

**City of Locust Grove
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42 S.
 Locust Grove, GA 30248
 Monday, July 20, 2020
 6:00 PM**

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Robert Price – Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Randy Gardner – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Rudy Breedlove - Councilman	Anna W. Ogg – Main Street Manager
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Daunté Gibbs – Community Development Director
Keith Boone – Councilman	Matthew Long – Police Captain
	Priya Patel – SWWW Attorney
	Staff Not Present:
	Jesse Patton – Police Chief - Conference
	Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk

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

Invocation given by Assistant City Manager Bert Foster

Councilman Greer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the July 20, 2020 meeting agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS –

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

- 1. Ordinance to approve Millage Rate Rollback –**

City Manager Tim Young led discussion this is an annual requirement and reviewed the process for calculating a millage rate. Mr. Young said, in consideration with the policy established 40 years ago, we are rolling back to zero as attached in Exhibit A.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #20-07-036

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #20-07-036
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

Councilman Taylor asked if the millage rate were not rolled back what would be the average cost per homeowner. Mr. Young replied he has not done the calculations for that [since we always roll back to zero] but mostly effects the rental properties and commercial properties. Nothing further.

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS –ANNA W. OGG

Mrs. Ogg gave an update Main Street has been accredited for the 2019-2020 year which enables us to use Main Street branding. The new banners are up on the banner frames downtown, and Main Street did not meet this month. HPC did not issue any COAs, and no meeting was held this month. We received notice to complete the local certified government evaluation and the DDA met to review a work plan for potential changes for any impact Covid-19 had on downtown Locust Grove. The advertising is geared towards downtown shopping and we will be distributing face masks and hand sanitizer to high traffic retailers starting with Tanger Outlet. The Catfish Rodeo was a success and had a very good turnout. Nothing further.

- **Proposed design concept for the Locust Grove Scatter Garden –**

Mrs. Ogg continued with discussion on the proposed design concept for the Locust Grove Scatter Garden. The cremation rates are rising in the United States and is projected to account for 47 percent for all human remains not including Covid-19 deaths. The proposed location is west of the Henry County Recreation facility. The design features include landscape areas for scattering ashes and an area to hold a small ceremony if someone chooses. This plan does not utilize the entire location to allow for integration of the Veteran’s memorial which will be adjacent to the scatter garden. Discussion took place on fees, name plaques, and urn burial. Mrs. Ogg said the fees are to be determined and we could offer urn burial as an option; however, would take up more space. Mr. Young said the cost could be approximately \$250,000 including the veteran’s memorial but would need to be developed as we go into the next phase of design. Nothing further.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS–CAPTAIN MATTHEW LONG FOR CHIEF JESSE PATTON

Captain Long gave an update and reviewed the monthly report. Total collections for June 2020 were \$22,436.00. We had a total of 34 CID cases and Officer Buchanan gave her resignation to join Henry County Police Department. Further, Captain Long said he and Chief Patton attended a virtual training on racism.

Captain Long continued and asked Officer Goddard to step forward. Captain Long introduced Officer Goddard who joined us from the Department of Juvenile Justice. Mayor and Council welcomed Officer Goddard to the Locust Grove Police Department. Nothing further.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE

Public Works Director Jack Rose stepped forward and gave an update public works is continuing with normal daily maintenance and upkeep including leak repairs and grass cutting. Mr. Rose reviewed the monthly report and said his department added a speed hump on Kirkland Drive and performed several road patching tasks in various locations. Nothing further.

Councilman Greer asked if the City provides hydration for the public work employees and Mr. Rose replied yes. Nothing further.

ADMINISTRATION – BERT FOSTER

Assistant City Manager Bert Foster gave an update we have scheduled a meeting with the builder and building inspector for review of the Peeksville Road Extension. Tanger Park is ongoing with the track to be installed soon. GDOT has agreed to proceed with the Bill Gardner Parkway modifications under the bridge and we received a letter about the MMIP [dual commercial lanes from Macon to Highway 155] that a meeting will tentatively be scheduled for November 2020. GDOT approved the plans for the signal at Highway 42 and Market Place to move forward. Nothing further.

Councilman Boone asked if there is an update on the septic tank at Jackson Street and discussion took place. Nothing further.

Discussion took place about the status of a new Code Enforcement officer. Mr. Foster said if the budget allows it would be beneficial to hire two people for that position. Discussion took place. Nothing further.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – DAUNTÉ GIBBS

Community Development Director Daunté Gibbs gave an update his department has issued 877 permits including 117 new house permits for 2020. We have issued 206 COs [160 residential and 46 commercial permits] and 300 Business Licenses issued for 2020. Mr. Gibbs said building and land disturbance activity is ongoing in various locations and new house construction continues in various subdivisions. Starbucks and Fairfield Inn are approaching their final CO. Nothing further.

