Regular Council Meeting, City of Harlem, Georgia
February 27, 2023
Public Safety Building

The City Council of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their Regular Council Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023, at the Public Safety Building at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Roxanne Whitaker presiding.

Present: COUNCIL: Mayor Roxanne Whitaker, Mayor Pro tem Gregg Stokes, Councilmember Daniel Bellavance, Councilmember Al Reeves, and Councilmember John Thigpen; STAFF: City Manager Debra Moore, City Clerk Leona Holley, and City Attorney Tom Watkins.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitaker at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given and led by City Attorney Watkins.

Approval of the Agenda: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented; 2nd by Councilmember Bellavance. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Approval of the Minutes: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the following Minutes as written:

- Work Session; Thursday, January 19, 2023
- Regular Council Meeting & Executive Session; Monday, January 23, 2023

The motion was 2nd by Councilmember Bellavance. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consider Ordinance 2233 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 108 Land Use; Sec. 108-66 General Provisions Table 1 and Sec. 108-68 Landscape Strips and Buffers – 2nd Reading & Action (tabled at January 2023 meeting): City Manager Moore reported this is the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2233 an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108 Land Use, the general provisions table and landscape strips and buffers. Ordinance 2233 went before the Planning Commission for a recommendation; recommendation was for approval with a vote of 3-2. Councilmember Thigpen made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2233 an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 108 Land Use, Sec. 108-66 General Provisions Table 1 and Sec. 108-68 Landscape Strips and Buffers; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. Discussion: City Manager Moore explained after review of the ordinance it was discovered the area, yard, and height requirement table was showing square feet per family; this ordinance is clarification of the number of residential structures permitted per property per lot. City Manager Moore explained “man-caves”, and “she-sheds” are accessory buildings; this ordinance is trying to avoid people turning accessory buildings into rental property. Also, “guest houses” is being removed from Table IV, a “guest house” could be considered another residence. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Ordinance 2301 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 112 Stormwater Management; Sec. 112-203 Maintenance by Private Parties and Sec. 112-204 Maintenance by Property or Homeowner’s Association – 2nd Reading & Action: City Manager Moore reported this is the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2301 an ordinance to amend Chapter 112 Stormwater Management. Ordinance 2301 went before the Planning Commission for a recommendation; recommendation was for approval. Councilmember Thigpen made
UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont’d):

Consider Ordinance 2301 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 112 Stormwater Management; Sec. 112-203 Maintenance by Private Parties and Sec. 112-204 Maintenance by Property or Homeowner’s Association – 2nd Reading & Action (cont’d): The motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2301 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 112 Stormwater Management; Sec. 112-203 Maintenance by Private Parties, and Sec. 112-204 Maintenance by Property or Homeowner’s Association; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. Discussion: Councilmember Thigpen stated his understanding is if the city must maintain the stormwater ponds because the Homeowners Association (HOA) is not taking care of the property, the city can place a fee on the property owners that will be affected. City Manager Moore stated that is correct, there would be a special tax district for the property owners that will be affected. Mayor Whitaker feels the city needs to make the managers of the HOA’s aware of this ordinance and she has concern for the subdivisions that do not have HOA’s. City Manager Moore said currently the only stormwater ponds the city has accepted are in Cornerstone II and Phillips Crossing subdivisions. Mayor Whitaker asked how the city goes about getting someone to maintain Cornerstone I; City Manager Moore responded Brush Development is maintaining the property. Mayor Pro tem Stokes asked if there are stormwater ponds on Oakwood Drive that the city is maintaining. Fire Chief Tripp Lonergan and City Manager Moore responded there is. With no further discussion the motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Ordinance 2303 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 108 Land Use; Sec. 108-131 Billboards – 2nd Reading & Action: City Manager Moore reported this is the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2303, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108 Land Use, Billboards. Ordinance 2303 went before the Planning Commission for a recommendation; the recommendation was for approval. Councilmember Bellavance made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2303 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 108 Land Use, Sec. 108-131 Billboards; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Ordinance 2304 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages; Sec. 4-127 Outside Consumption Regulations and Sec. 4-128 Signage – 2nd Reading & Action: City Manager Moore reported this is the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2304 an Ordinance to amend Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages for outside consumption regulations and signage. Ordinance 2304 went before the Planning Commission for a recommendation; the recommendation was for approval. This ordinance will allow someone outside of the Harlem Arts and Entertainment District to come in and set up a tent or a beer truck for an approved event. Councilmember Thigpen made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2304 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages, Sec. 4-127 Outside Consumption Regulations and Sec. 4-128 Signage; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider HPC Commission Appointment: Mayor Whitaker asked Lynda Morris to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to appoint Lynda Morris to the Historic Preservation Commission; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Mayor Whitaker reported another Commissioners term will end this June. At last week’s Work Session Mayor Whitaker
NEW BUSINESS:

**Consider HPC Commission Appointment:** if the council would like to extend the term for this Commissioner or look for someone to fill the seat. The consensus of council was to wait.

**Consider HMA Shamrock & Roll Event & Temporary Alcohol Permit:** Mayor Whitaker reported this year’s HMA Shamrock & Roll Event will be held on the Library Plaza and they will need a temporary alcohol permit to serve “green beer” in a tent on March 18th. Councilmember Bellavance made a motion to approve the HMA Shamrock & Roll Event and the temporary alcohol permit; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Mayor Pro tem Stokes stepped out of the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**Consider Resolution 2023-02 A Resolution for the Surplus of City Equipment – Public Works Department – 1983 Ford F-700:** The following item has been requested for surplus for the Public Works Department:
- 1983 Ford F-700 VIN: 1FDXK70U2EVA06702

Councilmember Reeves made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 A Resolution to Surplus Equipment – Public Works; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro tem Stokes returned to the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

**Other:**

Council asked Fire Chief Tripp Lonergan and Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Stokes to provide information on the American Rescue Plan Proposed Project List for the Fire Department. Assistant Chief Stokes explained the purpose of the request for medical supplies, equipment, and training is to better the department’s ability to provide care, and service for anyone that request help. Assistant Chief Stokes stated everything the department is asking for falls into someone’s scope of practice as determined by the State Department. He reached out to the Regional Director of the Department of Public Health; after discussion with them and pulling rules, regulations, and statutes they determined the way to operate in Harlem. The Department of Public Health division director encourages any department or agency to be licensed or to pursue a license for an EMR. The department does not have anyone that is a state licensed EMR. Whatever the department does or adds, the department has a list of rules that they go by that is stated approved, whether it be an intervention, a piece of equipment or medication. Assistant Chief Stokes explained the protocol the fire department must follow. There is a new medical director the department will fall under, anything the department asks for would have to be approved under his approved protocols as well as any state level of licensure scope of practice for EMT’s. Assistant Chief Stokes said they believe everything they are asking for is in the best interest of the citizens asking for assistance when they call 911. The medical equipment and supplies will only be available to the firefighters that are qualified to use them. Currently there are only three firefighters that are qualified. The three full-time firefighters are not advanced EMR’s. There is a lot of cost, time, and hours for them to be trained and certified. The department is working on updating protocols and training for medical equipment. Assistant Chief Stokes explained the intravenous and airway process to council. The initial cost is to get everything started for supplies, equipment, and the training.
Reports:

- **Council Reports:** Councilmember Thigpen reported the flags that were placed out downtown for President’s Day looked nice, as well as the new plants and mulch. He has received positive comments.

- **Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Whitaker reported it is a very busy session in Atlanta with the legislative. She has been listening to the bills that are being introduced. Mayor Whitaker reported that there are a lot of activity going on downtown. There will be a Small Business Expo on March 4th, Shamrock & Roll will be March 18th and a Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th. All of these events will be held on the library plaza.

- **Department Reports:** City Manager Moore reported she has received information that the trail is ready to open.

Mayor Pro tem Stokes left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Announcements:

March 7  Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting; 6:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
March 8  Urban Redevelopment Agency Meeting; 9:00 a.m.; City Hall
March 9  Historic Preservation Commission Meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Public Safety Building
March 23  City Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
March 27  City Council Regular Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
April 20  GMA Spring Listening Session; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Depot in Thomson

With there being no further business before Council, Councilmember Bellavance made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley
City Clerk