The City Council of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their monthly Work Session on Thursday, April 20, 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 Barry Fleming; MEDIA: Stephanie Hill, The Augusta Press.

The Work Session was opened by Mayor Whitaker at 7:00 p.m.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Other: n/a

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Proclamation – 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week: The City of Harlem is recognizing the week of April 30 - May 6, 2023, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

Consider Temporary Alcohol Permit – Columbia County Chamber of Commerce – Chamber After Hours Networking Event: City Manager Moore explained the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce will be holding a chamber after hours networking event on May 15th, at First State Bank, 140 W. Milledgeville Road. The Chamber of Commerce has applied for a temporary alcohol permit for the event.

Consider Temporary Alcohol Permit – Harlem Merchant’s Association – Mimosa’s on Main: Mayor Whitaker explained the Harlem Merchant’s Association has applied for a temporary alcohol permit for Mimosa’s on Main to be held on May 6th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Armbands can be purchased for $5.00 for mimosa tasting at the event. There will be vendors set up at the Harlem Library Plaza the day of the event.

Consider Ordinance 2305 An Ordinance to Annex Certain Properties – Luke Boatright, Stanley Martin Homes, LLC – 1st Reading & Action: City Manager Moore explained this is the first reading of Ordinance 2305 to annex properties for Luke Boatright, Stanley Martin Homes LLC. This annexation is to correct parcel line modifications undertaken by the former property owner, Mr. Larry Prather. This annexation will provide for clearer administrative actions related to development. The properties to be annexed are:

1. Stanley Martin Companies, LLC Zoning PUD 0.06 ac 342 Tupelo Pass Map & Parcel 031 418
2. Stanley Martin Companies, LLC Zoning PUD 0.12 ac 344 Tupelo Pass Map & Parcel 031 419
3. Stanley Martin Companies, LLC Zoning PUD 0.13 ac 346 Tupelo Pass Map & Parcel 031 420
4. Stanley Martin Companies, LLC Zoning PUD 144 sq. ft. 348 Tupelo Pass Map & Parcel 031 421

This will go before the Planning Commission in May for zoning recommendations.
NEW BUSINESS (cont’d):

Consider Ordinance 2306 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 108 Land Use; Sec. 108-77 Authority to Grant Variances and Sec. 108-78 Appeals of Administrative Decisions – 1st Reading & Action: City Manager Moore explained this is the first reading of Ordinance 2306 to correct a typographical error in Sec. 108-377 Authority to grant variances to remove the word ‘used’ and to replace the word ‘use’; to replace the entire section of Sec. 108-378 Appeals of administrative decisions. The replacement of this section is for clarification purposes. City Attorney Fleming explained the process of the code of appeals.

Consider MOU with Fort Gordon for Military Compatibility – Development Application Review: City Manager Moore explained the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is between the City of Harlem and Fort Gordon. If there are any changes or updates to the comprehensive plan, major subdivision, or planned unit development for the City of Harlem, the city is to notify Fort Gordon. Fort Gordon will submit to the city any comments that will include any concerns relating to adverse impacts on the Fort Gordon mission, and/or public health and safety; if any comments are made, they ask for the city to have consideration. If there are any changes at Fort Gordon, Fort Gordon will immediately notify the City of Harlem upon formally changing base operations, activities, and/or procedures that may impact land outside the Fort Gordon area. The city will review the information and submit comments to Fort Gordon within ten (10) business days. City Attorney Fleming explained there is a state mandated 3,000-foot notification area per Georgia code §36-66-6 and a 2-mile CUS military compatibility area. There is a notification process that must be followed.

Consider Resolution 2023-07 A Resolution for the Surplus of Confiscated Property – Police Department: City Manager Moore explained Resolution 2023-07 is a resolution to surplus a vehicle from a confiscation case. The Police Department received an Order of Forfeiture dated January 23, 2023, regarding a case from May 14, 2022. Resolution 2023-07 is for the surplus of the following Police Department Confiscated Property:

- 2008 Chrysler 300 VIN: 2C3KA433R86154066

The vehicle was placed on GovDeals for auction and sold on March 21, 2023, prior to being approved for surplus and disposal. The Resolution is for recordkeeping purposes.

Mayor Whitaker stated the council quarterly work session will be coming up in May or June, she asked council to look at dates for the quarterly work session.

Executive Session: Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to go into Executive Session; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Executive Session opened at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to come out of Executive Session; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Executive Session closed at 8:06 p.m.
Executive Session (cont’d): City Attorney Fleming reported that there were two real estate matters and two legal matters discussed and that no final action was taken. Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the affidavit affirming this report; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

With there being nothing further for discussion, Councilmember Bellavance made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley
City Clerk