Mr. Gibbs made a comment to thank Mayor and Council for their support in allowing him to host the meeting held last Friday. The panel included 19 individuals and Mr. Gibbs said he believes the goal of the panel was achieved.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) –

- **“Project Red” architectural plans located at 381 and 343 Davis Lake Road –**

Mr. Gibbs led discussion this would be three phases and could be three buildings. The general concept is to construct a single-story rectangular building where the main entrance and vehicle access faces Colvin Drive and Davis Lake Road. Mr. Gibbs said this is discussion only for future action at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Greer made a comment he thought the original plan was for two buildings versus three. Discussion took place. Mr. Young said when the zoning was approved it may have had a concept plan for one building. Mr. Gibbs said the conceptual plan brought before you in June included three buildings. Discussion took place and Mr. Gibbs said if the engineering and regulations allow for three buildings we cannot decline.

Discussion took place about entry access and improvements to Davis Lake Road. Nothing further.

- **Architectural plans submitted for the M&M Waste Recycling Plant located at 245 Walker Crossing –**

Mr. Gibbs led discussion this is proposed for a 10,000 square foot distribution facility located at Walker Crossing and Mr. Gibbs reviewed the proposed design concept and said this is for discussion only for future action at the next regular meeting. Nothing further.

Councilman Greer asked if the parking lot will be gravel or concrete and Mr. Gibbs replied a concrete surface is required by code.

Councilman Boone asked if gravel would be stored at the facility and discussion took place. Nothing further.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –

Mr. Young gave an update we are continuing to waive fees for credit card payments via phone to encourage staying at home. There were 233 Covid-19 cases in Locust Grove as of Friday. We are still requesting a pop-up testing facility, but the next one will likely be in Hampton.

- **Davis Lake Sewer Contract Update –**

Mr. Young said we do not have an update as of now. As soon as we have more information, we will give an update.

- **GBLG “Project Red” Update related to Transportation improvements –**

Mr. Young said the draft Development Agreement is proposed for this project as the city is working as a conduit between the developer and the RR (Norfolk Southern) in the crossing upgrade and will most likely need to work with them [Norfolk-Southern] on the improvement along SR 42 between Bill Gardner and Market Place Boulevard. Discussion took place on Highway 42 improvements and development impact fees being very small for warehouse-type projects. In terms of utilities, Mr. Young said the city would provide the sewer and Henry County would service the water, but the city will receive the revenues from the sewer portion like in other areas of the city. Nothing further.

Councilman Greer made a comment he noticed McDonough shut down their government and Henry County courts have staggered workdays with their employees. Councilman Greer asked if the city has considered closing or making schedule adjustments? Mr. Young replied we do not have a lot of traffic coming inside so we have not had the need to close yet. Councilman Greer asked if employees were productive during the previous shut down and if anyone has had any concerns. Mr. Young said we will be rearranging schedules beginning August 17, 2020 with remote schedules depending on the school system decisions. Nothing further.

Councilman Boone asked if the police department or public works would have concerns with schedules and discussion took place. Captain Long said the police department does not have an option for remote working; however, would have a plan in place for altering schedules if needed.

• **FY 2020 Budget Overview – Revenues and Expenditures –**

Mr. Young gave an update the city is in good standings overall and sales tax revenues are good. We are having to write off some fines and forfeitures projected revenues due to the court situation in Henry County. We are finalizing the audit as well. Nothing further.

Councilman Shearouse asked if the Hotel/Motel tax revenues are improving and Mr. Young replied no. Their occupancy is running about 40 percent where it is typically around 70 percent occupancy to be fully profitable. The city is doing what we can to help including assistance with utilities and additional advertising to promote their businesses.

Councilman Boone asked when SPLOST V will be collected, and Mr. Young replied the money is distributed to the County first and we should receive some beginning as early as April 2021 or the latest 2023. Discussion took place on T-SPLOST and the County has ceased further discussion on that for the remainder of the year. We are also finalizing the SDS as well.

Discussion took place on the overhead screens in the courtroom [due to Covid-19 surge the technician is sheltering due to health conditions], Facebook Live [when video is completed and can evaluate the quality of picture and sound], and the Davis Lake walking trail [needs the area of the trail complete with the new Davis Lake Sewer Extension].

Councilman Boone asked why Council was not notified of the RFP meeting for the waste services and Mr. Young replied he mentioned the meeting date at the last meeting and said if you would like to participate in the future let him know. Nothing further.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS- NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

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 GREER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:27 PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk