

**City of Locust Grove
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42
Locust Grove, GA 30248
Monday, July 15, 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 Community Development Director Bert Foster.

Councilman Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Hammock made the motion to approve the July 15, 2019 meeting agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

- 1. Ordinance to set the 2019 Tax Millage at 6.826 mils and roll back said amount to 0.00 mils in reflection of local option sales taxes required for Maintenance and Operations of the City** – City Manager Tim Young stepped forward and led discussion this is required by State Law every year and is calculated according to the previous year sales taxes and net M & O tax digest of the City. This will be submitted to the Department of Revenue after approval. Nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance **#19-07-058**

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #19-07-058
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GARDNER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

2. Resolution to agree on an Intergovernmental Agreement for SPLOST V –

City Manager Tim Young led discussion this is for the consideration and adoption of the Project Listing and the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the SPLOST proposed for the continuation in its Fifth edition (SPLOST V) to begin in Spring of 2020 through Spring 2026. This proposal is the requested 30% Municipalities 70% for the County. Discussion took place and Exhibit C reviewed.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Hammock made the motion to approve the request with second by Councilman Gardner. Mayor Price asked for any further discussion and Councilman Boone had a comment.

Councilman Boone made a comment the County has yet to finalize their project list and said he is not ready to approve the 70/30 without seeing their proposed list. Discussion took place.

Mr. Young said regardless of the outcome [70/30 or 75/25] the City’s project list does not change.

Attorney Andy Welch replied Council is not voting on the County’s project list; only voting so that the County will have our agreement in place should they finalize a project list. This will basically serve as our commitment to the County we have our list and agreeing to a 70/30 split. Attorney Andy Welch asked Tim if the County has confirmed a date as to when they will decide. Mr. Young replied the County is not making a final selection until closer to end of July. Discussion took place about changing effective date to allow more time.

Councilman Greer made a comment he does not agree with what the County has proposed.

Attorney Andy Welch specified language for effective date be revised as follows:

Resolution 1 and Resolution 2 shall take effect immediately.

Resolution 3 and subsequent Resolutions shall take effect on the date of adoption by the Henry County Board of Commissioners of an Intergovernmental Agreement marked in Resolution 3, as written, along with all required attachments.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Hammock made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #19-07-059 as amended.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #19-07-059 AS AMENDED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GARDNER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (BOONE, HAMMOCK, TAYLOR, GARDNER, ASHE) AND ONE OPPOSED (GREER)

3. Ordinance for vote on extended hours for alcohol sales – “Brunch Bill” - City Manager Tim Young led discussion this is a revised call for a vote on extending alcohol sales on Sundays from 12:30AM to 11:00AM. This is for placement on the ballot in accordance with our regular vote in November.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #19-07-060

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #19-07-060
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (GREER, HAMMOCK, TAYLOR, GARDNER, ASHE) AND ONE OPPOSED (BOONE)

- 4. Ordinance to amend the Position and Pay Plan of the Personnel Policy** – City Manager Tim Young led discussion we previously discussed the need for additional positions and are still in need of a Utility Billing Manager; however, there has been little interest in or qualified applicants for the Planner I position at this time. The other positions originally requested has been agreed to be filled by existing staff positions after discussions for posting of those openings. As an alternative, we would like to advance Bert into Assistant City Manager and replace his position quickly to allow for that transition.

Councilman Greer asked why it has been a challenge to attract qualified applicants for the Planner I position. Mr. Young replied that position would need someone who knows the area and comes in with experience. Attorney Andy Welch said that position will be hard to fill because it is an entry level position. Discussion took place. Councilman Greer asked if Bert will automatically transition into the suggested position or open to public. Mr. Young replied the position will be open internally first. Nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #19-07-061

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #19-07-061
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN HAMMOCK
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS –ANNA W. OGG

Mrs. Ogg gave an update she has been assisting the Mayor and others on a project to acquire a Cannon as part of a donation for public display at the new proposed Veteran’s Memorial. Mrs. Ogg said we are working with Falcon Design on sketches for the Scatter Garden and progress continues with the website update. DCA accepted their first tax credit project from Peach Pit, and the HPC is gathering information on the proposed expansion of HPDO [Cities with protected districts] which would include three contributing historic properties and two noncontributing historic properties. The Fourth Friday event in June was very successful and the next Fourth Friday event is July 26, 2019. Further, Yoga in the Park attendance has been very successful and continues this Saturday at 9:30AM. Nothing further.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS– CHIEF JESSE PATTON

Chief Jesse Patton stepped forward and reviewed the monthly report and collections for June 2019. Total collections were \$68,155.39 with 22 investigations, including eleven for Detective Shoemaker and eleven for Detective Yarian. Chief Patton said Wreck Master hosted an event in the training room and ATSSA hosted DOT training. The July 4th event went as expected and seemed busier during the night hours. The investigation is ongoing with GBI on the Drug Task Force, and next week the Chief said he will be in Savannah for the Chiefs' conference. Nothing further.

Mayor Price asked Chief Patton to talk about speeding issues that have been brought to our attention. Chief Patton said we have had complaints of increased speeding on Bowden Street and Grove Road. Chief Patton said he has researched and said there are two options; initiated ticket signs or raised speed tables. Chief Patton said we think the speed tables are a better option and discussion took place why opposed to the initiated ticket signs.

Councilman Greer asked Chief to explain the option on the signs that initiate speeding tickets. Chief Patton replied there is a law on writing tickets in speed limits of 10 mph over the posted limit and discussion took place. The speed was increased twelve years ago from 25 to 35 mph on Grove Road as part of radar certification. Attorney Andy Welch asked Chief if we have inquired about reducing speed limit. Chief Patton said he has requested and has been denied. Attorney Andy Welch suggested the Chief to submit another request for reducing the limit.

