

**City of Locust Grove
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42
 Locust Grove, GA 30248
 Monday, May 20, 2019
 6:00 PM**

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Robert Price – Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Randy Gardner – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Anna W. Ogg – Main Street Manager
Otis Hammock – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Vernon Ashe – Councilman	Bert Foster – Community Development Director
Keith Boone – Councilman	Jesse Patton – Police Chief
	Andy Welch – City Attorney

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation given by Police Chief, Jesse Patton

Councilman Boone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the May 20, 2019 meeting agenda.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Mayor Price opened for public comments.

Mrs. Sarah Baxter stepped forward to make a comment. Mrs. Baxter provided a packet to Mayor and Council with suggestions for review. Mrs. Baxter said she met with Tim, Mayor Price and Bert a few weeks ago and ideas were exchanged to help improve transparency for the public. Mrs. Baxter reviewed the packet that included a site allowing a designated place for what is happening in the City [now or upcoming], and what the citizens would like to see coming. Mrs. Baxter said her contact information is included if anyone has questions or said she is available to meet as well. Nothing further.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS –ANNA W. OGG

- **Scatter Garden Concept at City Cemetery** - Mrs. Anna Ogg stepped forward and began discussion for a scatter garden concept and provided a copy of a PowerPoint to Mayor and Council for review. Mrs. Ogg said cremation is on the rise, with less open land and less cost compared with standard burials and can average \$1,000 versus a traditional burial cost is \$4,000 and higher. Mrs. Ogg said a scatter garden offers more options with a physical place for a ceremony. Discussion took place on the proposed site; north of our existing cemetery plots [near the grove of trees near City Hall and Fire Station #]. Mrs. Ogg said no plots have been sold in that area and we have a vision for this area to be simple yet attractive; surrounded by a fence and signage with directions on the cremains disposal process. The idea is to keep everything cost effective; however, we will need to charge a small fee for maintenance and inscription. This is designed with the option to expand since population is growing. We can review further options if this is successful to start. Mrs. Ogg said she is open to any questions or feedback.

Councilman Greer asked what the costs would be to start and to maintain. Mrs. Ogg replied less than \$30,000 to start. City Manager Tim Young said the marker will be the most expensive cost and our current interment (burial) fee is \$200.00. Councilman Boone asked how the current burial fee (\$200.00) is utilized. Mr. Young replied the fee covers the costs of cemetery maintenance or for other capital items such as this expansion. Councilman Gardner asked if there are other Cities nearby with this concept. Mrs. Ogg replied she knows of one in Macon and Mr. Young said Macon's is not operated by the City. Mrs. Ogg said she don't know of another City cemetery with a scatter garden. Discussion took place and Councilman Hammock said he has seen a scatter garden in Canton. Discussion took place led by Mayor Price about offering an option for the interment of an urn or a burial wall. Councilman Greer asked if there would be special grading to the land and if any limitations on release of cremains in a water drainage area. Discussion took place. Mr. Young said he don't believe there is anything in State Law that prohibits scattering cremains. Attorney Andy Welch said we will confirm. Nothing further.

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- Georgia Department of Community Affairs** - Mrs. Anna Ogg said this is a document signed annually and outlines standards and requirements for State and National accreditation programs. This is for discussion; however, will come back as action next month.

Councilman Boone asked who Ken Dickey is and Mrs. Ogg replied he is Chair of DDA.

- **New Street Furniture at Mayor's Walk Park Area** – Main Street Inc., Board of Directors would like to purchase furniture for area at Mayors walk park including planters, table, and chairs. Waiting on more information and final quote for review when available. Nothing further.

