

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 13, 2021

The Whigham City Council met in regular session Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers with Mayor George Trulock presiding. Mayor Trulock opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council members present were: Trey Gainous, Jimmie Laing, Jim Sellers and Joel Singletary. Dusty Brown was absent. Others present for the meeting were: Hansell Bearden, Joe Porter, Chuck Thomas, Tejal Patel, Utility Director Josh Ausburn, Chief of Police Tony Black, and City Clerk Lisa Calhoun.

Agenda – Motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Trey Gainous. Motion received a second from Joel Singletary. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Jim Sellers to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 council meeting. Motion was seconded by Joel Singletary. Sellers, Singletary, Gainous, and Laing all voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Hearings – Beer & Wine Application from Fantastic Three LLC – Council discussed application from Tejal Patel for Alcohol License at 248 W. Broad Avenue for Fantastic Three LLC. A motion was made by Trey Gainous to approve the alcohol license application for Fantastic Three LLC. Motion received a second from Jimmie Laing. Trey Gainous, Jimmie Laing, Jim Sellers and Joel Singletary voted in favor. Motion carried. City Clerk Calhoun explained a Certificate of Occupancy has not been received from Code Enforcement and the Alcohol License and Occupational Tax (business license) cannot be issued until CO is received.

Reports – Depot St. NE project – Mayor Trulock informed the Council Depot St. NE has been paved. The adjacent ditch has been filled in with pipe.

Mayor Trulock also congratulated Utility Director Josh Ausburn on the City of Whigham Water System's designation as an outstanding performer during the recent Sanitary Survey Inspection.

New Business – Property & Liability Ins. – Chuck Thomas, Joe Porter, and Hansell Bearden were present to represent Southern Insurance who had requested the opportunity to bid on the City's liability and property insurance. The City recently switched to Southern Insurance for workers' compensation insurance. Mayor Trulock stated the Southern Insurance liability and vehicle insurance quote is less than the GIRMA (Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency) proposal but he wanted more time to make sure we are not overlooking something. Mayor Trulock recommended the Council not make any changes with the insurance at this time. Stating he would feel more comfortable with more time to review. Trulock also stating GIRMA has been good to the City and basically rebuilt City Hall. Councilman Sellers asked when an answer was needed. City Clerk Calhoun explained the current policy expires May 1st. Sellers suggested the Council let the Mayor look over it a little more before making a decision.

MEAG Year-End Settlement – Motion was made by Jim Sellers to deposit the MEAG Power 2020 year-end settlement refund into the MEAG Investment Account. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. Jim

Sellers, Trey Gainous, Joel Singletary, and Jimmie Laing voted in favor. Motion carried. Council asked that it be deposited into the same portfolio as past deposits.

Archway MOU – A motion was made by Trey Gainous to approve the Grady Archway Partnership Memorandum of Understanding and partner with UGA Archway Partnership for one more year. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. Trey Gainous, Joel Singletary, Jim Sellers, and Jimmie Laing voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

No Parking Ordinance – The Council reviewed a No Parking Ordinance for no parking on portions of Depot St., NE. Councilmember Jim Sellers asked if the proposed ordinance could be edited to include no parking between signs wherever posted. The Mayor agreed to consult with City attorney Charlie Ferrenchick and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Business License Exceptions – Council considered an ordinance to amend Chapter 25 of the Whigham Code of Ordinances by adding Section 25-135 Casual or Isolated Activity that reads as follows “Nothing contained in this article shall be interpreted as to require any persons who may engage in casual or isolated activity or commercial transactions involving personal assets to be subject to an occupation tax as set forth in this ordinance.” **A motion was made by Jim Sellers to approve an Ordinance to Amend the Occupation Tax Ordinance of the City of Whigham Code of ordinance by adding Section 25-135 Casual or Isolated Activity. Motion was seconded by Trey Gainous. Sellers, Gainous, Jimmie Laing, and Joel Singletary voted in favor. Motion carried.**

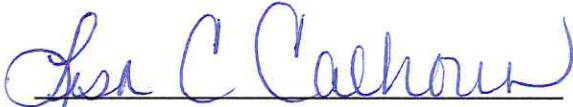
Truck Route Ordinance – Mayor Trulock discussed how some tractor trailers parking in residential areas are damaging the streets. The Police Chief has spoken with one resident who indicated he had nowhere else to park his truck. Trulock indicating the truck route ordinance indicates trucks over 2 axles are not allowed except on truck routes. There was discussion of allowing tractors without trailers. Mayor to talk with attorney before next meeting.

Mayor Trulock went back to the City Hall report. City Clerk Calhoun told the Council she is still hopeful ECG partner, Marc Kallaoun, will be ready to go with his software by June. A backup plan may be to see if ECG can help transfer data from Thomasville. The clerk indicating she has not spoken with Thomasville about that yet. She also said Thomasville had suggested a possible “Time & Material” quote with Cogsdale to try to cut the cost some. They would only charge for the actual amount of time worked.

Calhoun reminded Council it is an Election year with qualifying to be held the 3rd week of August. August 16th-20th. And she also said it is time to begin working on budget and budget requests.

Executive Session – Personnel – Mayor Trulock stated he had decided it wasn’t necessary to go into executive session and gave City Clerk Calhoun the floor. Calhoun followed up on an earlier email she sent to the Council explaining her decision to take early retirement. City Clerk Calhoun told the Council that she had been considering retirement for a while and now she has an opportunity to spend more time with her grandchildren and just enjoy life more. Calhoun stating that her last day in the office will be August 3rd. She said she will be working with her Assistant Rachel Rogers to get as much as possible accomplished and to familiarize Rachel with areas of the job she hasn’t had to deal with. Calhoun expressed her love for Whigham and said it will always be “home”.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:14 PM by Trey Gainous. Motion was seconded by Jimmie Laing. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.


Submitted


Approved