

The City Council of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024, 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 Regular Council Meeting was opened 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: Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. 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, March 21, 2024
- Regular Council Meeting & Executive Session; Monday, March 25, 2024

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Special Presentation – North Harlem Elementary School Greenpower Team: Mayor Whitaker stated the North Harlem Elementary School Greenpower Team competed in the “Positively Phenix City Goblin Rally” in Phenix City, Alabama with a ranking in the top ten. Mayor Whitaker recognized the Greenpower Team Leaders Amber Lazenby, Alaina and John Thigpen, Ashley Exantus, Laci Glosser, Andrea Allen, Debra Quinn and the Greenpower Team students. Certificates of Recognition was presented to the students that participated.

John McClellan, G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers – Project Updates: Mayor Whitaker commented Turnipseed Engineer John McClellan attended the Work Session on Thursday, April 18th to report updates on the city projects.

Harlem Memorial Cemetery Committee Members – Cemetery/City Park Connectivity: Mayor Whitaker stated Mr. Robert Culpepper and Mr. Steve Camp with the Harlem Cemetery Committee attended the Work Session on Thursday, April 18th to discuss the connectivity between the cemetery and the city park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consider Garbage Contract Extension Proposal with Coastal Waste & Recycling: Councilmember Bellavance made a motion to reject the garbage contract extension proposal with Coastal Waste & Recycling and to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a garbage contract; 2nd by Councilmember

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd):

Consider Garbage Contract Extension Proposal with Coastal Waste & Recycling (cont'd): Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Proclamation – Recognition of the Week of May 5 -11, 2024 as the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Weeks: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing May 5-11, 2024 as the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk Week; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider GMA's District 7 Officers for 2024-2025: The following nominations are for the GMA's District 7 Officers for 2024-25:

- President Danny Brown, Councilmember, Sandersville
- First Vice President Catherine Harris McKnight, Commissioner, Augusta
- Second Vice President Alan Haywood, Mayor, Sparta
- Third Vice President "Chick" Jones, Mayor, Waynesboro

Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the District 7 Officers for 2024-2025; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Temporary Alcohol Permit for Harlem Merchant's Association Event; Mimosa's on Main, Saturday May 11, 2024: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit for the Harlem Merchant's Association Event Mimosa's on Main Saturday, May 11, 2024; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Variance Application VAR-2024-04-01 for Map & Parcel H03 139; 370 W. Milledgeville Road for a Reduction in the Side Landscape Buffer: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve Variance Application VAR-2024-04-01 for Map & Parcel H03 139, 370 W. Milledgeville Road for a reduction in the side landscape buffer; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Ordinance 2402 for the Annexation of Property; Unopened Western Terminus of W. Forrest Street – 1st Reading: Councilmember Bellavance recused himself from the Council area and moved to the citizen area. Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2402 for the annexation of property, the unopened western terminus of W. Forrest Street; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. DISCUSSION: City Manager Moore explained this is the first reading and the Ordinance will go to the Planning Commission for a recommendation of zoning in May. The council will have the second reading in May as well as the recommendation from the Planning Commission on the zoning. The motion carried

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Consider Ordinance 2402 for the Annexation of Property; Unopened Western Terminus of W. Forrest Street – 1st Reading (cont'd): with Councilmembers Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. Councilmember Bellavance returned to the Council area.

Consider Rezoning Application RZ-2024-04-01 to Rezone Map & Parcel H02 036; 375 N. Louisville Street; .42 acres; Rezone from R-1A Residential to B-1 Downtown Business District: Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to approve the rezoning application RZ-2024-04-01 to rezone map and parcel H02 036, 375 N. Louisville Street from R-1A Residential to B-1 Downtown Business District; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Designation and Approval of Local Road Assistance Administration Funds Project – Sidewalk Improvements: Councilmember Bellavance made the motion to approve the designation and approval of Local Road Assistance Administration Funds Project for sidewalk improvements; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Stokes. DISCUSSION: City Manager Moore explained this is for repairs of existing sidewalks. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Consider Changes in Upcoming Meeting Dates; May Regular Meeting and June Work Session: Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to change the May 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and to conduct the Regular Meeting on the same night as Work Session for Thursday, May 23, 2024; 2nd by Councilmember Thigpen. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro tem Stokes made the motion to cancel the June 20, 2024 Work Session and to have full discussion and action at the Regular Council meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Other: None.

Public Comments: None.

Reports:

- **Council Reports:** N/A
- **Mayor Report:** Mayor Whitaker reported she attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Club Car that is located at White Oak Business Park off the I-20 Harlem exit. Mayor Whitaker stated Club Car is working with the Harlem Merchant's Association to become a business partner. Mayor Whitaker reported herself and City Manager Moore attended the District 7 GMA Listening meeting; discussion was given on the upcoming Floating Homestead Exemption Law at the Listening meeting.

Reports (cont'd):

- **Department Reports:** City Manager Moore reported on the city park. Discussion was given on a couple of incidents at the city park. City Manager Moore explained Police Chief Lewis would like to put something in place where children have to be accompanied by adults if they are under the age of 18. After discussion, Council was not in favor of age restrictions. City Manager Moore will verify what the city's curfew time is.

Announcements:

April 26 Arbor Day; Planting tree at Harlem Walking Trail in memory of former Councilmember Tom Blalock; 11:00 a.m.

April 27 Storybook Walk – *Georgia Caroline Visits City Hall* with Arthur Dr. Randell E. Trammell; Harlem Library

April 27 Harlem High School Alumni Foundation “Legends on the Lawn”; Harlem Library Plaza

May 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting; 6:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building

May 8 Urban Redevelopment Agency Meeting; 9:00 a.m.; City Hall

May 9 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Public Safety Building

May 11 HMA's Mimosa's On Main Event

May 23 Council Work Session & Regular Council Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building

May 27 City Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

With there being nothing further for discussion, Councilmember Reeves made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Councilmember Bellavance. The motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Reeves, Stokes, and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley
City Clerk