

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
July 18, 2023

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at the Whigham City Council Chambers 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.

Members present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Joel Singletary, Andrew Walden, Robert Porter, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Officer Jay Edmund, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson. Members of the public present were: Pat and Cindy Robinson, Wallace Chason and Margie Eubanks.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Hearing

Rezoning Proposal-SW Lee Ave from R1 to R2

Mayor Gainous opened the floor to Mr. Pat Robinson to speak. Mr. Robinson stated he and his wife own property on Lee Ave SW and they felt it would be beneficial for the zoning to be changed. Wallace Chason then addressed the Mayor and Council stating he owns property on Lee Ave SW as well and opposes the rezoning. Chason stated the lot beside his property has been an eyesore for years and doesn't think it would be maintained if the City allowed mobile homes to be moved in and it were used as rental property. Chason also said he is planning on updating his house on Lee Ave and a mobile home would decrease the property value. Margie Eubanks inquired about the location of the proposed rezoning and stated she would agree with Chason and oppose a rezoning. Chason then inquired why the City was proposing the rezoning and not a specific property owner. Mayor Gainous stated it was a economic standpoint for the city and would add 2 potential electric customers. Ausburn added most people could not afford \$300,000.00+ homes. Eubanks added she would have more confidence in the rezoning if other ordinances were enforced. Ausburn and Jenson stated we had began the process with letters sent to the property owners in violation of unclean lots and dilapidated buildings and we were waiting on the 90 day period to be up to check status on our list of properties in violation. Mayor Gainous stated the root of the rezoning idea came from the town hall meetings. Robinson asked to speak again and stated he and his wife wanted to get the structure on their property taken down and put a mobile home there so they could move back to Whigham. Sellers stated that he wanted to clarify on the newspaper ad saying it stated "in it's entirety" but wanted it on the record that it was just the SW side being considered for rezoning. Porter said he felt as if the property owners needed to be the ones to come forward and request the rezoning. Sellers stated he appreciated Mr. Porter's statement, but the

law does not allow “spot zoning” and it would have to be rezoned as a whole. Mayor Gainous called for a motion to proceed with the rezoning. No motion was made.

Budget-2023/2024 Fiscal Year

Mayor Pro Tem Sellers inquired if the PD had any major purchases that would need to be addressed in this proposed budget. Mayor Gainous stated nothing big had been planned, just salary increases in all departments. Sellers asked what the status of the new fire truck was. Ausburn stated that members of the fire department picked it up Sunday. **Jim Sellers made a motion to remove the \$30,000 listed on the budget proposal for the fire truck for FY 2023-2024. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Reports

Utilities: The guys have been working on mowing and doing the water meter swap outs. There had been a few small water leaks that have been repaired as well. Ausburn stated there were 2 leaks that had occurred at the Bond’s washout water line on Davis Ave that had accrued a very large usage, over \$1000, when they normally only use a minimum amount. Ausburn suggested we ask the Bonds to pay 50% of the bill since it was a meter they did not use every day and they had no clue about the leak, and the amount due would be a large burden on them. The Council agreed to accept 50% of the bill from the Bonds.

City Hall: Air conditioner went out in City Hall and they had moved over to the police department temporarily until the fan motor could be installed. Mills had been contacted, but Jensen stated that they were looking into another company that possibly offered a service contract.

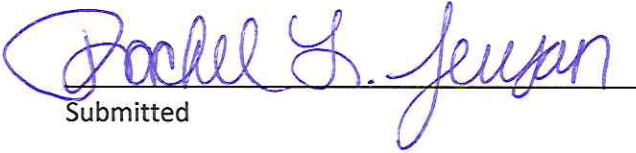
New Business

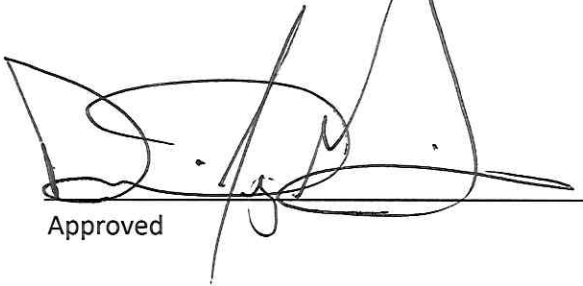
Subdivision Application: Gainous told the Council that during an inquiry of a subdivision construction, Jensen discovered that there was no application that was available for submission to the Council. Jensen stated that she got applications from the City of Cairo, Grady County and the City of Bainbridge and created an application with pertinent information for the City of Whigham. Gainous asked the Councilmembers to review and see if any changes needed to be made. Sellers stated that he felt all areas were covered, but he would like to see a statement included in the application that a preliminary plan would need to be attached for the Council to review after the application had been made with the Clerk. Gainous told Jensen to make the addition and present it to the Council again at the August meeting.

Council Matters of Interest

Mayor Gainous reported that the Cellar Door, Rachel Farrell, had begun working on the museum building, getting things done inside how she wanted and moving some pieces. She would be opening up soon. Gainous also reported that Sheli Ladner’s business, “This Is Home For Us”, would be closing the last Saturday of the month. He stated Ladner was just going to be closed with set store hours but was planning on several events such as monthly paint parties, private craft parties, and would still be offering online ordering for wood projects and other personalization goods.

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 6:55 PM.


Submitted


Approved