

REGULAR SESSION OF THE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 8th, 2024

Attendees: Mayor Ron Dodson, Mayor Pro-Tem Craven, Councilmember Hoover, Councilmember Kyles, Councilmember Brown Eddie Robinson, Police Chief Stanelle, City Attorney Michael Huening, City Manager Chris Leighty

6:30 PM Work Session:

1. Community Services director Eddie Robinson gave an update on current city projects. The sidewalk projects have been completed. The Oswalt Nature Preserve work continues. There was a problem with the 40-gallon pumps for the Gazebo and larger pumps have been ordered. GDOT is currently preparing Highway 54 for a re-paving.
2. The city manager briefed the council on the upcoming Georgia Cities Week events the city will conduct. One will be cooking and serving breakfast to all city employees in appreciation for all they do. That will occur on Wednesday the 24th, and then Saturday the 28th will be the Lake City Spring Fling.
3. The final item discussed during the work session was the State of the County address by Chairman Turner which will occur on May 16th at the Morrow Center.

7:00 PM City Council Session:

Call to order:

Mayor Dodson called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation:

Steve Vice, Minister of Forest Park Church of Christ gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the March 2024 Minutes was by Consensus.

Old Business:

1. The Mayor and Council prioritized projects to be funded by ARPA funds 1. Building an addition to city hall that would provide office space to better serve the community. There currently is no room at the present site to expand city staff. In addition, the Mayor and Council agreed of the need to build a structure at Public Works to house required documents and provide additional office space as well. The final item was building sidewalks in underserved parts of the city along Huie Road and Reynolds Road as well as other locations throughout Lake City. A motion to approve these prioritized projects was made by Councilmember Brown seconded by Councilmember Kyles and passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Ruphina Ozoh Assistant Director for the Clayton County HQ Branch Library gave an excellent presentation of services provided by the county libraries. She advised the library can help with resume preparation, they have services for children, adults, and seniors. They provide preparation for job interviews, and they assist students in preparing for the SAT and ACT. In addition, Clayton County residents can sign out Wi-Fi hotspots and laptop computers free of charge. They also have Zoo Atlanta tickets and Clayton County Water Park tickets free of charge.
2. The Police Department promoted three Corporals to Sergeant, they were Corporal Madron, Corporal Howard and Corporal Wilson. Chief Stanelle spoke to the importance of the role Sergeants have within the Police Department.
3. The council discussed the need to increase the sanitation fee for Lake City residents. The current charge of \$204.00 has not increased since 2009. The city is currently operating in a deficit for the sanitation service. Mayor Pro Tem Craven made a motion to vote on the sanitation tax. It was seconded by Councilmember Kyles. During the discussion the city manager presented several options for increased fees, an increase of \$36.00, \$54.00 or \$72.00 per year. The increase of \$54.00 per year was approved by Mayor Pro Tem Craven seconded by Councilmember Kyles. Councilmember Brown stated he felt more comfortable increasing the fee

by \$36.00 per year and Councilmember Hoover stated she did not support an increase of any kind pertaining to the sanitation fee. Mayor Dodson voted to approve the \$54.00 per year increase. The vote was 3-2 in favor of increasing the sanitation fee by \$54.00 per year. The next step to implement this will be to have the City Attorney to create an ordinance revision and it will need to be advertised before the increase takes effect.

Police Report:

Chief Stanelle advised council there had been 16 Part I crimes for the month of March in Lake City primarily property crimes. Year to Date there has been an increase of Part I crimes by 12%.

Public Comment:

There was a continued discussion about neighborhood cats. Chief Stanelle discussed a Trap Neuter/Spay Release program and provided statistics from a study conducted by the ICMA pertaining to the topic. Councilmember Hoover stated the cats were vicious and a nuisance. The Mayor agreed they were a nuisance. Chief Stanelle stated he would continue to research best practices and reach out to local veterinarians to see if we could partner with them for a trap neuter/spay release program.

Another resident advised there was a hole by the merry go round at the Lake City Community Park and there were spikes exposed by the swing set.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Craven seconded by Councilmember Kyles. Council adjourned at 8:37 PM.