Mrs. Ogg continued with the monthly update report and said we will also be replacing the City's furniture including trash cans, and other furniture due to normal wear. Members of the DDA including Councilman Hammock went to Milledgeville for some projects. The HPC issued no COAs in the previous period, and May is historic preservation month. If you have any historic photos and would like to share, please drop them by. We are updating website for cohesiveness. Further, Mrs. Ogg said Yoga in the park [Locust Grove City Park] is coming up June 8 and June 22, 2019 and will be offering free yoga classes. We have the Peach Stand Road Race this Saturday and the Catfish Rodeo on June 8, 2019 with only six spots remaining. Main

street Inc. is planning to host another 4th Friday event in the months of June, July and August for enjoyment in Downtown Locust Grove. Nothing further.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS– CHIEF JESSE PATTON

Chief Jesse Patton stepped forward and reviewed the monthly report and said total collections for April 2019 was \$68,415. Currently the city is working on the implementation of the Henry County active shooter response training which is part of what we attended at FEMA in Maryland. This training is to help first responders make sound decisions in the event of an active shooter or casualty event. We developed a group so that ALL first responders in Henry County are aware of what is happening so that we have an organized system. This training is the first to be implemented in the State of Georgia and we also cross trained with Fire Department and Paramedics. Discussion took place on how all work together at the same time to approach the situation at hand and the training will continue through mid-June. Further, Chief Patton said we have lots of training this month. Several of us attended the memorial in Washington D.C. recognizing Chase Maddox and the ceremony honored all officers killed in 2018. Thank you for all who supported and allowed us to attend this special event. Chief Patton said it's a huge, well-organized event, and my hope is to not ever have to do again. Captain Long attended the officer memorial in Forsyth today and the memorials attended gave closure to many of us and the family. Nothing further.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE –

Public Works Director Jack Rose gave an update we had 84 water cut offs today and reviewed the work order report. Mr. Rose said his department is continuing with general maintenance. Further, normal repairs for water leaks, and we had some manhole adjustments at Tanger. Continuing with grass cutting and street maintenance. Nothing further.

ADMINISTRATION – TIM YOUNG

- **SPLOST V – Proposed Project Listing/Review** - City Manager Tim Young stepped forward and said this was discussed briefly at the last retreat. Mr. Young provided Mayor and Council with a SPLOST V project selection list and discussion took place. Mr. Young reviewed each project and summarized by category (Roads-\$6,025,000; Parks - \$350,000; Utilities - \$850,000), with an average total of \$7,276,500.00. Attorney Andy Welch asked if this would consist of 25% City and 75% County. Discussion took place on the level of funding and how money is divided based on City population. Mr. Young said these amounts are based on the most recent population projections; however, recent numbers will come from the Census soon. Attorney Andy Welch said this is just discussion and review tonight to allow for further action at the next meeting in June.

Councilman Greer asked if this will influence the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS). Mr. Young replied not directly. Attorney Andy Welch said the SDS must designate all available funding sources and discussion took place about the SDS and SPLOST V being two separate statutes. Nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for any further questions or comments.

Mrs. Sarah Baxter asked if she could make a comment. Mrs. Baxter stepped forward to make a comment. Mrs. Baxter asked if the Phase II for the Veterans Park/parking is included in this list. City Manager Tim Young replied that is not included on this list. Mrs. Baxter asked about the Greenway System project and discussion took place. Mrs. Baxter asked if anything included for sidewalks connecting by Tanger Boulevard and Mr. Young replied, yes, an updated map is on the

website for the greenway areas. There are \$324 million worth of projects; however, not just for City. We will need to work with County, state and regional agencies, too.

Councilman Boone made a comment he noticed on the County's list for a new Fire station and Police Building. Councilman Boone said he don't agree with other Cities that want a precinct; however, do not have a police department. Discussion took place. City Manager Tim Young replied the County is still working on finalizing their project list and discussion took place. Councilman Greer asked if we will try to negotiate our share due to our population growth. Mr. Young said that is something to stress due to the City's most recent growth. Further, Mr. Young said the updated Census will be released Thursday, and we will review all options and compare how the City has grown in comparison with County.

- **Upcoming Annexation Applications – Law/Price (once latest annexations are official)**
– City Manager Tim Young said we have pending items for annexation including one from the Law's and one from Robert and Donna Price (not immediately related to Mayor Price).

