

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR EDWARD REYNOLDS, PRESIDING

COUNCIL MEMBERS: KEENAN ADAMS, GLENNIE BENCH, KREGG CLOSE,
ROSLYN PALMER, AND DON WHALEY

CITY STAFF: CITY MANAGER ROY OLIVER, STEVE O'NEIL, LISA
TAYLOR, GABE MENENDEZ, RANDEE EUBANKS, FRANK
GREEN, REDELL WALTON, RYAN WIMBERLEY, AND
CARRIE WALWRATH

GUESTS: DONNA BARBER, DAVID BARBER, BRUCE KIRBO, JOEL
LUMPKIN, ART KING, KATRINA KING, YVENA MERRITT,
LEEANN ELKINS, CHARLENE WALKER, PEARL
COACHMAN, JOHNNY REYNOLDS, STEVE BENCH,
ODELL WASHINGTON, EMMA REECE

ABSENT: SYLVIA WASHINGTON

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Councilman Whaley gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilwoman Palmer, the Council voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2024, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone to speak on an item. Ms. Yvena Merritt of 3870 Fowlstown Road addressed the Mayor and City Council about Safer Human Medicine and asked council to reconsider their position legally and work to invalidate the bond. Emma

Williams of 115 Broughton Street also addressed the Mayor and City Council about her property rezoning denial from the Planning Commission.

RESOLUTION – *GIRMA Georgia First Responder PTSD Program*

City Manager, Roy Oliver, presented a resolution to add the First Responder PTSD Program to our GIRMA insurance plan. This program, fully insured by MetLife under the Fund C Master Policy, includes the following components: Lump Sum PTSD Diagnosis Benefit, PTSD Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit, and Combined Lump Sum PTSD Diagnosis and PTSD Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit. The total cost for both components is \$7,450.00. It is important to note that this addition is mandatory under the provisions of House Bill 451, requiring local governments to include this coverage for first responders. Adopting this program ensures we remain compliant with state law and demonstrates our commitment to the mental health and well-being of our first responders. Councilwoman Bench made a motion to adopt the resolution, and that motion was seconded by Councilwoman Palmer. The Resolution was adopted 4-0.

CONSIDERATION OF SALE OF PROPERTY

Mr. Oliver addressed the Mayor and City Council about the sale of city property to Dechildren Development and Construction. This 7.45-acre tract of land was subdivided in 2020 from the parent tract of 22 acres which the City of Bainbridge purchased from Atlanta Structural in 2020. This tract has been advertised with a sign on site since August of 2020. The remaining 14.5 acres houses the City's utilities building and employee offices on Taurus Way. Proceeds of this sale go to the City of Bainbridge in the amount of \$74,500.00 or \$10,000/acre. Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to sell the tract, and her motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. The sell was approved in a 4-0 vote.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT HOUSING STUDY

Community Development Director, Steve O'Neil, addressed the Mayor and City Council about the completion of a housing study in 2023, that has now been finalized and needs to be adopted. This study needs to be officially adopted to assist with applying for a CHIP Grant. This is for a \$500,000 grant to assist with owner occupied housing on a first come, first served basis. Mr.

O'Neil is seeking official permission from the Mayor and City Council to move forward with applying for a CHIP grant. Councilman Whaley made a motion to adopt the housing study and authorize Mr. O'Neil to continue with applying for a CHIP grant. That motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bench and was voted all in favor 5-0.

INTRODUCTION TO AMEND CEMETERY ORDINANCE

Community Development Director, Steve O'Neil, was before the Mayor and City Council to introduce an amendment to the City of Bainbridge Cemetery Trust Ordinance Sec. 18-4. This amendment will provide cemetery trust for all municipal cemeteries, not just Oak City Cemetery. This was the introduction to the ordinance that will be voted on at December's City Council meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. O'Neil presented the Planning Commission recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. Applicant, Emma Reese, is requesting a zoning change from Urban Residential to (UR-9) to Office-Professional (O-P) for the purpose of accommodating her insurance/tax preparation business. The property is located at 104 Simms Street (Parcel B0620126) and is 0.069 acres. Mr. O'Neil stated that Ms. Emma Reese's application had been denied unanimously by the Planning Commission due to it not being within the guidelines of the City of Bainbridge's master plan. After comments from Councilman Close, Ms. Reese, and Mr. O'Neil; Councilwoman Bench made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and that motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1 with Councilman Close opposing.

CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS INCENTIVE

City Manager, Roy Oliver, addressed the Mayor and City Council about the employee Christmas incentive. Full-time employees receive a \$200 gift card as an employee incentive during the holiday season. We have budgeted for this incentive. With 177 eligible employees, the total would cost \$35,400.00. Councilman Kregg Close made a motion to approve the employee incentive and his motion was seconded by Councilwoman Palmer; council voted in favor 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE

City Manager Oliver presented the council with the following alcoholic beverage license application:

- a. Applicant Dashrathbai Patel, owner/manager of 1105 Hariom, LLC dba Country Store, located at 1105 Dothan Road, has applied for a malt beverage retail and wine package retail license.

Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilman Close, the council voted 5-0 to approve the alcoholic beverage license application as presented.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – *Downtown Development Authority*

Mayor Reynolds recommended reappointing Ms. Shae Brouillet and Ms. Melinda Taylor to the Downtown Development Authority. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the Council voted 5-0 in favor of the Mayoral Appointments.

UPDATE ON EPD MANDATED WATER LINE SURVEY

Community Development Director, Steve O'Neil and City Engineer, Gabe Menendez, were before the Mayor and City Council to give an update on the EPD mandated water line survey.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

BY:

EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RANDEE EUBANKS, COUNCIL CLERK