

**City of Locust Grove
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 2, 2020
3640 Highway 42 – Public Safety Building
Locust Grove, GA 30248
6:00 PM**

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Robert Price - Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Keith Boone – Councilman	Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk
Rudy Breedlove – Councilman	Daunte’ Gibbs- Community Development Director
Carlos Greer – Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem	Jesse Patton – Police Chief
	Andy Welch – City Attorney
	Brooke White - SWWW
	Staff Not Present:
	Jack Rose – Public Works Director (Illness)
	Anna Ogg – Main Street Director

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

Invocation given by Chief Jesse Patton

Councilman Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the November 2, 2020 meeting agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS –

1. FY 2021 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget Hearing –

City Manager Tim Young stepped forward and led discussion we made a few minor changes; however, overall, the total budget is \$18,495,260 which is a nine percent change from the FY 2020 budget. Mr. Young said most of the funding comes from taxes (LOST and Business Taxes) and other revenues by type were reviewed. Discussion took place. Mr. Young said the next hearing will be November 16, 2020 and final for adoption on December 7, 2020. Nothing further.

Mayor Price said this is a public hearing and opened to public for comments. There were no public comments and Mayor Price closed the public hearing.

Mayor Price asked for comments from Council.

Councilman Greer referenced page 15 [variances in red] and asked for clarity on (numbers shown in red and black). Mr. Young explained government accounting is opposite of normal business accounting and discussion took place. Councilman Greer said he is having difficulty understanding the process on this and would think the same for anyone else. Discussion took place and Mr. Young stated that we could change the sign to allow for more clarity.

Further, Mr. Young said we adjusted in Hotel/Motel, although we have remained steady and accounted for a new hotel opening in 2021. GMA (Georgia Municipal Association) forecasted about a ten percent decrease in Hotel/Motel revenue due to Covid-19.

Councilman Boone made a comment related to Councilman Greer's concern on the number variances and asked how the public would understand this. Mr. Young replied he will adjust for clarification.

Councilman Greer asked the reason for Council training adjustments and Mr. Young replied we did not spend anything in training this year because of Covid-19 and adjusted accordingly for FY 2021. Nothing further.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

2. OCTOBER 5, 2020- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the October 5, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED OCTOBER 5, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

3. OCTOBER 19, 2020- WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the October 19, 2020 workshop meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED OCTOBER 19, 2020 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

4. SEPTEMBER 2020 - Financial Statement –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the September 2020 Financial Statement

RESULT	APPROVED SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

5. An ordinance requesting a variance from development standards for property located at the Southeast corner of Bill Gardner Parkway and Bandy Parkway in LL 184 of the 2nd district –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance **#20-11-050**.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #20-11-050
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

6. An ordinance to amend RA (residential agricultural), M-1 (light manufacturing), and M-2 (heavy manufacturing) zoning ordinances, providing for up-to-date zoning regulations -

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance **#20-11-051**.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #20-11-051
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

7. A resolution approving the architectural plans submitted for Express Oil Change, located at 601 Market Place Boulevard -

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#20-11-052**.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #20-11-052
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

8. A resolution to create a streetlight district in Indian Grove residential subdivision –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#20-11-053**.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #20-11-053
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –

- **Police SOP Updates for next meeting / Update on Transportation Project coordination with GDOT / Schedule –**

City Manager Tim Young stepped forward and led discussion the SOP updates were introduced by Chief Patton last meeting and we have included the updates in your packets for review to adopt at the next meeting. We will also have a hearing and adoption for Moe’s Southwest Grill on November 16th, 2020.

Mr. Young said we had a meeting with GDOT for the railroad crossing study. Jeanine Miller [new GDOT Planning Director] talked to us about enlarging the study with a comprehensive study to give us the opportunity to cover more area.

Attorney Andy Welch stepped forward and said GDOT is seeking to do a comprehensive downtown study, covering the northern to the southern part of the city. This will allow for a more effective study to determine what crossings are needed and where. This will also put us in the position for state and federal funding.

Councilman Boone asked if we are considering any at grade crossings and Attorney Andy Welch replied no, we are only considering over or underpass. Discussion took place.

Discussion took place about Pine Grove crossing and Chief Patton replied there have been two trucks stalled at that crossing. Attorney Andy Welch said Norfolk Southern said they are about one month from closing the Pine Grove crossing. Further, Attorney Andy Welch said if we partner with GDOT we will get a whole lot more options for the money. Nothing further.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Attorney Andy Welch led a discussion as you all are aware Councilman Gardner resigned from public office took effect the last meeting in October; therefore, a special election will be required. State law adopted a schedule of when special elections can be held, and the next date would be March 16, 2020. We will provide details soon on a timeframe for advertising the qualifying dates and other information. Discussion took place about how many days are allowed for qualifying. Attorney Andy Welch clarified State law allows for two and a half days for qualifying for special elections.

Councilman Shearouse asked if the person elected will serve until December 2021? Attorney Andy Welch replied yes. Councilman Shearouse asked if that is the best way since the person elected would have to re-qualify for the next term and Attorney Andy Welch replied it is the only way to do so because the guidelines are set by State law.

Councilman Greer asked questions about qualifying and campaigning guidelines and discussion took place. Attorney Andy Welch clarified anyone can campaign prior to qualifying.

Councilman Boone made a comment the Charter says if there is nine months or less remaining in the vacant seat, we can appoint someone in that position. Attorney Andy Welch replied the time starts when the seat becomes vacant. Discussion took place about qualifying and Attorney Andy Welch said qualifying cannot be shorter than two and a half days with a notice of a minimum of 29 days prior to opening for qualifying. Nothing further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

ADJOURNMENT –

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

RESULT	APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:36 PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk