

CITY OF NEWNAN, GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 25, 2023

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Newnan, Georgia was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Richard A. Bolin Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Keith Brady presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

PRESENT

Mayor Keith Brady: Council members present: Ray DuBose, George Alexander, Cynthia Jenkins, Dustin Koritko and Paul Guillaume. Absent – Rhodes Shell. Also present: City Manager, Cleatus Phillips; Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver; City Clerk, Megan Shea and City Attorney, Brad Sears.

READING OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 11, 2023

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Alexander to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on April 11, 2023 and adopt them as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

Newnan Youth Council Attendees

Councilwoman Jenkins introduced the members of Youth Council who were in attendance. Helena Gibson, Miles Fabre and Susan Grayton Pass.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

B. Appointment – Cultural Arts Commission, 3-year term

Motion by Councilman Guillaume, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Koritko to appoint Jill Whitley for a 3-year term.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

C. Appointment – Keep Newnan Beautiful, interim term

Continue to next agenda.

D. Appointment – Parks Commission, 3-year term

Continue to next agenda.

E. Appointment – Tree Commission, 3-year term

Continue to next agenda.

F. Appointments – Urban Redevelopment Agency, 3-year term

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Alexander to appoint Frank M. Farmer, Jr. for a 3-year term.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

Motion by Councilman Guillaume, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Koritko to appoint John Pulicare for a 3-year term.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

G. Appointment – Youth Activities Commission, 3-year term

Continue to next agenda.

MAYOR

Mayor Brady had two items. The first was to announce that this week is Georgia Cities Week and the theme this year is Cities Light the Way. This helps bring light to all the cities across the state, the services they provide and the quality of life that they help bring to their citizens.

Second, Mayor Brady thanked City Staff and Public Safety for the great job they did last weekend at the Bike Coweta event. It was a great event.

NEW BUSINESS

H. Recognize the 2023 Newnan Citizens Academy Graduates

Hasco Craver, Assistant City Manager started by thanking Aimee Hadden and Anthony Urda, the two staff members that supported the program. Mr. Craver read the names of the Citizens Academy graduates and they received their certificates from Mayor Brady. Deborah Adebo, Volita Almon, Vicky Bryant, Kassie Hooks, Amy Lawson Leech and Willie Thomas.

Mayor Brady explained that usually the citizens academy is held over several weeks and this year it was condensed into one day. The participants got to visit all the departments within the City and Newnan Utilities.

I. Consideration of Acceptance of HUD Economic Development Initiative Grant Award

Andrew Moody, ARPA/Special Projects Manager, explained that they are seeing acceptance and authorization for the Mayor to execute the necessary paperwork on behalf of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Koritko asked about the budget and the additional \$400,000 that was shown in the packet? Mr. Moody stated that the \$400,000 is from CHIP funds that already exist and are in place for the Chalk Level area.

Councilwoman Jenkins thanked staff for their hard work on getting this done.

Motion by Councilwoman Jenkins, seconded by Councilman Alexander to accept the grant and authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary documents and assurances on behalf of the City.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

J. Consideration of Contract Award for Professional Audio Upgrades in the Wadsworth Auditorium

Motion by Councilman Guillaume, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Koritko to accept the contract award as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

K. Petition for Partnership between Plant Newnan, INC and City of Newnan

Mayor Brady disclosed that he is on the Plant Newnan, INC Board but was advised by the City Attorney that he did not need to recuse himself.

Mr. Scott Berta explained that Plant Newnan is seeking a partnership with the City of Newnan. They have identified the Alexander property on Boone Drive and Fourth Street and Sunset Lane as a location to build an arboretum. They would like to work to get the arboretum certified. There are a few criteria to get certified such as having a plan, organizational group, collection of over 25 species and a public dimension.

Mr. Craver stated that staff is supportive of this including the City's Landscape Architect. If approved by Council then an agreement would be drafted and brought back to Council outlining scope and master plan.

Mayor Brady said this is just the first step. He explained that the City acquired the Alexander property from the Alexander family and identified that it should be conservation land. At the time the City did not have a zoning for conservation and so they created that so that the property would not be developed. Mr. Berta further added that there is a pond on the property and there are educational opportunities with Ruth Hill Elementary right next door and there is potential to connect to the LINC.

Councilman Alexander asked about costs? Mr. Craver stated that they don't know that yet and that a team would need to be hired to lay that out. Mr. Berta said there are grant opportunities. Mayor Brady said that Georgia Forestry Commission is very interested in seeing this happen as well.

Plant Newnan has already met with the Parks Commission and Tree Commission as well, so they will be involved.

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Alexander to approve the request for partnership with Plant Newnan INC.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. Public Hearing – Consideration of Zoning and Subdivision Regulation Text Amendments; Articles 2, 3, 4 and 13 of Zoning Ordinance and Section 11 of Subdivision Regulations

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing.

Dean Smith, Senior Planner, explained that these are changes that were discussed back in March. A memo was sent out to recap what was previously discussed. Comments from March were taken and a few slight changes were made but nothing major.

Councilman Alexander asked if the special exception for cargo containers would come before Council? Mr. Smith stated no, that would go before the Board of Zoning Appeals. The height restriction was also discussed and Mr. Smith explained that there are already height limitations in the zoning ordinance for accessory structures.

Councilwoman Jenkins asked if allowing duplexes in the RUI zoning would require appropriateness review for historic districts? Mr. Smith stated not at this time but there is still the review process in place for historic districts.

Mr. Smith stated that 15 feet is the height restriction on accessory structures.

No one spoke for or against. Mayor Brady closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Guillaume to approve the text amendments and subdivision regulations as presented. 2nd and Final Reading next agenda.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

COMMENT

Councilwoman Jenkins said she forgot to thank Senator Warnock for his help with the Economic Development Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman DuBose to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:51pm.

MOTION CARRIED. (6-0)

Megan Shea, City Clerk

Keith Brady, Mayor