



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636
City Hall 229-559-7470
Fax 229-559-7499

City of Lake Park Regular Meeting
July 11, 2017
7:30 PM

Minutes

Mayor Schindler called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation.

Those present were as follows; Mayor Schindler, Mayor Pro Tem Debbie Sauls, Council Members Ronald Carter, Rubinell McDonald, and Jena Sandlin, Attorney Rob Plumb, Clerk Tabatha Fowler, Fire Chief Brown, Police Chief Breletic, Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson, and citizens.

Mayor Schindler called the Public Hearing to order to discuss the Text Amendment 2017-05-02 and Ordinance #114 Tom's Pond Veterans Memorial Park. He advised that the Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission had met on Monday June 26, 2017 and voted to approve the text amendment unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Mayor further stated that this was the second reading of Ordinance 114 Tom's Pond Veterans Memorial Park.

Mayor closed the public hearing and opened the Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor called for review of the June 6, 2017 minutes. Member Carter made a motion to accept minutes, Member Sauls second, all in favor, motion passed.

Mayor called for review of the June 6, 2017 financials. Member Sauls made a motion to accept the financials as presented, Member Sandlin second, all in favor, motion passed.

Citizens' Concerns

Russell McCloud, 208 Baxley Dr. Lake Park, GA 31636. McCloud questioned Mayor, Council, and Attorney Plumb regarding property deed for land that the Tom's Pond Veterans Memorial Park will be constructed on.

Michael Faultpeter, 3833 N Oak St. Ext. Valdosta, GA. He stated Veterans take care of Veterans. Voiced concern to Mayor and Council that the Veterans Memorial has been taken out of the hands of Veterans.

Michael Bailey, Live Oak, Florida. Bailey asked for Mayor and Council for reimbursement for damage to his camper made by low lying limbs on Cotton Ave during the diverted traffic on June 30 during the parade.

Julie Schindler, 328 Back Forty Dr. Lake Park, GA 31636. Mrs. Schindler read concerns she had regarding Councils actions, votes, public statements, etc.

Brent__ 5570 Danielle Dr. Lake Park, GA 31636. Voiced concerns about the property dispute regarding the Tom's Pond Veteran's Memorial Park and the Ordinance limiting the Veterans group.

Mayor called on Ariel Godwin, South Georgia Regional Commission, to come and give their recommendation on Text Amendment 2017-05-02. Mr. Godwin stated that the SGRC staff recommended approval of the text amendment under Residential/Professional Zoning under 5-2, Development Standards. He further stated that staff also recommended the text to read "1 acre unless public water and sewer are utilized" instead of "1 acre unless public water and sewer is available".

Mayor asked for Council decision on Text Amendment 2017-05-02. Member Carter made a motion to adopt Text Amendment 2017-05-02, Member McDonald second, Mayor called for discussion. All in favor motion passed.

Mayor asked for Council decision on Ordinance 114 Tom's Pond Veterans Memorial Park. Council Member McDonald made a motion to accept Ordinance 114, Mayor asked if that was with no changes and Member McDonald acknowledged. Member Sauls second and Mayor called for discussion. Member Carter stated he had concerns regarding Ordinance 114. He stated that Council was supposed to hold a work session and iron out the differences and amend areas of concern that were brought to their attention during the Town Hall Meeting. Carter further stated the only change he saw was the name correction for the memorial. Member Sauls stated that Ordinance 114 covers all the concerns such as excess money once project is completed, lighting for the memorial, and billing for the lighting, maintenance shortfalls, and insurance. Sauls further stated that she didn't see anything that would in her mind that would delay passing the Ordinance and if something came up they could work that out later and amend the Ordinance at that time. Member Sandlin stated that they changed the part regarding trustees, that they are not required to be city residents and that she did not see why they couldn't go ahead with it. Mayor asked how the trustees will be picked and Member Sandlin stated that they would be appointed by the Council. Mayor stated he wanted to see what they would be voting on and asked if this was the revised Ordinance. Mayor asked when this was revised because this wasn't done during a work session, so at what point was this revised? Member Sandlin said she didn't know and that it was in her packet. Mayor asked Clerk Fowler if she had done in revisions to the Ordinance and she said no that the Ordinance was submitted to be put on the agenda. Mayor read aloud the memo that was submitted along with Ordinance 114 requesting it to be placed on the agenda. Mayor asked who the City Council Members were that submitted the agenda item. Mayor asked if Member Carter was a part of that and he stated he thought he was on the City Council but this is the first he had heard about the City Council requesting it to be added. Attorney Plumb advised that they should have the version of the Ordinance that was to be voted on. Mayor inquired if Member Sandlin was going to vote or recuse herself because of a possible conflict of interest. Mayor asked Member Sandlin if she had any part in creating this ordinance, Member Sandlin said no sir she did not have any part in it. When Mayor called for a vote, Attorney Plumb advised that if Member Sandlin was going to recuse herself she needed to state that clearly for the record as to what she was going to do. Mayor called for a vote again and Attorney Plumb stated that if a member of Council is going to recuse themselves, that it must be stated beforehand and be on record, he said you don't vote and then have someone say they recuse themselves. Mayor asked Member Sandlin again if she was recusing herself from the vote, Member Sandlin stated if there was a problem then she would recuse herself. Mayor asked for a statement, Member Sandlin stated "I recuse myself". Attorney Plumb advised that that means she cannot participate in any discussion or vote regarding the matter. The attorney said if there was an alleged conflict of interest then they needed to get it out there, if there is no conflict of interest then proceeds and it's on you to decide if you should recuse yourself. The possible conflict of interest was announced as

