

**City of Locust Grove
Council Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building – Courtroom Chamber
3640 Highway 42 S. – Locust Grove, GA 30248
Monday, May 2, 2022
6:00 PM**

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| Members Present: | Staff Present: |
| Robert Price – Mayor | Tim Young – City Manager |
| Carlos Greer – Councilman | Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager |
| Willie Taylor – Councilman | Misty Spurling – City Clerk |
| Keith Boone – Councilman | Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk |
| Vincent Williams – Councilman | Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director |
| Rod Shearouse – Councilman | Jack Rose – Public Works Director |
| Rudy Breedlove – Councilman | Derrick Austin - Police Chief |
| | Andy Welch –Attorney |
| | Staff not present: |
| | Colleen Watts – Main Street Director |

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

Invocation given by Chief Derrick Austin

Councilman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the May 2, 2022, meeting agenda.

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| RESULT | APPROVED AGENDA |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN TAYLOR |
| VOTE | MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR |

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- **Proclamation: 53rd annual Municipal Clerks Week, May 1-May 7, 2022**

City Clerk Misty Spurling read the proclamation aloud. Nothing further.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

1. APRIL 4, 2022 - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the April 4, 2022, regular meeting minutes.

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| RESULT | APPROVED APRIL 4, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

2. APRIL 18, 2022- WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the April 18, 2022, workshop meeting minutes.

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| RESULT | APPROVED APRIL 18, 2022, WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

3. FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the February 2022, financial statement.

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| RESULT | APPROVED FEBRUARY 2022, FINANCIAL STATEMENT |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN TAYLOR |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

4. MARCH 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the March 2022, financial statement.

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| RESULT | APPROVED MARCH 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

5. Ordinance to approve the conditional use request for a detached guest quarters on the property located at 595 Jackson Street (Parcel ID: L01-03003000) in LL 186 of the 2nd district –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #22-05-027

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| RESULT | APPROVED ORDINANCE #22-05-027 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

Councilman Boone made a comment Mr. Young had brought to the attention the applicant owns other property on Jackson Street and asked what the intention of that property is? Mr. Young said the applicant said he uses the dwelling for storage. Councilman Boone asked if the city allows housing to be used for storage. Mr. Young said no, not residential storage. Nothing further.

6. Resolution approving the architectural plans submitted for TSW Assets Inc., located at 301-311 Walker Crossing –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #22-05-028

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| RESULT | APPROVED RESOLUTION #22-05-028 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

7. Ordinance to amend Pay Plan No. 701 of personnel for amended positions –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #22-05-029

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| RESULT | APPROVED ORDINANCE #22-05-029 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – FOUR IN FAVOR (SHEAROUSE, TAYLOR, WILLIAMS, BREEDLOVE) AND TWO OPPOSED (GREER, BOONE) |

8. Resolution to authorize the acquisition of certain property rights associated with the Peeksville Road Extension project by the city for public transportation purposes through negotiated contract or the exercise of eminent domain –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #22-05-030

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| RESULT | APPROVED RESOLUTION #22-05-030 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (SHEAROUSE, TAYLOR, BOONE, WILLIAMS, BREEDLOVE) AND ONE OPPOSED (GREER) |

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

9. Ordinance to amend the Police Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for revising Section P-027 - Taser –

Chief Austin stepped forward and led discussion this is a revision because we upgraded to the Taser 7 version. This version is safer, more powerful, and is linked to the body cameras. We sent three officers for their training certification, and all our officers will have to complete the TASER training which will be led by our three certified employees.

Councilman Greer referenced letter “H” regarding medical assistance and asked, “If the subject should be tased who will remove the darts”? Lieutenant DeMuth stepped forward and said we [certified staff] will train our officers to remove; however, the subject would be transported to the hospital for removal of any from the chest, groin, or other areas specified in the policy that we are not authorized to remove. Councilman Greer asked if (CEW) conducted energy weapon was formally known as conducted electric weapon? Chief Austin said yes but has since changed to “energy.” Discussion took place about the strength and operation of the Taser and nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance **#22-05-031**

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| RESULT | APPROVED ORDINANCE #22-05-031 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

Councilman Breedlove asked for an update on concluding the dedication of Chase Maddox Park. Chief Austin said he spoke with the family today and the family said they will accommodate their schedule according to a date/time set by the city. Chief Austin suggested May 19th or 20th or May 26th or 27th. Council agreed on May 26th, 2022, at 11:00am. Further, Chief Austin said Chase’s vehicle has been repaired [for display purposes only] and in process of installing a memory wrap on the hood. We are hoping the vehicle will be complete so that we can have his vehicle present at the dedication.

