

**City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
April 14, 2014
7:15PM**

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, April 14th, 2014, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 136 City Hall Avenue, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Crawford at 7:15PM. Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Keith Crawford
Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre
Councilmember Marty Johnson
Councilmember Jan Johnson
Councilmember Jim Chaffin

Staff present: City Manager Jimmy Meigs Police Chief Mark Brock
City Clerk Susan Pierce

The Invocation was led by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting of March 10th, 2014 were read and presented for approval. Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to approve; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

- A. Raul Jasso requested rezoning for 120 Parson Street from Residential to Industrial. He is opening a small restaurant (with food brought in; no cooking at this time) to service the sewing manufacturing plant, as well as other citizens. He also plans to have a small soccer field and a couple of volleyball courts. The Planning Commission has already approved the rezoning. Mignon Wessinger, Planning Commission Chairperson, verified that a restaurant is an approved use for property zoned Industrial.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to approve the rezoning request; second by Councilmember Jim Chaffin; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Business Session:

A. Development Authority Appointment

Alan Rainwater is now Chairman of the Development Authority. There is still one vacant seat that needs to be filled. City Manager Jimmy Meigs spoke with Donna Lackey who serves as secretary for the Authority, and she said it was in the by-laws of the Authority that the City Council has to make the appointment. Since there was no recommendation included, the item was tabled for future discussion.

B. Planning Commission Appointment

Since new Planning Commission member Ryan Whitley moved outside of the city limits, another vacancy was created. Andrew Stewart has agreed to serve on the Commission, which submitted the recommendation to the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Jan Johnson to approve recommendation; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

C. Main Street Board Appointments

Jan Lloyd, Cultural Arts/Copeland Hall Director and Main Street Director, presented a slate of members for the new Main Street Board. The Board will work to establish by-laws and a strategic plan for the new program. Recommended for the Board are Carolyn Crawford, Telisha Gibson, Lyn Farmer, Marie Jensen, Jan Johnson, Wayne Johnson and Matt McCord. Jan has spoken to each of them, and all have agreed to serve.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to approve recommendations; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; Councilmember Jan Johnson abstained from the vote since she is a nominee for the Board; motion otherwise carried.

D. There was a discussion for information purposes of the LMIG grant program. LMIG stands for Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant. These grants are from the Department of Transportation, and are based on the paved miles less the State roads inside the city limits, which comes to about 19.2 miles. For the past two years, we have received around \$21,000 each year, and the City has up to three years to spend it. Last year, this money was used for the new sidewalks in front of Checkerberry Shoppe and Chix & Wings Restaurant. Discussion of roads needing improvement included Tyus Road, the corner of Red Barn Road and Rome Street, and paving Kent Street to the traffic light at Hwy. 100. Marty stated that he has had the most complaints about Tyus Road. Jimmy said he will get with Public Works Director Tim Keeton to prioritize the needed improvements. Councilmember Jim Chaffin asked if the City could patch the holes in the streets. Jimmy said that we do, but big trucks and buses wear the patches out. He said the LMIG money was mainly for streets, sidewalks and shoulders. Councilmember Jan Johnson mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan talks of improving and increasing the sidewalks. Wes asked if the City obtained bids when scheduling this work, and Jimmy verified that we do. Marty added that he would like to see improvements in front of Memory Lane Assisted Living Facility, and Jan Johnson said she would like to see more sidewalks down Wedowee Street. Citizen Carol Theune asked about installing a rail on the steps of the new sidewalk in front of Checkerberry Shoppe because of the drop-off. Jimmy said he will check with Tim on that, also. Mayor Crawford asked about the CDBG grant; Jimmy verified that it was submitted on April 1st, and we should hear something by the end of August.

VIII. Financial Session:

A. Mayor Crawford stated that the Financial Reports as of February 28, 2014 were included in the packages. He then asked about Property Tax Collections; Jimmy said the millage rate was still at 8.66, and that the total expected collections were approximately \$334,000. To date we have received \$292,000, and he spoke to Vickie Bearden in the County Tax Office, who said we had a check from them on the way in the amount of \$31,000. Any delinquent taxes 2 years and older are sent to GTS for tax sales (in June of each year), and FiFa's are also placed on the properties.