discrepancy of property line. Mayor asked for a final time if Member Sandlin wished to vote, Member Sandlin stated she would vote. Mayor asked for a show of all in favor, those were Member McDonald, Member Sauls, and Member Sandlin. Those oppose were Member Carter. With a vote of 3-1 motion passed.

Mayor called for a review of the Civic Center Rental Fee Policy. After reviewing the current rental agreement council decided to make a change. Member Sauls made a motion to add the stipulation that if an extenuating circumstance arises that a refund request would be reviewed by Council at the next Regular Council Meeting, Member Sandlin second, all in favor motion passed.

Mayor asked for Council to review the proposed Open Records Policy. Attorney Plumb gave an overview of the Open Records Ordinance that he drew up from a GMA suggested template. Mayor advised that they would put the Ordinance on the August agenda.

Mayor asked for Council to review the ADA Policy that was also reviewed by Attorney Plumb. Member Sandlin made a motion to accept the policy as presented, Member Carter second, all in favor motion passed.

Department Reports

Police Chief James Breletic gave the Police Department Report.

Fire Chief David Brown gave the Fire Department Report. (See attached) Chief Brown stated that Tanker 2 failed a pump test and was in need of repair. The repairs would be paid through the fire department budget with Council approval. Member Sauls made a motion to repair tanker 2 using fire department budget line of vehicle repairs, Member Sandlin second, all in favor, motion passed.

Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson gave the Maintenance and Water report. He advised that lightning had apparently damaged 4 relays on the well pump. Patterson said they may have to drain the tank and switch over to county water "if" replacing the relays doesn't repair it. He asked for Council to consider the removal of the 2 dangerous dead trees located at the fire station and the 1 hollowed out tree near the civic center. The cost to remove the trees was quoted at \$2000. Member Carter made a motion to approve the tree removal and pay for the work from the maintenance budget code of street repairs/maintenance 522290, Member Sauls second the motion, all in favor motion passed. Patterson also informed the Council of a damaged fire hydrant located at the intersection of Broadway and Marion Ave. The damaged was caused by a vehicle and the repair cost will be filed through the responsible party's auto insurance. Chief Breletic is in the process of getting the claim submitted.

At this time Mayor asked for Council to reconsider the well maintenance bid submitted by Utility Service Co. Council had previously reviewed a bid for an Engineering report to be done on the city well. After speaking with the City Auditor, Mayor was advised that the cost would be covered under SPLOST VII. After discussing the proposal Member Carter made a motion to allow USC to provide engineering report to be paid out of SPLOST VII, Member Sauls second, all in favor, motion passed.

Citizens' Concerns

Russell McCloud, 208 Baxley Dr. Lake Park, GA 31636. He voiced his continued concern about the property line dispute between the Tom's Pond Veteran's Memorial Park and the Councilwoman Sandlin.

Michael Faultpeter, 3833 N Oak St. Ext. Valdosta, GA also urged Council to proceed with the Tom's Pond Veteran's Memorial Park and not to let the petty differences halt the important project.

Tabatha Fowler, 211 Lawrence St. Lake Park, GA 31636. Stated that she wanted to thank everyone that came out to support the city during the July 4 Celebration. She also wanted to make a special thank you to Julie Wilbers, Chief Breletic, Jeff Patterson, Chief Brown, Lake Park Police Officers, and Lake Park Fire Department Volunteers.

Tracy Fountain, 1003 Cotton Ave. Lake Park, GA 31636. She stated she wanted to ask for a friend that the stop sign at Broadway and Cotton Ave be replaced. She also asked for Council to consider the Veterans when appointing the board of trustees. She suggested adding rights and responsibilities to Ordinance 114, and asked for a project plan to be submitted.

Scottie Fountain, 1003 Cotton Ave. Lake Park, GA 31636. He asked Council who and when did they vote on the Tom's Pond Veteran's Memorial Park.

Pat Brown, 809 Main Street, Lake Park, GA 31636. She wanted to thank the Lake Park Police department and Fire Department for all their hard work during the July 4 Celebration.

David Wyatt, wanted to ask that Council do their due diligence when appointing the trustees to the board for the Tom's Pond Veteran's Memorial Park.

Admin/Executive Reports

A request for a SLOW, Children at Play Sign was submitted for Island Street.

Mayor asked Tabatha for spear head the renegotiation of the AT&T phone service agreement.

Mayor announced upcoming GMA Municipal Training in Jekyll Island.

Being no further business, Member Carter made a motion to adjourn, Member Sandlin second, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Read & approved Tabatha Fowler Date 8-1-17