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City of Lake Park
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023
6:00 pm

Members present were Mayor Jena Sandlin, Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith, Council Member Michelle Lane, Council Member June Yeomans and Council Member Busby Courson

Staff Present: City Clerk Lisa Johnson, Asst Fire Chief Matt Ryan

Mayor Jena Sandlin called the meeting to order.

The Invocation and Pledge, having been held during the Public Hearing, were not repeated.

Citizens Concerns:

- Gloria Luke – 201 H4 Club Rd – came forward to thank the Maintenance crew for their outstanding job maintaining US41 and the trimming of the trees on 4H Club Road. She asked to be allowed to speak later on the Agenda

REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Department: Matt Ryan

- Delivered the Fire Report for the preceding month, attached.
- Stated that Fire is requesting a cell phone for Department use
- Requested approval to attend the Fire Conference in Augusta August 23-26.

Police Department: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Service Calls Report for March, attached.
- Council Member Busby Courson presented information on a radar capture for use in determining the need for Speed Bumps; the cost is approximately \$3,300, excluding the mounting brackets. The unit is portable and can be moved from location to location. He asked Council to consider this purchase when funds allow. Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to purchase the portable radar capture for \$3,300 from TSPLOST discretionary funds. Council Member June Yeomans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Water/Public Works Department: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Water and Maintenance Report, attached.
- Reported that the Maintenance Department had begun trimming trees and would be working on that for the next two weeks.

Administration: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report, attached.
- Presented a quote from VC3 for IT services. Council Member Michelle Lane requested additional quotes prior to approval.

Financial Reports: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial report, attached.
- Requested permission to move anticipated personnel expenses from Water to the General Fund to alleviate the Cash Flow strains; since approximately 48% of the City's revenues are received in October or later, the City's Cash Flow slows down in the summer months. Other options will be discussed next month. Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to move funds from Water for Salaries/Personnel expenses to the General Fund. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0; Council Member June Yeomans abstained.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Jena Sandlin

- City Clerk Lisa Johnson read the Resolution to close the alley between E Cotton Avenue and N Railroad Avenue, between the properties of Danny Ganas and Bennett Fire Supply, according to the attached plat. This action was approved in the April 6, 2023 meeting, and the Resolution has been pending notification of the third property owner in Block 14.
- Zoning Request: Council Member Oscar Griffith requested that presenting members from the Public Hearing give information for the benefit of the Council Members who were unable to attend the meeting. Developer John Greene explained the proposal, and stated that if the property remains residential, the impact could be a larger negative than the proposed facility, and noted that Lake Park is growing and needs the tax base. Ron Williams, 1008 Cotton Ave, stated that he objects to the proposed zoning change due to potential traffic increase on Cotton, and stated that there would be a substantial change to the environment; he requested that Council at least delay the vote until the concerns could be addressed. Byron Williams, 1008 Cotton Ave, re-stated his concerns regarding potential crime increase and increased vandalism and foot traffic, and stated that the target audience would not be local people, stating that there were other opportunities in the City to increase the tax base. He also requested a delayed vote pending answers to the concerns. Gloria Luke, 201 4H Club Rd, expressed concerns regarding increased traffic in residential neighborhoods along Cotton Ave; she acknowledged that development happens, but believes it should be to the benefit of the community. Cody Califf, Valdosta, noted that the current zoning would allow residential construction of approximately 12 homes, which would potentially increase traffic by approximately 48 cars in the residential neighborhood. Council Member Oscar Griffith asked how many units are planned in the project; Mr. Greene responded that the number is not yet determined, as the maximum density is not yet know, but the building would begin on the opposite side of the property from 1008 Cotton Ave and may never have construction on the near side. Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to delay the vote pending further discussion. Council Member June Yeomans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council Member Yeomans asked Mr. Green if it could be arranged to move the exit from Cotton Ave to US 41; Mr. Green responded that pending Georgia DOT approval, he could change the plans.
- Council Member Oscar Griffith asked for Tom's Pond to be moved up on the Agenda, as he had received a message and needed to leave the meeting early. He stated that he has spoken with Thomas Aquatics, who sprayed the pond, and feels that there is still more needed. The access ditch needs to be cleaned still, and Mr. Thomas has stated that aeration is needed in the pond to

adequately control the vegetation. This could be accomplished with a pump that would keep the water moving. Mr. Thomas will be asked to be at the next meeting to present proposals. Council Member Griffith left at this time.

- Council considered the Georgia Power proposal for the Cemetery, attached. Council Member Yeomans made a motion to approve the lighting proposal from Georgia Power. Council Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.
- Council discussed a proposed Golf Cart Ordinance, and the Clerk read the proposed provisions, attached. Resident Sophia Doskey stated that she felt that the requirement for liability insurance could be prohibitive for households with licensed teenagers. Resident Gloria Luke stated that she felt the Ordinance would be restrictive. Resident Bob Wilbers stated that he has liability insurance on his golf cart and it is not that expensive. Council Member Michelle Lane stated that Council is still polling on this issue; Council Member Yeomans asked to table the discussion to a later date. The discussion was tabled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Sandlin stated that the Council needed to enter Executive Session in order to review the Minutes of the June 6 Executive Session, and to discuss Personnel and called for a motion. Council Member June Yeomans made a motion to enter Executive Session. Council Member Michelle Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:31 pm and reconvened at 8:05 pm.

Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2023. Council Member June Yeomans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to appoint Matt Ryan as Fire Chief. Council Member June Yeomans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

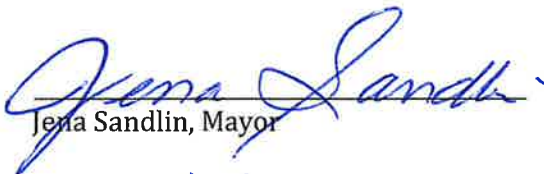
Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to approve the purchase of two cell phones, one for the Fire Department and one for Maintenance, at a monthly cost of \$45/each. Council Member June Yeomans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Council Member Courson stated that there should be a policy that if the phone is lost, the employee will be responsible for paying for a replacement.

Council met Deputy Clerk applicant Belinda Stone, who attended the meeting to be able to answer any further questions Council may have.

Council Member June Yeomans made a motion to approve hiring Belinda Stone as Deputy Clerk. Council Member Michelle Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

The next regular meeting will be on August 1, 2023, at 6:00 pm.


Jena Sandlin, Mayor

Date

8/1/23


Lisa Johnson, City Clerk

Date

August 1, 2023

Seal