

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia
November 10, 2020 / 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers in attendance were Ruby Foster, Richard Schmidt, Laurie Searle, Camille Lowe, and Troy Bettis. All members were present. Also present was City Attorney Rick Lindsey.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mayor Reed called for a motion to amend the agenda as follows:

- 1. Add Item No. 20-045, Resolution adopting 2021 Council meeting schedule*
- 2. Add Fire Department Lieutenant promotion presentation,*
- 3. Table Item No. 20-039, Ordinance to Add a New Chapter 13, Emergency Management, to the Code of Ordinances.*
- 4. Add presentation recognizing Tom Blum.*

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Councilmember Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of September 24, 2020*
- 2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2020*

Councilmember Lowe made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of September 24, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2020.

Councilmember Bettis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations

*1. Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Risk Reduction Certificate presentation
Stoney Mathis, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police 4th Vice President, presented a Risk Reduction Certificate to Police Chief Jim Little. The certificate was earned by Chattahoochee Hills Police Department (CHPD) by implementing ten required policy directives. CHPD is the second department in the state to earn the certificate. Chief Little said one of his goals for the department is to earn State Certification and the Risk Reduction Certificate is the first step in that process. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in allowing him to achieve this certification.*

2. Proclamation recognizing Dr. Gene “Doc” and Margaret Tyre for their extraordinary efforts serving others.

Mayor Reed read a proclamation recognizing Dr. Gene and Margaret Tyre for their service to over the years, especially to the Chattahoochee Hills community. The city will also present Dr. Tyer with a Key to the City as a gift of appreciation.

3. Proclamation recognizing Linda Bryant for 27 Years of Service on the Fulton County School Board.

Mayor Reed read a proclamation recognizing her for her service and support of education in Fulton County.

4. Fire Department Lieutenant Promotion

Fire Chief Greg Brett formally promoted Firefighter Brad Wilson to Lieutenant with the pinning of bugle collar pins and badge.

5. Tom Blum recognition

Mayor Reed recognized Tom Blum for his years of community service, particularly his volunteer work doing roadside clean up and presented Mr. Blum with a gift of appreciation.

Public Comment

Amber Lightsey, 11750 Upper Wooten Road – said she supports the Chatt Hills Barn Quilt Trail project but has some concerns. She had questions when she initially became interested in joining the Barn Quilt Trail Committee, but the way the project is currently being managed leaves no time for these questions to be answered or to get appropriate community input. Her concerns include the article in the Chatt Hills newsletter stating that a barn quilt at Beavers House would be installed despite not having come before the Historic Commission for discussion or the City Council for approval; who determines what goes where; and the aesthetic consequences if the project moves forward as currently managed. She is not opposed to the project but asked why the rush. The project should be prioritized in a way that reflects the city's best interest.

Staff Reports

Financial Update: City Manager Robbie Rokovitz

Mr. Rokovitz said the newsletter guidelines have been placed in each of the Council's mailboxes and that they will be discussing it at a future planning session. He reported on the financials as of October 31, 2020. The city is 33.7% through the fiscal year. Total revenue including fund balance is 52.9% and expenditures for all funds are 31.7%.

Fire Department Report: Greg Brett

Chief Brett reported that EMS calls were down but he anticipates an upward trend over the long haul. He also reported that the new Tanker 51 is in service as of 5:45 p.m. today. Public Safety (Fire, Police and Public Works) crews responded to 36 incidents of reported damage from Hurricane Zeta. He said that number does not include the additional clean up work performed by Public Works, and he applauded the Public Works crews. The local Fire Chiefs are requesting the Fulton County Commissioners nominate three Fire Chiefs to the Georgia EMS Region 3 Council for better representation of south Fulton citizens needs. He said citizens can help by writing Commissioner Joe Carns or Commission Chair Rob Pitts and ask them to

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nominate Chief Henry Argo (Palmetto), Chief David Bloodworth (Hapeville), and Deputy Chief Ron Taylor (College Park).

Police Department Report: Jim Little

Chief Little reported that call volume was down slightly in October, but the department is starting to see more multi-car accidents and has started to increase traffic violation enforcement. The department has also increased truck enforcement. Officer Wells is finishing up his field training this week. Chief Little said he hopes to have State Accreditation completed by June 2021.

Public Works/Parks Report: Darold Wendlandt

Mr. Wendlandt said all street signs in Crossroads Subdivision have been replaced. Staff spent every day for the last week cleaning up storm damage. The boat ramp at Campbellton Park has been completed. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for November 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Community Development: Mike Morton

Mr. Morton reported there were a total of 16 building permits issued in October with 11 of them for single family dwellings. There also were seven certificates of occupancy issued and 113 inspections conducted in October. The final public meeting for the Campbellton Historic Crossroads Master Plan was held on November 9th. The city has received the MTAP award for planning in Rico. There currently are no agenda items for the November 19th Planning Commission meeting.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearings.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

1. **Item 20-038:** Request from The Inn at Serenbe, The Farmhouse at Serenbe, The Hill, and Halsa to waive late penalties for hotel/motel and alcohol tax during COVID-19 pandemic.