10. Resolution to appoint Bart Hammock to the Henry City-County Transportation Advisory Group –

Assistant City Manager Bert Foster stepped forward. Mr. Foster said this will consist of a ten-member panel for the purpose of defining transportation needs in Henry City/County. This appointment will be a two-year term and may be renewed for an unlimited number of terms.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#22-05-032**

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| RESULT | APPROVED RESOLUTION #22-05-32 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS –

Mr. Young stepped forward and said HB 1399 pertaining to Homestead Exemption for Ad Valorem property tax was signed by the Governor, and we are waiting on the certified copy to forward to the election's supervisor, Ameika Pitts. We will be the first city to have their own exemption on property tax. We are in the process of assessing fees for storm water and streetlights for various subdivisions as part of the streetlight district. Mr. Young said we released bids for resurfacing streets and getting ready to release the bid for Bill Gardner Parkway. We will have a meeting with the county tomorrow for discussion of suggested transportation improvements to be in the CTP update. Nothing further.

Councilman Boone asked about the status for the sign at city hall. Mr. Young said it was ordered and waiting on the electronic portion to arrive from (backorder).

Councilman Greer said he and Colleen collaborated about having a community event on the front lawn at City Hall. We discussed briefly at the last council meeting and Councilman Greer said the event will be Friday May 13, 2022, from 6-9pm. Mr. Young said the Events Committee voted to pay for the DJ and porta potties.

Councilman Boone asked who made the decision to approve the event location for the front lawn? Councilman Greer said the Events Committee agreed on the location. Councilman Boone said the Events Committee did not approve the front lawn as the location. Councilman Greer said a couple of years ago we voted on the Master Plan for this property to be utilized for community gatherings. Councilman Greer said Council has never voted on events (Easter Egg Hunt, Locust Grove Day, or any other city-wide event) and said these are all events to bring the community together. Councilman Boone said he agrees with the event; however, does not agree with having on the front lawn. Councilman Boone said we specifically purchased property now known as Claude Gray Park and spent lots of money on the pavilion and stage to accommodate events city wide. Councilman Greer said the problem with having events at Claude Gray Park is visibility.

Councilman Williams said he agrees with the lack of visibility at Claude Gray Park and suggested having the event on the front lawn to generate activity [initially] and eventually transition the event to Claude Gray Park.

Mayor Price said the land at Claude Gray Park was purchased for the purpose of having events. Parking was an issue with having on the front lawn.

Councilman Breedlove said he prefers this event to be on the front lawn and any other events as well.

Councilman Shearouse asked if there is a regulation specifying that we cannot have events on the front lawn. Mr. Young said no, we moved everything to Claude Gray because of the lack of parking and exhibitor space. Staff is supportive of the event; however, keep in mind the front lawn cannot handle the capacity of large events should this event grow that large.

Councilman Taylor suggested trying this event on the front lawn and making changes if need be.

Councilman Williams said he agrees with trying the event on the front lawn. This does not have to be permanent and can always change location in future if needed.

Councilman Shearouse said he appreciates the initiative by Colleen and Councilman Greer to coordinate an event like this.

Councilman Boone said he will be sure to plan events such as (BBQ cookout, car show, etc.) on the front lawn in the future and discussion took place.

Mayor Price said this is a city event not a private function.

Attorney Andy Welch said an event can be held on city property as long as city sponsored. A private function would not be permitted. Mr. Welch said Council needs to agree or not on approving the event to be held on the front lawn. Councilman Boone asked who is paying for porta potties? Mr. Young said it would be paid out of building and grounds (expenditure) [due to conflicts with cleaning personnel at public safety].

Mayor Price said an agreement needs to be reached and voted for event to take place on the front lawn at City Hall.

Councilman Breedlove made the motion to approve the event proposed by the Events Committee to be held on Friday May 13, 2022, on the front lawn at City Hall.

Councilman Shearouse said if Councilman Greer did not help with organizing this event someone else would have had to present to council, correct? Mr. Young said if the event were a private, non-profit event the “applicant” would have to submit a special event request and come before council for approval not to the Events Committee. The Events Committee puts on events on behalf of the city which is why we must differentiate city events and other events regarding the use of the front lawn.

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| RESULT | APPROVED EVENT PROPOSED BY EVENTS COMMITTEE |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (GREER, TAYLOR, WILLIAMS, BREEDLOVE, SHEAROUSE) AND ONE OPPOSED (BOONE) |

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Councilman Boone thanked all the staff that worked hard in helping make Locust Grove Day a success.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –NONE

ADJOURNMENT –

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

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| RESULT | APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:51 PM. |

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk