

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM



The Honorable Charles Jones, Mayor (present)
The Honorable Larry Johnson, Ward 4, Mayor Pro tem (present)
The Honorable Walter Dupree, III, Ward 1 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Mark Giddens, Ward 3, Councilmember (present)
Autron Hayes, City Manager (present) • Carolyn Williams, City Clerk, (present)
Lester Castellow, City Attorney, (present)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR CHARLES JONES**
- II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE – DR. WILLIE MAE MARLIN**
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the agenda and a second was offered by Councilman Jackson – *Motion Carries*
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Councilman Jackson moved to approve the minutes and Councilman Giddens seconded – *Motion Carries*
- V. **SPEAKER APPEARANCES**
Ms. McPhaul addressed the Council requesting use of the Hut on the 26th of September. This is a partnership with BFHS and the American Legion DAV companion animals. COVID rules will be followed. She also desires for Westberry Street to be closed. Mr. Hayes remarked that it was ok and he had already given permission for the request.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) **AMEND ARTICLE VII SECTION 7.13 of the CITY'S ZONING REGULATIONS**
Mr. Hayes noted that the above amendment was discussed and agreed upon at the Public Hearing and asked for approval by the Council.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

Councilman Johnson moved to approve the amendment and a second was offered by Councilman Jackson – ***Motion Carries***

B) ORDINANCE NO: 2020-03 AMEND ZONING-PUD

Mr. Hayes stated that this was discussed at the Public Hearing, and asked for approval and waive the 2nd reading by unanimous consent.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the Zoning Amendment and waive the second reading by unanimous consent, Councilman Jackson seconded – ***Motion Carries***

C) APPLICANT: GREATER NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH R-1 CU-CHURCH

Mt. Hayes informed Council that the request had gone through the Planning Commission and the Community Development Director. It has been reviewed by staff, and recommends approval of the conditional use.

Councilman Jackson moved to approve the conditional use and a second was offered by Councilman Giddens – ***Motion Carries***

D) ORDINANCE NO: 2020-02 HOURS OF OPERATION

Mr. Hayes brought advised Council that the above Ordinance clarified the hours of operation for alcohol establishments. The time goes back to the original 3 AM closing time, recommends approval.

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the above Ordinance of Hours of Operation and was seconded by Councilman Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

E) 100 MILE YARD SALE – KAREN SINGLETARY

Ms. Singletary said given the fact that Moultrie had cancelled, what Council wanted the City of Sylvester to do. Mr. Johnson stated it was last minute information, and suggested it be tabled. There was discussion in favor of having the yard sale, but no decision was made - ***Tabled***

F) MOU BETWEEN MCLB and CITY of SYLVESTER PPD and WORTH CO SO

Mr. Hayes explained the agreement between the above Departments was drafted exclusively for the use of Explosive Detection Canine Units. Staff seeks authorization for Mayor to execute the agreement, and Council approval.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the MOU and was seconded by Councilman Giddens – ***Motion Carries***

G) LEASE AGREEMENT SHIPP SENIOR CENTER

Mr. Hayes indicated the Lease agreement for the Center was with Men United. He had read the agreement and added an annual lease of \$1.00 per year due to non-profit designation. A member of the Club thanked the Council. The City Manager is asking approval by Council

Councilman Jackson moved to approve the Lease Agreement and a second was offered by Councilman Dupree – ***Motion Carries***

H) RESOLUTION NO 2020-22 AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 MILLAGE RATE

Mr. Hayes informed the Council the City requests to adopt a millage rate of 7.309, which is a rollback rate, and not a tax increase. He recommends approval of the millage rate.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the millage rate Resolution No 2020-22 and a second was offered by Councilman Giddens- ***Motion Carries***

I) RESOLUTION NO 2020-23 CARES ACT

Mr. Hayes advised Council this referenced the CARES ACT of which the City has received approximately \$90,000 in funds, and estimated to receive over \$300 thousand in funds. Adopting this agreement is part of the requirements to show the governing authority accept the conditions of acceptance of funds. Staff is asking approval, and has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the CARES ACT Resolution and was seconded by Councilman Jackson – ***Motion Carries***

J) JEFFORDS PARK FENCE INSTALLATION COST ESTIMATE

Mr. Hayes asked for discussion on installation of a fence around Jeffords Park. Mr. Johnson had some objection to the concrete columns, which is in violation of DOT guidelines. He suggested the same black fencing that is around the train. There was much discussion pertaining to DOT's right-of-way and the fencing project. Mayor Jones favored columns and the beautification of the City.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

Councilman Dupree moved to table Jeffords Park Fence Installation and was seconded by Councilman Johnson – ***Tabled***

K) VEHICLE SURPLUS CHEVY TAHOE

Mr. Hayes stated, since the City of Sylvester was now working with the Sheriff's Office to form a Drug Unit, they asked for the Tahoe. Mr. Hayes is asking to declare this vehicle surplus, and give it to the Sheriff's Office.

Councilman Johnson moved to declare the Chevy Tahoe surplus and was seconded by Councilman Jackson– ***Motion Carries***

L) GAS CONNECTION FEE WAIVER AUTHORITY

Mr. Hayes discussed the difference between propane and gas fees in relation to installation. Mr. Hayes is asking for authority on a case-to-case basis to waive the connection fee on residential, to grow natural gas customers. We are not utilizing our resources to the fullest.

Councilman Johnson motioned to give the City Manager authority to waive fees on a case by case basis on residential only, and a second was offered by Councilman Dupree – ***Motion Carries***

M) IGA CITY OF SYLVESTER / BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Hayes reported this is the final IGA regarding the property transfer of the Holley Gym and parcels to the City. He thanked Attorney Castellow for his hard work in completing this transaction. Mr. Hayes is asking for approval of the IGA with the Board conveying all, 19.27 and .53 acres, to the City.

Councilman Jackson moved to approve the IGA and a second was offered by Councilman Dupree – ***Motion Carries***

VII. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- The Gas Authority has a Main Street financing program up to a loan amount of \$5,000, and the City will receive a \$3 per month administrative fee. Customers who connect to gas may get an appliance financed. The City will inspect all installations. The Gas Authority also have default guidelines in place. He requests permission from Council to move forward.

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
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Councilman Johnson moved to give the City Manager authority to move forward with the Gas Authority program and was seconded by Councilman

- USDA grant for patrol vehicles approved

VIII. CITY ATTORNEY – NONE

IX. REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

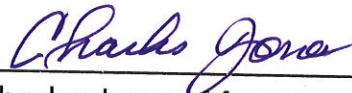
- **Councilman Dupree** has received calls about racing on West Street. Mr. Hayes stated the PD is currently understaffed, but plans are to increase patrol on the weekends up to 6 officers. Chief Urquhart identified the problem of training with officers with radar and lasers. He voiced his concern relating to the alley being paved between the church and Suntrust without his knowledge. It was noted and proper protocol will be followed in the future.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Johnson motioned to adjourn and a second was offered by Councilman Dupree ***Motion Carries – Unanimous Consent***

Mayor Jones duly adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.



Charles Jones, Mayor



Carolyn Williams, City Clerk

