

# REGULAR SESSION OF THE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

June 12th, 2023

**Attendees:** Mayor Ron Dodson, Mayor Pro-Tem Kyles, Councilmember Craven, Councilmember Brown, Eddie Robinson, Police Chief Whitmire, City Attorney Paul Dzikowski, City Manager Chris Leighty

### **6:00 PM Conditional Use Application Hearing:**

Hearing called to order by Mayor Dodson at 6:00 PM. Ms. Gwendolyn Ellison applicant stated she intended to build a chapel and a crematorium on the property located at 1540 Forest Parkway. She is requesting a conditional use be approved for the crematorium. She stated the two buildings currently on the property would be torn down and a new facility would be built. Ms. Ellison stated she would like to have the operational hours be 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM but would probably work into the night. She stated there would be very little smoke and they would have memorial services on site. Ms. Ellison did state that bodies would be cremated during the day. Her remarks ended at 6:12 PM.

Opposition remarks began with Chad Keilen co-owner of North 2 South Cider Works located next door to the proposed crematorium. Chad stated they started in 2016 to create their business and opened in 2018. He stated he believed the crematory would be the death of his business. He stated they have outdoor activities, and he felt his customers would not continue to come to his business while the cremations were taking place. Councilmember Craven asked about seating. Mr. Keilen responded that most of their seating was outside.

Councilmember Brown asked what the hours of operation were at North 2 South and Mr. Keilen advised on Friday the hours were 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday they were open from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Another resident Ms. Lawanda Oswald spoke against the crematorium and asked the mayor and council to vote against it. Resident Cheryl Fincher stated crematoriums do create pollution including mercury. The water run off goes back into the wastewater treatment system and that her research showed this pollution would happen. Mayor Pro Tem Kyles asked her the date of her research and Ms. Fincher

responded it was from 2019. Resident Francis Stevens stated she was against the crematory as well. Alan Fincher another resident of Lake City stated he did not want the crematorium in Lake City either because of the pollutants that would be released into the air. Garrett Feldpausch co-owner of North 2 South stated he had concerns over the break down of the energy. Concerned about the burning of bodies and the fact that it takes up to an hour and a half to incinerate a body and the negative effect it would have on his business. Mayor Pro Tem Kyles asked if the hearing could be put off until the full council was present. The city attorney Paul Dzikowski advised it could not. Councilmember Craven made a motion to deny the conditional use request, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. Mayor ProTem Kyles voted to allow the conditional use. The motion to deny the application passed by majority vote.

Hearing ended at 6:30 PM.

### **6:30 Council Work Session:**

Work Session called to order at 6:30 PM

Director of Community Services Eddie Robinson briefed the Mayor and Council on current projects. The bids are in for the sidewalk repair and installation for 2023. The high bid was \$343,915.00 and the low bid was \$92,875.00. The next step will be to vet the applicants to ensure they meet the requirements of the bid package and then select a vendor. The next project is the street paving for Lake City and the milling of the streets will begin on Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a total of eight streets to be repaved.

The City Manager advised the council the Georgia Municipal Association's Small Cities Conference in Dublin, Georgia would take place August 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Registration has begun.

The city will host its first ever 5K road Race and it will be called the Park 2 Park Run. It will take place August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday will take place on a Tuesday. City hall will be open on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> but will close at 4:00 PM.

The City Manager and Director of Community Services presented to the council a proposal to replace the metal Christmas tree with a real tree. The cost of the tree

would be approximately \$12,000.00. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Craven seconded by Councilmember Brown and passed unanimously.

**7:00 PM City Council Session:**

**Call to order:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was conducted by Toney Randle Police Chaplain.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the April Council meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kyles seconded by Councilmember Craven and passed unanimously. There were no minutes for the May council meeting because there was not a quorum.

**Old Business:**

City Attorney Paul Dzikowski briefed the Mayor and Council on the revision to the single-family residential ordinance. This defined rooming house and boarding houses which are not allowed in single family zoning. Councilmember Craven asked if this would affect current properties being used in this manner and the city attorney advised it would not apply. A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Craven and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kyles and passed unanimously.

The city attorney briefed the Mayor and Council on the ordinance update for Transient Merchant Permit. The new verbiage restricted how many times a transient merchant permit could be issued.

**New Business: NONE**

**Police Report:**

Chief Whitmire reported the Part I crime was down 20% as compared to the same time last year for the previous three months. Year to date Part I crime is down 2.1%. Councilmember Craven asked about the traffic camera trailer. Chief Whitmire it was being built now.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Jackson the owner of Public Force told the Mayor and Council that he was in the process of getting his building permit through the county process, the Fire Marshal and it would be coming to the city manager.

A resident who lives on Rex Road complained about a neighbors cats and excessive noise. Another resident from Rex Road complained about a neighbors cats and dogs barking. In addition, they complained about the speeders on Rex Road the tractor trailers using Rex Road and the foot traffic. In addition, a resident complained about the cars speeding on Jonesboro Road.

Business owner Mr Eubanks complained that Code Enforcement had unfairly cited him for violations.

A motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session was made 8:17 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Kyles seconded by Councilmember Craven and passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kyles seconded by Councilmember Brown at 9:05 PM and passed unanimously.