Councilman Boone asked what the cost is to annex property into the City and Mr. Young replied the cost has decreased because we handle a lot of the administration process ourselves. Attorney Andy Welch replied the cost is less because Tim and Bert draft all of the annexation ordinances; whereas, in the 2000's the City was only doing 60 percent [types of annexations] versus now doing 100 percent only. Councilman Boone said we charge for open records requests; can we not charge a fee for annexations. Mr. Young and Attorney Andy Welch replied yes, we can look into and review to add into the fee structure. Discussion took place. Nothing further.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – BERT FOSTER

Community Development Director Bert Foster gave an update his department has issued 751 permits in 2019 including 128 new single-family house permits and 125 COs. Building and land disturbance ongoing in various locations. New development activity in several subdivisions including M&M at Walker Crossing. We will have the revised DRI for the Gardner Farms project decision back on Thursday and will know more soon for further discussion. Mr. Foster said he sent a draft to the general contractor for the renovations to the Community Development Department offices. Mr. Foster said the contract should be ready next week and hopefully begin early June with completion in September. Further, Mr. Foster said Kimberly LeCroy submitted her resignation and her last day is next Thursday. The position was posted today for permit/business license clerk. Mr. Foster said he attended the Planning Conference in San Francisco last month and appreciated the opportunity to go. Nothing further.

Mr. Foster continued with discussion on items for future action.

- **Ordinance for a final plat approval for Phase 1 – Nine Oaks subdivision on Peeksville Road** – Mr. Foster said this property is across from Warren Holder Park and is currently under construction along Peeksville Road. Mr. Foster reviewed the project data including acreage [19.3 acres and 31 lots for Phase I]. Mr. Foster reviewed the conditions that will be required for approval. Mr. Foster said this will be a gated subdivision inspected by the Henry County Fire Department and the subdivision will incorporate private streets which will be owned and maintained by a Homeowner's Association. Nothing further.

Councilman Hammock asked how wide the streets are and Mr. Foster replied 26 feet wide built to City standards.

Councilman Boone asked about the requirement of side-entry garages in the conditions and asked if side or front entry can be determined before. Mr. Foster replied sometimes if the home is custom built; however, the basics will be adhered to. Mr. Foster replied sometimes side entry garages will not work because they are too narrow. Discussion took place and Mr. Foster said the builder does not want to build front entry garages; he prefers to build side entry garages; however, sometimes will not work for homeowner. Attorney Andy Welch said we allow for exceptions and conditions reviewed.

Councilman Boone asked about if we can we make the covered area for the mail area mandatory per project. Mr. Foster replied there is no design standard, and Attorney Andy Welch replied if we do require; it would not be retroactive for this project. Nothing further

- **Special Event Request – BBQ Competition & Bike/Car Show fundraiser hosted by Community Bible Fellowship Church** - Mr. Foster said this is a request from Sharon Dewberry for a BBQ competition on August 23-24, 2019. The applicant is wanting to utilize a portion of Trail Head Park and a portion of Cleveland Street directly behind Shorty's BBQ. Mr. Foster said staff is recommending approval.

Councilman Boone made a comment he doesn't understand why the City would allow use of our property for a fundraiser. This is a nonprofit event for Community Bible Church in Hampton. Mr. Foster said the applicant is a business owner in town.

Councilman Greer made a comment he recalls in the past the City had an event and used Mr. Dewberry's property without asking him. Councilman Greer said his opinion; we should take that into consideration. Also, the applicant is seeking our permission and have been business owners here for a while. Discussion took place. Nothing further.

- **Special Event Request – Yard Sale fundraiser at the Locust Grove Masonic Lodge** – Mr. Foster said this request is from Mrs. Linda Ingram of the Locust Grove Masonic Lodge for a fundraiser event on June 8, 2019. Staff is recommending approval. Nothing further.
- **Special Event Request – Fireworks Sale fundraiser from the Rainbow Girls** – Mr. Foster said this request is from David Midgorden to host the annual event to sell fireworks from a tent in the Walmart parking lot. The event will be June 23 – July 6, 2019 and December 27-31, 2019. Mr. Foster said staff is recommending approval with one condition [A temporary certificate of occupancy shall be issued prior to the start of this event]. Attorney Andy Welch asked who is applying for the permit and Mr. Foster replied TNT Fireworks; agent applying on behalf of the Rainbow Girls. Attorney Andy Welch said the application will need to be applied for by the non-profit organization to allow for waiver of application fee. Mr. Foster said he will review and have corrected accordingly. Nothing further.

