building to be used as a tiny home and allow the 2 homes to be on one lot. Jim Sellers seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Council Matters of Interest

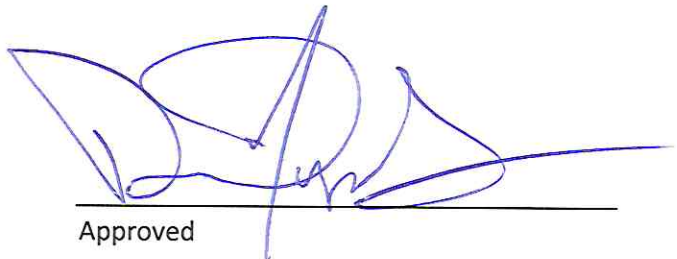
Mayor Gainous stated he felt the Council needed to readdress the zoning and ordinances in regard to mobile homes. He did not want to be super strict, but wanted to better enforce the rules already set in place. Gainous also stated we needed to get ideas and a plan for the downtown buildings we own now. He felt we needed a courtroom and Council Chambers and not hold Council meetings in the lobby of City Hall, that this was just temporary. Porter suggested redoing the "current" Police Dept building back to the Council Chambers and courtroom in the back. He also suggested having the utilities office in the front, where the PD office was before the adjoining building fell. Sellers stated he agreed with Porter. Gainous stated that he felt the departments needed to go back to having separate offices and the utilities office could stay where it was currently, move to the PD building or move to the barn if they could set it up there.

Robert Porter inquired about the status of the old Sexton house behind Bonds. Josh stated it was condemnable. Mayor Gainous and Ausburn suggested we have Bryan with code enforcement proceed with the condemnation process. Porter also told the Council he had told the WVCC the old jail building was a "dead end" for the National Registry. The Council decided to let Josh take the jail building down and the salvageable bricks could be used by the WVCC to sell for donations.

Jim Sellers stated we need to get the comprehensive plan to follow up from the ECG meeting we had in January and also felt we needed to work on the zoning ordinances.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Porter. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.


Submitted


Approved