

**City of Locust Grove
Council Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building – Courtroom Chamber
3640 Highway 42 S. – Locust Grove, GA 30248
Monday, February 5, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

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

Invocation given by Assistant City Manager Bert Foster.

Councilman Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Breedlove made the motion to approve the February 5, 2024, meeting agenda.

RESULT	APPROVED AGENDA
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Henry County Tax Commissioner – Review and discussion (Homestead Exemption). Michael Harris began a presentation on the visual screen about Homestead Exemption. Talking about the new branch office by the Department of Drivers’ Service (DDS). As you know I have been pushing for several years for a location. We have finally found one by DDS and have started the plan review. Getting close to finishing construction documents soon. Vince Williams asked a question regarding the increases on homestead exemption for disabled veterans and how that is that factored? Michael Harris explained this increased exemption amount is based by the State is likely based on inflation. Carlos asked about taxation on apartments – whether it was done by complex or by unit. Michael referred him to the assessor’s office for the answer to that question. Andy noted that these [apartments] do not have homestead exemption. Michael Harris stated that these are owned as a single unit and likely assessed in that manner.

City Manager Tim Young asked Michael about the local homestead exemption for the city, and Mr. Harris responded that these must be done by the city due to State Statute.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (continued)

- **Penny Brown 407 Jackson Street** – at corner of Jackson Street and Davis Lake Road. Ms. Brown stated that she could put up with traffic and growth from the nearby development of industrial; however, the prospect of a commercial development across the street from her was not desirable.
- **Marianne Morfoot, 527 Jackson Street** – began speaking about her location and the issue of changing the single family to something else. Ms. Morfoot noted that the Castellaw House (377 Jackson Street) is one of the 5 historic homes along that street. Opening that property up to commercial could affect the viability of the others. Her plea is that the Council leave the northern portion [of Jackson Street] residential.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

1. JANUARY 2, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman made the motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Councilman Vince Williams made the motion to approve.

RESULT	APPROVED JANUARY 2, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

2. JANUARY 2, 2024- EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the January 2, 2024 executive session meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED JANUARY 2, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

3. JANUARY 16, 2024- WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the January 16, 2024 workshop meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED JANUARY 16, 2024 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

4. JANUARY 16, 2024- EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the January 16, 2024 executive session meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED JANUARY 16, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT – NONE – FY Closeout.

Tim Young noted that there are none to approve at this time due to fiscal year closeout that will cause adjustment to December 2023 and January 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

- Request to rezone property located at 377 Davis Lake Road, Parcel Id: 128-02001000 from R02 (single-family residential) to OI (office institutional).**

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the request; however, no second motion; therefore, denied ordinance **#24-02-014.**

RESULT	DENIED ORDINANCE #24-02-014
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS
2 ND MOTION	NONE
FAVOR	MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND, REQUEST IS DENIED.

Daunte’ Gibbs introduced the item and talked about the issue of Mixed Historic and OI supportive categories. Discussed the 4 conditions. Would like to add a new condition #5 about the future Davis Lake Road with a need for additional right-of-way (R/W). He also mentioned the fire codes that Councilman Boone asked about at the public hearing and that the property would have to install sprinklers if using the upstairs area with no exception. Carlos asked if the applicant had been made aware of the R/W condition, and Daunte’ stated “Yes.” Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the rezoning from R-2 to OI No second motion. Motion fails. Motion to rezone is denied. Andy gave the clarification to Council and the public that the lack of a second makes the motion fail and therefore the request is denied without a need or a substitute motion.

- Ordinance for FY 2023 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget Amendment for 4th Quarter.**

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#24-02-015.**

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-02-015
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS –

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –

Mr. Young discussed several items. He started off with a brief update on the I-75 and Bill Gardner Interchange project with the only things remaining are signage and that the double-left turn is now open. He updated on the changeover to ERP Pro 10 and that training is now wrapped up on that with the remaining changeover being utility billing and cashing. Audit preparations are underway with meetings starting in February through April for FY 2023. Tim also brought attention to a notice by Waste Management (WM) [formerly Advanced Disposal] of an increase of 5.2% using the contract index which is permitted and below the 5.4% we adjusted our employee salaries in Summer of 2023. He finally noted that the Veterans’ Memorial is nearing completion with a proposed ceremony on Memorial Day 2024; however, he also added that something could be done on Locust Grove Day if all the landscaping has time to settle in. Tim closed with the statement that we would need an executive session for land acquisition and litigation.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS – NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION – For Litigation, Land Acquisition

Mayor Price asked for a motion to go into executive session. At 6:53 PM Councilman Boone made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and property acquisition.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED ENTERED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Price asked for a motion to come out of executive session. At 7:16 PM Councilman Shearouse made the motion to come out of Executive Session and resume regular session.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

ADJOURNMENT –

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

RESULT	APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:19 PM.

Notes taken by:

Tim Young, City Manager (for Misty Spurling on training)