

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR EDWARD REYNOLDS, PRESIDING

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

CITY STAFF: INTERIM CITY MANAGER ROY OLIVER, ALLIE GODWIN,
STEVE O'NEIL, LISA TAYLOR, GABE MENENDEZ,
RANDEE EUBANKS, DAVID HOWER, BEVERLY ALLEN,
AMANDA GLOVER, AL KELLEY, NORRIS AKINS, DOYLE
WELCH, REDELL WALTON AND RYAN WIMBERLEY

GUESTS: AIMYH HOYEKIN, BEVERLY READ, DONNA BARBER,
DAVID BARBER, BRUCE KIRBO JR, JAMES SEWELL,
JOHNNY REYNOLDS, YVENA MERRITT, LAURA WHITE,
STEVE DAVIS, RACHEL KELLY, STEVE BENCH,
BEVERLY DAVIS, GALLAGHER DEMPSEY, ANABEL
DEMPSEY, DEANN WLLIAMS.

ABSENT: KEENAN ADAMS

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 Councilman Close, the Council voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the April 16 2024, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone who wished to speak on an item. 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 to representatives from DBHDD designating May as “Mental Health Month’ within the City of Bainbridge.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – *BHS Band*

Mr. James Sewell with the Bainbridge High School Band presented the Mayor and City Council with the Joe Crine Award in recognition of the City’s outstanding dedication and support for the Decatur County Band program.

AUDITOR’S PRESENTATION – FY2023

The fiscal year 2023 Audit Report was prepared and presented by the independent accounting firm of Mauldin and Jenkins, reflecting no major accounting issues.

CONSIDERATION OF STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Mr. Gallagher Dempsey is requesting a street closure request for his Annual Jazz and Blues Festival on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Washington and seconded by Councilwoman Palmer, the Council voted 5-0 to approve the street closure request as presented.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL PARK USE EVENT APPLICATION

Interim City Manager Roy Oliver presented the council with a Special Park Use Event Application on behalf of Black Men United for the rental of the pavilion at Carson Hatcher Park on Sunday, May 26th from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Following a brief discussion from council, Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to approve the Special Park Use Event Application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Washington and unanimously approved in a 5-0 vote by Council.

CONSIDERATION OF RESTATEMENT – 2023-2025 *Defined Benefit Retirement Plan*

Interim City Manager Roy Oliver presented the council with the restatement of the 2023 – 2025 Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Mr. Oliver explained that every four years, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) reviews the defined retirement plans of participating member cities, and following the review, member cities are required to re-adopt these plans. Mr. Oliver stated that no changes have been made to our retirement plan, however we are still required to adopt it. Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the council voted 5-0 to approve the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan as presented.

CONSIDERATION OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO PROJECT AGREEMENT

Bainbridge- Decatur County Development Authority Director Rick McCaskill appeared before the Mayor and City Council with a second amendment to the project agreement for Anovion. Mr. McCaskill explained that the agreement extended the closing date to no later than December 31, 2024. Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the council voted to approve the second amendment to the project agreement in a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING - DEMOLITION ORDINANCES

Mayor Edward Reynolds informed those assembled that this meeting had been advertised as the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed demolition ordinances. Upon a motion offered by Councilman Close and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the council voted 5-0 to open the public hearing. Hearing no public comment, Councilwoman Bench made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was then seconded by Councilwoman Washington and unanimously carried in a 5-0 vote.

CONSIDERATION OF DEMOLITION ORDINANCES

Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the council voted 5-0 to adopt the demolition ordinances as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Mayor Edward Reynolds informed those assembled that this meeting had been advertised as the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the alcohol ordinance, specifically the “Downtown Entertainment District.” Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilwoman Bench, the council voted 5-0 to open the public hearing. Following a brief discussion from council, Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bench unanimously carried in a 5-0 vote.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the council voted 5-0 to adopt the amendment to the alcohol ordinance.

CONSIDERATION TO DECLARE SURPLUS

City Engineer Gabe Menendez presented the council with a need to declare three grapple trucks as surplus equipment to receive “credit” for the two proposed leases later being considered. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Close, the council voted 5-0 to declare the three grapple trucks as surplus.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASES – *RDK Assets, Inc. dba RDK Truck Sales*

City Engineer Gabe Menendez presented the council with two proposed 24-month grapple truck leases from RDK Assets, Inc dba RDK Truck Sales. Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilwoman Washington, the council voted 5-0 to approve the leases.

CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bainbridge – Decatur County Planning Commission met on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, and considered two items that require council action. Mr. Steve O’Neil stated that the Planning Commission voted to approve both applications.

- **Item 1: PPLATT-RESSUB-2024-001:** Applicant Charlie Salem (Salem Construction) is requesting approval of a preliminary plat for residential development. The property is tax parcel B0480056. The property is 5.42 acres.
- **Item 2: ZONE-2024-002:** Applicant Randall Harrell is to rezone the property located at 1609 Pierce St from Light Industrial (LI) to Highway Commercial (HC) for the purpose of subdividing out 0.716 acres and selling. The property is tax parcel B0040001. The property is 1.67 acres.

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone who wanted to speak on either planning commission item. Mr. Joe Kraiger of 904 E. College Street stepped forward to ask questions regarding Item 1: PPLATT-RESSUB-2024-001. Following the discussion, Councilwoman Bench made a motion to uphold the Planning Commission recommendations and approve both applications. The motion was seconded by Councilman Close and unanimously approved in a 5-0 vote.

DIVISION PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

Interim City Manager Roy Oliver and City Engineer Gabe Menendez appeared before the Mayor and City Council to offer an update of the city’s special projects. Items included: GDOT State Route, Fiber to the Home Project, Sewer Treatment Plant, and Street Paving.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL – *Mercer Group*

Mayor Reynolds presented the council with a proposal by Mercer Group Recruitment Firm that would assist the City of Bainbridge in its search for a new City Manager. Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilman Close, the council voted 5-0 to approve the proposal by Mercer Group Recruitment.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

BY:

EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALLIE GODWIN, COUNCIL CLERK