

CITY OF NEWNAN, GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Newnan, Georgia was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 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, Jim Thomasson, Cynthia Jenkins, Rhodes Shell, Dustin Koritko and Paul Guillaume. Also present: City Manager, Cleatus Phillips; Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver; Assistant City Manager, Meg Kelsey; City Clerk, Megan Shea and City Attorney, Brad Sears.

READING OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 9, 2024

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Koritko to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on January 9, 2024 and adopt them as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

B. 1 Appointment – Cultural Arts Commission, 3-year term

Continue to next agenda.

C. 4 Appointments – Farmer Street Cemetery Commission, 3-year terms

Motion by Mayor Brady, seconded by Councilman Koritko to reappoint Veda Brooks for another term.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

Motion by Councilman Shell, seconded by Councilman Koritko to reappoint Alison O'Rourke for another term.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

Other appointments continue to next agenda.

D. 1 Appointment – Housing Authority, 5-year term

Mayor Brady reappointed Kassie Hooks for another term. No vote needed.

E. 1 Appointment – Planning Commission, 3-year term

Continue to next agenda.

F. 1 Appointment – Tree Commission, 3-year term

Motion by Councilman Shell, seconded by Councilman Koritko to reappoint Ellen Wood for another term.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

G. Appointments – Retirement Board

City Manager was going to introduce Meg Kelsey and recommends her appointment as Pension Secretary. She brings a lot of experience with GMEBS and will be a very valuable asset.

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Thomasson to appoint Meg Kelsey as Pension Secretary.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

NEW BUSINESS

H. Public Hearing – 134 Millard Farmer Ind Blvd (Thompson’s Pharmacy) – to consider a variance request from O.C.G.A. 16-12-215(a) concerning State of Georgia Medical Cannabis Dispensary License Application

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing.

Dean Smith, Senior Planner, showed the 1,000 ft radius around Thompson’s Pharmacy and explained that the State law allows local jurisdictions to waive the radius requirement. There are two entities covered by the state law, that fall within the 1,000 ft radius, a daycare and Jefferson Parkway Elementary. The variance request seeks to reduce or eliminate the distance requirement and that would allow Thompson’s Pharmacy to continue with their medical cannabis dispensary license application.

City Attorney swore in the applicant, Trey Thompson.

Mr. Thompson stated that this license would allow them to bring other treatment options to their patients. These medications are safer than opioids and can bring hope to patients who have struggled to find relief. They feel it’s appropriate for them to sell since they already sell C2-C5 medications.

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

Motion by Councilman Guillaume, seconded by Councilman Shell, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-12-215(a), I move that Council adopt this order granting the variance request of Thompson's Pharmacy, modifying and eliminating the 1,000-foot radius distance requirement from a covered entity, as defined by O.C.G.A. 16-12-215(a) to operate a Low THC Pharmacy Dispensary at 134 Millard Farmer Industrial Blvd. Newnan, GA 30263 to allow Thompson's Pharmacy to dispense the low THC oil or products as the modification is needed to allow this established retail outlet to service registered patients residing within the jurisdiction. Further that the Planning Director and the City Clerk be authorized to issue evidence of such Order in whatever form the Georgia Board of Pharmacy may require.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

I. Amendment to the City of Newnan Personnel Policy, Section 5.6 Retirement Plan

City Manager explained that this is to bring the policy in line with recent actions taken by Council.

Motion by Councilman Shell, seconded by Councilman DuBose to approve as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

J. Request for various closures for 2024 Main Street Newnan Events

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Shell to approve the closures as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

K. Consideration of Recommendation from Farmer Street Cemetery Commission to Acquire Real Property

This item was moved to Executive Session for discussion.

L. Consideration of Settlement and Release Agreement between the City of Newnan and Principle Outdoor, LLC

Motion by Councilman Shell, seconded by Councilwoman Jenkins to adopt the agreement as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

M. Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting a Moratorium on the Issuance of Sign Permits

Motion by Councilwoman Jenkins, seconded by Councilman Guillaume to adopt the ordinance as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

VISITORS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & COMPLAINTS

N. Request from Foundation Church to close South Court Square for Good Friday Event on Friday, March 29, 2024

Motion by Councilman Shell, seconded by Councilman Koritko to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Guillaume, seconded by Councilman Koritko that we now enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing real estate and that we move, in open session to adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor or presiding officer to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4, and that this body ratify the actions of the Council taken in closed session and confirm that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the open meetings law at 6:40PM.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

RESOLUTION/MAYOR'S AFFIDAVIT FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Guillaume, seconded by Councilman Koritko to adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the affidavit stating that the subject matter of the closed portion of the Council was within the exceptions provided by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b).

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Koritko, seconded by Councilwoman Jenkins to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:06pm.

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

Megan Shea, City Clerk

Keith Brady, Mayor