

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR EDWARD REYNOLDS, PRESIDING

COUNCIL MEMBERS: KEENAN ADAMS, KREGG CLOSE, ROSLYN PALMER, SYLVIA WASHINGTON, AND DON WHALEY

CITY STAFF: CITY MANAGER ROY OLIVER, RANDEE EUBANKS, STEVE O'NEIL, FRANK GREEN, LISA TAYLOR, GABE MENENDEZ, RYAN WIMBERLEY, DOYLE WELCH, CHARLES GRIFFIN, HUNTER JONES, BENNETT HARRISON, KYLE SWICORD, PEYTON DODSON, MARNIE JOHNS, DWIGHT TOMBIN, CRYSTAL HINES

GUESTS: LESLEY TAYLOR, GRACE MOREHEAD, ANTHONY STUFFS, STANCIL TOTTLE, JANICE TOOTLE, COLBY SWICORD, JOHN SWICORD, DAVID JONES, MARGO BRENTON, JULIA HARRISON, DELMA HARRISON, DANNY HARRISON, BRYAN G. GARDNER

ABSENT: GLENNIE BENCH

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Councilman Close 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 5-0 to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone to speak on an item. Mr. Stancil Tootle requested that Council members state their names when speaking to assist visually impaired individuals. Mr. Gardner, representing Adam's Equipment, addressed the Council regarding bid results. During this time, Mayor Reynolds presented Mr. Tootle with a proclamation.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Marnie Johns, Director of Bainbridge Animal Services, attended the Mayor and City Council meeting to be recognized by Mayor Reynolds as Employee of the Quarter, receiving a plaque and a \$100 gift card.

OATHS OF OFFICE – BAINBRIDGE PUBLIC SAFETY

Bennett Harrison, Hunter Jones, Kyle Swicord, and Peyton Dodson of Bainbridge Public Safety appeared before the Mayor and City Council as Mayor Reynolds administered their oaths of office.

AMENDMENT TO EXPAND CHASON PARK REDEVELOPMENT ZONE

City Manager Roy Oliver addressed the Mayor and City Council, noting that in September the City adopted an increase to the hotel/motel tax rate. The new rate includes restrictive funds allocated specifically for tourism-related product development, such as new ground-up amenities, wayfinding signage, and other enhancements to improve the visitor experience. He explained that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires a designated area for the use of these restrictive funds. The original area adopted included the immediate surroundings of Chason Park, extending along the Riverwalk to Cheney Griffin Park. The proposed amendment expands the zone to encompass the entire Riverwalk, through the Earle May Boat Basin, and including the City's campground. The amendment was approved by a 5-0 vote, with Councilman Adams making the motion and Councilwoman Palmer seconding.

PUBLIC HEARING – *Demolition Ordinances*

At this time, the Mayor and City Council entered a public hearing regarding the demolition of 811 Miller Avenue, 1002 Florence Lane, 1504 Water Street, and 1614 Scott Street following a motion by Councilwoman Palmer, seconded by Councilman Adams. With no public discussion, the hearing was closed after a motion by Councilwoman Washington, seconded by Councilman Adams.

CONSIDERATION OF DEMOLITION ORDINANCES

Community and Economic Development Director Steve O'Neil presented four demolition ordinances for 811 Miller Avenue, 1002 Florence Lane, 1504 Water Street, and 1614 Scott Street. Following the public hearing, Council approved the ordinances with a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and a second by Councilwoman Washington. The ordinances passed in a vote of 5-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Community and Economic Development Director Steve O'Neil appeared before the Mayor and City Council to present the Planning Commission's recommendations. Attached are Mr. O'Neil's Supplemental Staff Report and the minutes from Tuesday's Planning Commission meeting. Case CU-2025-002: Applicants Toihunta Stubbs and Emiliana Escueta requested conditional use approval for a short-term rental at 812 E. College Street. The property is 0.68 acres and zoned UR-6. Following comments from neighboring residents, a motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Palmer, seconded by Councilwoman Washington, and passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE – *Vac Truck*

City Engineer Gabe Menendez recommended a new lease agreement for Vac truck operations. The City has operated Vac trucks for many years, and last year entered into a lease agreement similar to the garbage truck leases, which expired on August 6. Bid information for a new lease was advertised, and after review, Mr. Menendez recommended Jet Vac Equipment Company

as the lowest net cost provider. Councilman Whaley made a motion to approve the lease, seconded by Councilwoman Palmer, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.


MAYORAL APPOINTMENT

With the approval of the City Council, Mayor Reynolds recommended reappointing Mr. Darrell Cox to the Downtown Development Authority board. Councilwoman Washington made a motion to approve the appointment with it being seconded by Councilman Adams and passed in a vote of 5-0.

ADJORN

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

BY:



EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



RANDEE EUBANKS, COUNCIL CLERK