City Clerk Dana Wicher presented the item. In March, the business office at Serenbe contacted the city and said they would be unable to make timely payments of their hotel/motel and alcohol taxes because of shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The businesses were able to start payments back up after a few months and have paid all of the taxes that were due. They are requesting that the late fees be waived.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-038. Councilmember Searle made a motion to approve Item No. 20-038. Councilmember Bettis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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2. **Item 20-039:** Ordinance to Add a New Chapter 13, Emergency Management, to the Code of Ordinances. *Tabled. No action taken.*

3. **Item 20-040:** Agreement with Providence Baptist Church to use property at 6405 Campbellton Redwine Road as an emergency shelter.

Fire Chief Greg Brett presented the item. The agreement authorizes Providence Baptist Church to operate an emergency shelter during times that the city deems it necessary during a disaster.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-040. Councilmember Bettis made a motion to approve Item No. 20-040. Councilmember Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Item 20-041:** Resolution declaring three (3) Mossberg 12-gauge pump shotguns as surplus property.

Police Chief Jim Little presented the item. The shotguns are no longer suitable for law enforcement use. The resolution allows the city to surplus the guns to a licensed gun dealer for credit.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-041. Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve Item No. 20-041. Councilmember Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Item 20-042:** Resolution declaring one (1) 1996 International E-One fire tanker/pumper engine as surplus property.

Fire Chief Greg Brett presented the item. The resolution allows the city to sell or negotiate a reduction in costs for a repair to another apparatus.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-042. Councilmember Lowe made a motion to approve Item No. 20-042. Councilmember Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Item 20-043:** Resolution for a Capital Lease Purchase Agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association – proceeds of the lease purchase financing to be used to reimburse the purchase price of Fouts/Kenworth 3,000-gallon Tanker-Pumper.

City Manager Robbie Rokovitz presented the item. The capital lease will allow the city to reimburse itself for the recent purchase of the new tanker. The payments are approximately \$53,000 per year for five years.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-043. Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve Item No. 20-043. Councilmember Searle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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7. **Item 20-044:** Approve the purchase of a Ford F150 SSV Police Vehicle for an amount not to exceed \$32,300.

Police Chief Jim Little presented the item. This vehicle purchase is part of the scheduled replacement program.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-044. Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve Item No. 20-044. Councilmember Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Item 20-045:** Resolution adopting 2021 Council meeting schedule.

Mayor Reed presented the item. He also requested that the December 2020 Work Session and Council Meeting date be changed to December 3rd because of a Fulton County run-off election being held in the Council Chambers on December 1st.

Mayor Reed called for a motion on Item No. 20-045. Councilmember Bettis made a motion to approve Item No. 20-045 with the amendment to the December 2020 meeting. Councilmember Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember Foster thanked staff for all their hard work, especially with the recent storm and in dealing with COVID over the last several months. She also announced that decorating of city hall for Christmas would take place on November 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Councilmember Schmidt thanked Chief Little for the greater presence on Wilkerson Mill Road. He also said that the newsletter guidelines will be discussed at the planning retreat. Until then, it will stay in place in its current form, and he encouraged the Council and citizens to submit articles. He also said he supports the Barn Quilt Trail but said it should be brought before the Council before proceeding any further.

Councilmember Searle thanked the Mayor for putting out updates during the power outage. She also said she appreciated Amber Lightsey's comments and said the Barn Quilt Trail project had been discussed by the Council twice.

Councilmember Lowe asked Chief Brett to clarify the new mobile alerts. Chief Brett said it is taking some time to clean up the data that was brought over from the old system. She also asked for an update on the proposed rock quarry in Carroll County. Mayor Reed answered that the proposal is still working its way through the process at the county level.

Councilmember Bettis thanked the crews that were working on storm clean up. He also said he is excited that the newsletter will be changing format. Most of his constituents do not have internet and the newsletter needs to be informative. He asked if all the bridges in the city would support the weight of the new Tanker. Chief

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Brett answered that department training includes appropriate routes.

Councilmember Foster announced that she is hosting a coat and toy drive. Renee Prince will be helping her with the drive, and there will be a box at city hall for dropping the donations.

Mayor Reed said that he was impressed with Greystone's response during the recent storm and power outage. He was receiving updates from the Director of Operations, who was working in the field running lines with his guys at 2:00 a.m. He also was getting updates from Chief Brett as city crews were out clearing trees in the early hours. We now have the automatic aid with the City of South Fulton and are continuing to work the other south Fulton cities on the EMS issues. Our little city gets a huge benefit from the level of working relationships with surrounding entities. He also reminded everyone of the Boat Ramp Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjourn Meeting

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved this 3rd day of December, 2020.

Dana Wicher, City Clerk

Tom Reed, Mayor