

Council Meeting
June 19, 2023

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Celestine Hayes and Jody Greene.

Others Present: City Manager Mark Barber, City Clerk Rhonda Rowe, City Attorney Tim Tanner, Chief Chad Castleberry and several members of the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of June 5, 2023 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Ord #23-02: This ordinance, rezoning property of Dianne Grimsley located at 503 N. Parrish Avenue from General Business (GB) to Wholesale Light Industrial (WLI), was presented to the council. Councilman Cowart recused himself due to being related to Ms. Betty Horne Bullard, a neighboring property owner who spoke against the application at the public hearing held at the last meeting. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilman McClain seconded. All members voted in favor of the rezoning ordinance with the exception of Councilman Cowart, who abstained from voting.

MEAG Voting Delegates (Res. #23-06): Due to the retirement of John Flythe, who is named as the city's voting delegate, along with Mayor Duke who is named as the city's alternate on the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia's Election Committee, the council was advised that these positions need to be updated prior to next month's annual MEAG meeting and election. Councilman Greene nominated Mayor Buddy Duke as the delegate with City Manager Mark Barber as the alternate. There were no other nominations and all members voted in favor of the nominations as presented.

Other Comments:

Celestine Hayes – Asked about the status of the \$400 utility billing credits. City Manager Mark Barber advised we had a discussion with the programmer concerning this last week and he is working toward completing the credit and hopefully having the 24 month pay back calculation completed all at the same time.

Councilwoman Hayes inquired about the status of the paving for Bill Street, Ayers Street and Lavind Way. Mr. Barber advised that we have to complete an erosion control plan before we can proceed. That is currently being prepared and should be completed within the next 30 days at which time we should be able to move forward.

Councilwoman Hayes asked why city hall was open today when it's a federal holiday? She was advised that the council has not approved for Juneteenth to be recognized as a city

holiday. As far as it being a federal holiday, there are other federal holidays we don't take off as well, such as President's Day and Columbus Day, at the local level. If that is the council's wishes, we would need to place this on the agenda at some point in time. Councilwoman Hayes stated she would like this placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Buddy Duke - Advised that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 3, 2023 and the city is closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. He inquired of the council concerning their wishes to meet on Monday or change it to another date. It was noted that there is a public hearing already scheduled for July 3, 2023. The majority of the members will be able to attend Monday, July 3, 2023 so the meeting was left as scheduled.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