Mayor Crawford asked how the Budget process was going. Jimmy said most of the departmental worksheets are in, and he should have it put together by April 25th. The packets are scheduled to be distributed to Mayor and Council by May 5. We have scheduled two work sessions; one for May 12 at 6:00 pm, and the other for June 9 at 6:00 pm, which are also regularly scheduled Council meeting nights. A Public Hearing is proposed for the June 9 Council meeting, and a called Council meeting on June 16 is scheduled to adopt the Budget.

Jimmy reported that he received a letter of recommendation from Greg Akins for Rick Hartley, who may be our new accountant, since Capable Financial Solutions will no longer be performing this service for us. Mr. Hartley plans to be in Bowdon next week to meet with Jimmy. We asked the cost for Mr. Hartley; Jimmy said it would be around \$1200 or \$1300 per month. We asked what we would get for that price, and Jimmy said it was basically the same reports as Capable was providing on the financials and help with our annual audit. Jimmy also said we had been approved for another TAN this year, but right now, we do not need it.

B. The cash balances as of April 11, 2014 were included in the Council packages.

IX. Public Comment:

1. Karen Hartley and Laura Miller from the Carrollton Civic Women's Club proposed placing small library boxes, called "My Book Spot" in the city. Their goal is to reach children who have no books in the home. These boxes are based on the "take one/leave one" honor system. The club will supply books on a regular basis. They would like to have them in place by June. Boy Scouts will build 6 boxes, and the adults plan to build 6 boxes. Each box will hold 40 to 50 books, and service 60 to 80 children. They would like to have 1 person in each area to check the boxes. They said so far, none of the boxes in Carrollton have been vandalized. They would like help getting the word out and possibly with installation. We may need to establish a book collection spot in Bowdon, possibly at the Fire Department, and start a campaign to collect books. The purpose of this program is to encourage kids to read, and to encourage parents to read to their kids. The boxes will be about 30 inches wide, 18 inches high, and be placed 3 feet off the ground, with a "Dalmatian" style paint scheme. They will be talking to the school systems next week about the program, also. Jan Lloyd said she may know of some Scouts who would be interested in helping build the boxes, and Keith mentioned that she could put the word out on her "e-blast".
2. Mignon Wessinger said that the Historical Preservation training she attended recently was very helpful, and she thanked the City for sponsoring the cost of the training. She also mentioned the passing of Mr. Carl Rooks, who was a good friend as well as a longtime servant to the City of Bowdon.
3. Miss Fannie Sullivan thanked Mignon for mentioning Mr. Rooks. She also said that another citizen, Mr. George Glenn, who has property adjacent to the City's property, would like to see a lace fence put up to keep stuff from blowing on to his property. Jimmy said he will check with Tim about the fence.
4. Bill Sikes, who owns rental property at 600 Wedowee Street, just had some general observations. He asked if election time was the only time citizens can have input on financial and other decisions made by the Mayor and Council, such as the Main Street Program. He said he would like to be able to discuss the benefits as well as the expenditures.
5. Peggy Sikes said she wants Bowdon to thrive, but what does thrive mean? She said that the big trucks come through town at the main intersection, and that we need a by-pass to eliminate the

problem, and also to collect more taxes. Marty informed her that we are already getting a by-pass; it is in process, but it takes 5 to 10 years, and the City can't make it happen any faster.

Mayor Crawford thanked everyone for their comments, and also informed all that the City's 5-year Comprehensive Plan was due to Three Rivers in October of this year. He also added that we are very supportive of the Main Street Program and the DCA.

Jan Johnson thanked Jan and Sandy Lloyd for their hard work last Saturday cleaning up Heritage Park, and coordinating the Easter Egg hunt. Jan Lloyd said they had about 400 kids and 800 people to show up.

At this time, Mayor Crawford asked that Council move into Executive Session.

Motion by Councilmember Jan Johnson to enter into Executive Session; second by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

X. Executive Session.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to move out of Executive Session; second by Councilmember Jim Chaffin; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to adjourn Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Mayor Keith Crawford

City Clerk Susan Pierce