Councilman Greer said he thinks the presence of our officers would make a difference and Chief replied we do have officers patrol that road. Discussion took place. Attorney Andy Welch said the speed tables seem to be a 24/7 slowing device and the better option versus the sign is an attempt to lower speeding. Mr. Young said the speed tables are about \$4,000 each. Discussion took place and we will try this option first. Nothing further.

Councilman Boone asked if the vendors hosting training charges a fee to attend. Chief Patton replied yes; however, not for City employees. We also received a grant from ATSSA for \$4,500.00 for hosting events. Nothing further.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE –

Public Works Director Jack Rose gave an update his department is continuing with general maintenance. Further, normal repairs for water leaks, and continuing with grass cutting and street maintenance. Nothing further.

ADMINISTRATION – TIM YOUNG

City Manager Tim Young passed out the draft cemetery regulations regarding the scatter garden is in early stages and will be discussing fees, etc. at the next workshop meeting. Attorney Andy Welch said we can charge whatever the current internment fee is unless you want to change that fee. Mr. Young said we would like to change the fee.

Councilman Hammock said he suggests we change the fee since the City will maintain. Discussion took place. Nothing further.

Mr. Young proceeded with discussion on other items.

- **SDS (Service Delivery Strategy) Update-** City Manager Tim Young gave an update to remind everyone this meeting is Thursday at 9:00AM at the Henry County Administration Building. The main point is tax equity (who pays for what services) and not duplicating services in County and Cities. Attorney Andy Welch said discussion will take place on Police, Fire, Roads, and Parks and Recreation. Further, Attorney Andy Welch reviewed the SDS process so that the public has a clearer understanding on the process. Nothing further.
- **Transportation Projects Update** – Mr. Young gave an update we should be receiving plans soon for Peeksville Road improvements. After meetings with GDOT we should have a good plan in place for the Bill Gardner project. We are asking for a waiver from GDOT for the signal at Market Place and Hwy 42 and should be able to move forward with that soon. Nothing further.
- **Rezoning of water tanks to TCU in August** – Mr. Young said we are requesting to zone all water tanks to TCU (Transportation Communication Utilities) versus currently zoned RA. This will be brought back in August. Nothing further.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – BERT FOSTER

- **Special Event Request – Haven House casino night fundraiser – October 5, 2019** – Mr. Foster said this is a request from Katie Tucker; of the Flint Circuit Council on family violence on behalf of Haven House. This will be held at the Locust Grove Event Center and the applicant is present tonight to answer any questions.

Councilman Greer said he has read statistics on domestic violence which stated statistics showing 55% [domestic violence incidents] are alcohol related and asked if alcohol will be served at this event. Councilman Greer asked if the Haven House is a shelter for women and children of domestic abuse.

The applicant; Katie Tucker, stepped forward to reply. Mrs. Tucker confirmed by replying yes to Councilman Greer's questions.

Councilman Boone asked Mrs. Tucker why they are serving alcohol. Mrs. Tucker replied the Board of Directors has deemed them to do so and said some research has found there is not a correlation between the two [alcohol and domestic abuse]. Mrs. Tucker said the alcohol is not a free service; there is a charge to those who choose to drink. Mrs. Lucinda Wirt; President of the Haven House, stepped forward and said participants pay a fee to attend and in the past, have raised over \$30,000 with 100 percent of the proceeds being used for the victims of domestic violence. Nothing further.

- **Review of the preliminary plat for a proposed R-2 subdivision along South Bethany Road** – Mr. Foster said this is was approved in April 2019; however, the initial plat that Council approved has changed. Mr. Foster reviewed the revisions including relocating the entrance further south as well as reducing the lot count from 50 to 47. The applicant is also adding a north/south connection to the street network on the eastern side of the subdivision.

Councilman Boone asked if the retention pond is in the front because of the land outlay. Mr. Foster replied yes. Discussion took place about cluster boxes being covered. Mr. Foster said he will confirm. Attorney Andy Welch said this item will come back as a final plat approval and said that can be specified at that time. Nothing further.

Community Development Director Bert Foster gave an update his department has issued 1058 permits in 2019 including 230 new single-family house permits and 230 CO's. Building and land disturbance is ongoing in various locations and new development activity underway in several subdivisions. The plans are under second review for the Havenwood Grove senior community, and we received the first reviews for the Waffle House near LaQuinta Inn. The Community Development office remodel is on schedule and going well. Nothing further.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) –

5. Architectural plans submitted for Starbucks/Urgent Care Building at 4837 Bill Gardner Parkway – Mr. Foster said the applicant; GDP of Akron, Ohio, submitted architectural plans for a proposed dual-tenant commercial building. Mr. Foster said the representative from the architectural firm is present.

Councilman Greer said the lot seems small and asked if that location will be enough to accommodate the additional traffic. Mr. Young said there will eventually be a raised median in that area. Mr. Foster said the building will sit far back enough to allow for drive through vehicles to not interfere.

Councilman Boone asked how many the urgent care is looking to serve, and Mr. Foster replied the ordinance requires six parking spaces per each practitioner. Discussion took place regarding Starbucks parking that per every three tables should equal one parking space. 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 7:48 PM.

Mayor Price asked for a motion to reconvene to regular session from executive session at 8:34PM. Councilman Greer made the motion with second by Councilman Boone. All in favor and motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT-

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

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:34 PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk