

**City of Locust Grove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Public Safety Building – Courtroom Chamber  
3640 Highway 42 S. – Locust Grove, GA 30248  
Monday, April 1, 2024  
6:00 PM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Vincent Williams – Councilman/Pro Tem	Tim Young – City Manager
Keith Boone – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Daunté Gibbs – Community Development Director
Rudy Breedlove – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Derrick Austin - Police Chief
	Andy Welch – Attorney

Mayor Pro Tem Vincent Williams 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 Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to amend the agenda to add item number thirteen (13).

RESULT	APPROVED ITEM THIRTEEN
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

Mayor Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

RESULT	APPROVED AS AMENDED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS** – NONE

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** –

**1. MARCH 4, 2024- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** –

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the March 4, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED MARCH 4, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**2. MARCH 4, 2024- EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the March 4, 2024, executive session meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED MARCH 4, 2024, EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**3. MARCH 18, 2024- WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the March 18, 2024, workshop meeting minutes.

RESULT	APPROVED MARCH 18, 2024, WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT –**

**4. DECEMBER 2023 – Financial Statement –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the December 2023 financial statement.

RESULT	APPROVED DECEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –**

**5. Ordinance to reduce the side yard setback from 35 feet to 20 feet on a corner lot located at 4939 Bill Gardner Parkway and Barker Drive –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance **#24-04-018.**

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #24-04-018
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**6. Ordinance to approve a rezoning from RA (residential agricultural) to OD (office institutional) for use as a medical office building –**

Daunté stepped forward and said staff recommends approval with conditions. Daunté said an additional condition (number two) was added after the last meeting and he read the condition aloud.

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Breedlove made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #24-04-019.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #24-04-019
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**7. Ordinance to revise Chapter 15.36 Post-development Stormwater Management for development and redevelopment –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #24-04-020.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #24-04-020
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**8. Resolution to transmit an ordinance to amend Chapter 15.08 entitled “Technical Codes” to amend the plumbing code regarding certain regulations for fixtures and standards as part of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District requirements –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Breedlove made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #24-04-021.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-04-021
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**9. Ordinance to approve the final plat for Oak Ridge Meadows subdivision, located on Locust Grove-Griffin Road –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #24-04-022.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #24-04-022
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**10. Resolution to award bid for services to upgrade the audio/visual system in the Council Chambers/Courtroom –**

Tim stepped forward and said we received two proposals (both essentially the same amounts) and determined the difference is related to the customer service fees. We would like to award the bid to S & L Integrated.

Councilman Breedlove asked if the customer service fee is a reoccurring amount. Tim said this is a three-year agreement and discussion took place.

Councilman Greer asked for clarity on the additional one-year warranty and Tim said this is basically the same as an extended warranty.

Councilman Shearouse asked if staff thoroughly reviewed this proposal and Tim said yes, he and staff thoroughly reviewed. Bert said this will also assist with Court sessions [in addition to the council meetings].

Councilman Boone asked what fund /account will be designated for paying for the cost. Tim said we will pay from Development Impact Fee account and building and grounds.

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Breedlove made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#24-04-023.**

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-04-023
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS -**

**11. Resolution to select new playground equipment to replace existing damaged equipment behind City Hall –**

Bert stepped forward and said this is a project originally initiated by Mayor Price for replacement of the playground at City Hall. The city will be responsible for the demo and removal of the old equipment.

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#24-04-024.**

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-04-024
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**12. Resolution to accept the Wolf Creek Stream Assessment report from WSP –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #24-04-025.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-04-025
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**ADD ITEM –**

**13. Ordinance by the Locust Grove city council to call a special election to fill the vacancy in the office of Locust Grove Mayor –**

Andy stepped forward and said this is to fill the vacancy of the seat of the late Mayor Robert Price and reviewed the state law and charter language. State law controls the Charter, and Andy said there is not enough time to call for a special election, prepare the ballot and have time to qualify by the May 21 date. If we decide within 90 days, we will have to use our own equipment and pay the election superintendent to set it up. If we do 90-days or longer, we can set up with their same election cycle in November. Andy said the ordinance he provided specifies the suggested dates and times that are most feasible given the requirements. Discussion took place about the dates for qualifying [July 29, 30, and 31] for Mayor position and if needed, qualifying for city council [August 19, 20, and 21]. Andy said he and Misty reviewed all options and specified in the ordinance. If any of the city council members decide to run for mayor, council seat(s) would become vacant and would need a call for special elections and qualifying. This ordinance covers each scenario to allow the public maximum notice of fees, qualifying periods, and the election office maximum notice. The election superintendent has also asked if the city would consider one polling location as opposed to two separate locations and Andy said hopefully, we can reach an agreement within the next couple of years. Andy said a quorum is a requirement to operate the city and vote on items needed for action; therefore, would consist of Mayor Pro Tem and four members of the council. Andy advised that the council discuss with one another and to keep in mind that their political decision will have an impact on how the city conducts business.

Councilman Greer asked what the state law specifies about the number of days between the call of a special election and qualifying and Andy said 29-days. Greer said he understands it would be a time crunch, and asked if we could ask the election superintendent if they could accommodate us in May. Andy said his office and Misty reached out to the Henry County elections office and they directed their county attorney to give confirmation. If the council decides May 21, staff will be responsible for organizing and contracting with someone to hold the election. Andy said the elections office needs 60 days’ notice (for printing the ballots); however, if we do as part of the November general election, the law requires the election office to coordinate in its entirety. Greer asked what the procedure would be if the current Mayor Pro Tem could not attend meetings and Andy said the council needs to decide tonight whether to proceed with a May 21 election or with the regular election in November.

Councilman Breedlove said he is ready for a new normal and would like to proceed with the May 21 date versus waiting until November. Andy said this could be a potential trigger for multiple offices on this board and would not allow public the adequate time.

Councilman Boone asked what the stipulations are for appointing an additional Mayor Pro Tem as a [secondary]. Andy said there are no stipulations, the council can appoint a secondary for backup.

Shearouse said he would like to wait until November not only for the community to have time to respond, but also to maintain the appearance of the city.

Tim said there are multiple potential opportunities to have an error in this election process if we had to do it on our own in that short time span. He added that the longer period allows staff to properly inform upcoming applicants of any possible delays should a quorum issue occur. Discussion took place. Andy said the quorum limits our abilities if two councilmembers qualify for Mayor. The ordinance as written specifies the dates Misty and I talked about, which are the three days in July and allowing two weeks between for qualifying of the council [if needed]. Andy said a suggestion was made by a member of the public to change the qualifying dates for the mayor seat to after the first meeting in August [August 6, 7, and 8].

Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the ordinance as written.

Andy clarified this would be for the November 5, 2024, special election with the qualifying as discussed for Mayor [August 6, 7, and 8] and qualifying for the council seat(s), if needed [August 19, 20, and 21].

Councilman Boone made the motion to amend his original motion and made the motion to approve the ordinance with the dates as specified by Andy by approving resolution #24-04-026.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #24-04-026
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – THREE IN FAVOR (BOONE, SHEAROUSE, TAYLOR) AND TWO OPPOSED (BREEDLOVE, GREER)

**CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –**

Tim said the signage at Bill Gardner Parkway and I-75 is now installed. The next phase of ERP 10 training is coming up next week [for two weeks] for Utility Billing and Cashiering. We received a request from Larry Chapman of CRG to do something in honor of the mayor with suggestions of a bronze plaque in front of city hall or a bench. We are planning the official opening of the Veteran’s Memorial/Scatter Garden on Memorial Day. We have discussed doing the retreat in July at Brasstown Valley Resort on July 13-16 or July 14-17. We would reschedule the council meeting that would normally be on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The council agreed to the dates July 14-17 for the retreat. Tim said the governor signed the House Bill 1461 regarding annexations and will be on the ballot for November. We will have a special tent on Locust Grove Day for citizens who have questions about anything related to the city and residents will be able to pick up paperwork on the homestead exemption process. Nothing further.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Ms. Earlene Crump stepped forward to comment. Ms. Crump said she has been a resident of Locust Grove for three years and wanted to make it known to the public she is running for school board District 1. Nothing further.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Councilman Boone thanked everyone who helped with the mayor’s funeral and said all the staff came together to make it all possible.

Boone asked if HB 516 passed and Pro Tem Williams said it was approved with the one-mile range and the city is now within the range to run radar.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS –**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams said thanks to everyone for the homegoing celebration to our mayor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Motion to go into executive session to discuss property acquisition matters by Councilman Greer and seconded by Councilman Breedlove. Motion Carried All in favor 7:25 PM.

At 7:47 PM, motion to come back into regular session made by Councilman Breedlove and seconded by Councilman Boone.

**REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED –**

Andy asked for a motion to approve the purchase agreement for the acquisition of property between the City of Locust Grove and Eagle’s Landing Pharmacy for the combined total of \$1,682,000.00.

Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request for acquisition of property.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR

**ADJOURNMENT –**

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Greer made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:48 PM.

Notes taken by:

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Misty Spurling  
City Clerk