Special Event Request – Henry County Fireworks – Community Event with fireworks at Warren Holder Park – Mr. Foster said this request is from Michelle Amarra with Henry County Fireworks to host an event at Warren Holder Park. The applicant is requesting to meet with the Police and Fire Departments prior to the event. The applicant will pay a \$500 deposit to ensure the park is clean after the event. The applicant is also seeking a permit from the City to have a Licensed vendor [Fusion Restaurant

& Bar] to sell alcoholic beverages during the event. Mr. Foster said Michelle Amarra is present tonight if any questions.

Mayor Price asked Michelle Amarra to come forward to answer questions.

Councilman Greer asked Mrs. Amarra to confirm the start time of the event; our coversheet says 12:00 AM. Mrs. Amarra confirmed the start time is 12:00 PM. Councilman Greer asked Chief Patton if allowing alcohol sales at the event was an issue last year and Chief Patton replied we had no complaints or issues. Mrs. Amarra confirmed the vendor will be in a confined space [VIP area] following all guidelines.

Councilman Greer asked if the applicant is being required to pay two separate fees and Mr. Foster replied the City only requires one fee [\$500.00]. Mrs. Amarra confirmed she did pay county fees as well. Discussion took place about the \$500.00 cleaning deposit. Councilman Greer asked if the park is maintained by County why are we charging a cleanup fee and Mr. Foster replied our employees will work the event. Councilman Greer asked why our employees work the event. Councilman Boone said the City owns the park; however, the County maintains and oversees the park. Mrs. Amarra said she is willing to pay for additional City staff for help. Councilman Boone said he does not agree to sale alcohol and asked about the Helicopter rides. Mrs. Amarra said the helicopter rides were a success last year. Councilman Boone asked who regulates helicopter rides. Attorney Andy Welch replied the City does not regulate. Councilman Boone made a comment he noticed this event has been advertised since April 4 and hasn't been approved. Mrs. Amarra replied our intent was not to assume the event would be approved since it was already approved by the county; however, this is the second year hosting the event and since we ran into hoops last year, we thought it would be much smoother this year. We will be more proactive next year and come sooner with request. Mrs. Amarra said the results from the survey conducted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs said 37% of people attended the event were not residents in the City or lived within 15-mile radius of Locust Grove; this event attracted a lot of people. Nothing further.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) –

- **Additional building at Bunn Grading on Highway 42 South; just below Walker Crossing near County Line** – Mr. Foster said the applicant; Andy Bunn, submitted a request for an additional accessory building at Bunn Grading Company. This will be brought back at the June 3, 2019 meeting for action. Nothing further.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS - NONE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS- NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Acquisition and Potential Litigation

Mayor Price asked for a motion to enter executive session. Councilman Boone made the motion with second by Councilman Greer. All in favor and motion carried. Council entered executive session at 7:38 PM.

Mayor Price asked for a motion to reconvene to regular session from executive session at 7:58 PM. Councilman Boone made the motion with second by Councilman Greer. All in favor and motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED-

Attorney Andy Welch stepped forward to the podium and said we received a recommendation from the Ethics Board with no basis from the complaint submitted in March. Attorney Andy Welch said Council

needs to make the decision to adopt or not tonight and said Ethics Board Chair, Mr. Castellaw is here tonight if any questions.

Councilman Boone made a motion to amend the agenda to entertain recommendation of Ethics Board.

RESULT	APPROVED ADD ITEM
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

Ethics Board Chair, Mr. Castellaw read recommendation letter aloud.

ADD ITEM – ETHICS BOARD FINDINGS

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the recommendation.

RESULT	APPROVED RECOMMENDATION
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (GREER, TAYLOR, BOONE, ASHE, HAMMOCK) WITH ONE ABSTENTION - GARDNER

Attorney Andy Welch made a comment to clarify Councilman Gardner is abstained from decision since he is subject of complaint. Nothing further.

ADJOURNMENT-

Mayor Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Boone made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:03 PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk