

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR EDWARD REYNOLDS, PRESIDING

COUNCIL MEMBERS: KREGG CLOSE, DON WHALEY, GLENNIE BENCH,
ROSLYN PALMER, PHIL LONG, AND SYLVIA
WASHINGTON

CITY STAFF: CITY MANAGER CHRIS HOBBY, ROY OLIVER, ALLIE
GODWIN, STEVE O'NEIL, LISA TAYLOR, GABE
MENENDEZ, FRANK GREEN, REDELL WALTON, RYAN
WIMBERLEY.

GUESTS: JAMES BENTON, JILL HOLLOWAY, AIYANNA HAGTS,
PAULINE MAXWELL, JIMMY SCRUGGS, JACKING
SCRUGGS, ROGER WILLIS, TERRY ANDERSON, ERIKA
MCLENSON, PAUL, GARY ANDERSON, EDEAI J.
GIBBONS, ALLIE GIBBONS, WILLIAM GIBBONS,
BERNARD BLACK, STEPHANIE BLACK, MASHAWN
MENDEZ, KENDRA BUTLER, AND PHYLLIS TRAVIS.

ABSENT: NONE

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Councilwoman Washington gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone who wish to speak on an item that was currently not on the agenda. Hearing from no one, Mayor Reynolds proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

PROCLAMATION – MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mayor Reynolds read and presented a proclamation designating May as “Mental Health Month” within the City of Bainbridge.

CONSIDERATION OF STREET CLOSURE REQUESTS

City Manager Hobby presented two street closure requests:

1. The CVB is requesting to close portions of Broughton Street, West Street, and Water Street on June 3rd, from 4:00 – 10:00 PM for USTA to host a Player Party in Willis Park. Downtown merchants have been made aware of the street closure request. Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the request.
2. Ms. Yolonda Lewis with New Beginnings Learning Center School at 725 Potter Street is requesting to close Potter Street, from E. Green Street to Pine Street, from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm to hold an End of the Year Celebration. Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Close, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the request.

CONSIDERATION OF ANNEXATION REQUEST – *131 River Oaks Drive*

City Manager Hobby presented the Mayor and City Council with a letter from the Scruggs family requesting that water service be extended to their property located 131 River Oaks Drive. City Manager Hobby stated that the Scruggs’ have followed all city requirements and water is available to their property. The Scruggs’ understand and have agreed that the cost of this extension will be borne by them, and that their property will be annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Bainbridge upon it becoming eligible for annexation. Upon a motion

offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilman Long, the annexation request was approved in a 6-0 vote by Council.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

City Manager Hobby presented an Alcohol Beverage License application from Hetalkumar Bhorania of Dedant Food, LLC dba Las Lomas, which is located at 801 E. Water Street. Mr. Hobby stated that this application was in order and all requirements for approval have been met. Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the application as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED CONDEMNATION ACTIONS

Mayor Edward Reynolds informed those assembled that this meeting had been advertised as the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed condemnation actions regarding the CDBG project. Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the council voted 6-0 to open the public hearing portion of the meeting. The council heard from the following property owners as well as councilmembers:

- Barnard Black, 1309 E. Water Street. Mr. Black does not want to sell and is concerned about the safety of the neighborhood.
- James Benton, 1204 Powell Street. Mr. Benton stated that he has invested \$45,000 to renovate the house, and is upset that the City wants to take it.
- Allie Anderson Gibbons, stated she wants to keep her property.
- Gary Anderson, 1309 Water Street and 1306 Water Street. Mr. Anderson spoke on curbing and street lights.
- Erika Anderson, informed the Council of her family history and the nostalgia of this particular block.
- Mashawn Mendez, 1300 Powell Street. Ms. Mendez stated that she had an issue with the dollar amount of the property appraisal.
- Councilwoman Washington wanted clarification on if the city was adding holding ponds to all six parcels.

- Councilwoman Bench inquired about the process of selecting these parcels, asking if it was solely based on elevation.
- Councilman Close stated that he was in favor of improvement, however not in favor of improvement if we must take citizen's property to do so. Councilman Close also expressed his concern regarding the language of the letters notifying the property owners of this process.
- City Engineer Gabe Menendez was present at the meeting to address any questions relating to this project.

Hearing from no other person, Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Washington and unanimously carried. No action was taken.

INTRODUCTION TO TEXT AMENDMENT – NUISANCE ORDINANCE

City Manager Hobby formally introduced a text amendment to our “Substandard/Unfit Buildings or Structures” nuisance ordinance. Mr. Hobby stated that this item will go before a public hearing and then for consideration at the next meeting of the council.

RESOLUTION – DECATUR COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

City Manager Hobby presented a resolution to the council to adopt the Decatur County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Hobby stated that this will allow the City to remain eligible for federal mitigation funding. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Palmer, the Council voted 6-0 to adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION OF SECOND QUARTER FINANCIALS

Administrative Services Director Lisa Taylor appeared before the Mayor and Council to give an update on the second quarter financials.

**DIVISION PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Steve O’Neil, Director of Community and Economic Development, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to offer an update on the activities of his division over the preceding twelve months.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

BY: _____
EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
ALLIE GODWIN, COUNCIL CLERK