



# CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

JULY 25, 2019

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

6:30 PM

305 SOUTH COASTAL HIGHWAY  
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Gary Norton called the meeting to order.

**2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Paul Mongin led in Prayer and Council Member Thomas Barbee led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Pastor Paul Mongin, First Baptist Church of Port Wentworth

**3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Present	
Debbie Johnson	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Linda Smith	Council Member	Present	
Shari Dyal	Council Member	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Bill Herrin	Council Member	Present	
Thomas Barbee	Council Member	Present	
Phil Jones	City Administrator	Present	
James L. Coursey, Jr.	City Attorney	Present	
Shanta Scarboro	Clerk of Council	Present	
Brian Harvey	Director of Development Services	Present	
Tiffany Lancaster	Director of Leisure Services	Present	
Lee Sherrod	Police Major	Present	
William Chamberlain	Lt. Police Department	Present	
David Stahl	Fire Captain	Present	
Chris Lee	Project Manager	Present	

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Mark Stephens made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

**5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

There were none to report.

**6. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

There were none to report.

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Council Member Linda Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2019 Regular City Council. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

- A. City Council - Regular Meeting - Jun 20, 2019 6:30 PM

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Linda Smith, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

**8. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Debbie Johnson read into the minutes the letter received from Whalen Law Firm regarding the Strong Mayor Form of Government under the Port Wentworth City Charter.

City Administrator, Phil Jones stated that he and City Attorney, James L. Coursey, Jr. have been working to update the City Charter and that a meeting will be scheduled with Council to allow for their input. Mr. Jones went on to further state that Mr. Whalen also recommended that the City move to the City Manager form of government to handle the day to day operations once the budget is approved.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council Member Linda Smith made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Committee Reports and make them part of the minutes. Seconded by Council Member Thomas Barbee. Vote was unanimous.

- A. Committee Reports

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Linda Smith, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to approve the adopt the minutes. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

- A. Change Order No. 1 from A. D. Williams Construction Company, Inc., in the Amount of \$3,280.00 for the Keller Road Improvement Project.
- B. Pay Request No. 3 from A. D. Williams Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$38,970.00 for the Keller Road Improvement Project.
- C. Pay Request No. 3 from E & D Contracting Services, Inc., in the amount of \$152,695.41 for the Mobley Park Drainage Improvement Phase I Project.
- D. Pay Request No. 1 from Griffin Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$90,071.55 for the Hendley Road & Monteith Road Improvement Project.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were none to report.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Intergovernmental Agreement for The Use And Distribution Of Proceeds From The 2020 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) For Capital Outlay Projects

City Administrator, Phil Jones was present to discuss this agenda item with Mayor and Council. Mr. Jones stated that items have been identified for the City of Port Wentworth that we would like funded and that this process was submitted along with other municipalities. There is an estimated \$400 million dollars worth of revenue available, most of which will go to Chatham County and the City of Savannah. The rest will be distributed to other cities based on population. Port Wentworth requested \$11 million, but will probably only receive around \$8 million.

Projects that the City requested funding for included replacing the 19,000 linear feet of sewage pipe, monies for various needs for the Police and Fire Department, roads & drainage projects and the recreation facility, which will cost around \$4 million dollars. SPLOST funding will be disbursed over a six (6) year time span.

Mr. Jones asked that Council approve this agenda item, with the deletion of the sewer and water requests as this will not be funded under this SPLOST cycle.

**RESULT:**            **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**            Linda Smith, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**        Mark Stephens, Council Member  
**AYES:**                Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

- B. Memorandum of Agreement for Roadway / Pedestrian Lighting on State Route 25 for Each Approach Leading Up to Overpass, City of Port Wentworth, Chatham Co.

City Administrator, Phil Jones, stated that this agenda item is an agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Port Wentworth in which the City will be responsibility for care, maintenance and up keep in short.

**RESULT:**            **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**            Linda Smith, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**        Debbie Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem  
**AYES:**                Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

- C. Application to Amend the Zoning Map submitted by Phillip McCorkle, McCorkle & Johnson LLP., on behalf of L-A Savannah Crossgate, LLC for PIN #'s 7-0035-01-007 & 7-0035-01-008 (South Side of Crossgate Road) to rezone the properties from EDZ (Economic Development Zone) to P-I-1 (Planned Industrial).

Phillip McCorkle, McCorkle & Johnson LLP, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council. Mr. McCorkle stated that this is the last phase on this project then he went on to give Council the history behind the zoning process for the property.

Council Member Linda Smith asked why the gray wall that went up?  
 Mr. McCorkle stated that the wall was put up so that you will not see trucks on the road, but that the wall will be painted.

Council Member Shari Dyal asked how many jobs will be available at the new facility?  
 Mr. McCorkle stated that based on statistics 300 - 500 jobs will be open.

Mayor Gary Norton added that he attended a meeting on the week of July 21st and asked about the job fair that he was told would take place and wanted to know if and when this was going to happen?  
 Mr. McCorkle responded by stating that a job fair has been planned for August 14, 2019.

Doug Tomlinson, 222 Phillips Avenue, stated that he thinks the construction of the warehouse is a very good thing for Port Wentworth. He further stated, that if it looks anything like Dynacraft it will be a Class A building.

Lauree Morris, 831 Barnsley Road, stated that the Planning and Zoning Board did not deny or not vote in favor of the zoning application because the Board was not aware of what took place in the past. Ms. Morris, went on to say that our citizens did not receive notice until the day of the meeting. She also said that an updated traffic and noise study needs to be completed before voting in favor of. The last study that was done is from 2005 and is a 14 year old study. Ms. Morris pleaded with Council to consider these points and demand that the study be updated before voting.

Jerry Bogus, 908 Barnsley Road, expressed his feelings to Council that they are looking at the boom or bust or what the bust will bring, instead of how another warehouse will affect the people who have to live near it. He went on to ask if anyone has even looked at the requirements (criteria) to re-zone? Mr. Bogus stated that his home is at the end of Barnsley and no barrier or anything else can be put up to reduce the amount of noise the warehouse will bring. He stated that during the last meeting regarding this agenda item, "before the questions could even be asked it was approved. Who are you representing?" "Everyone wants the profit but what about all the other affects that come with the development. No one listened to the people who came to voice their opinion."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Herrin, Barbee

**13. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS**

There were none to report.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Litigation

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to reconvene the Regular City Council. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

Mayor and Council were able to ask questions and express there many concerns regarding the trash services, or lack there of, provided to the residents of Port Wentworth. Bubba Ely - Operations Manager, Ivan Figuero - Municipal Services Manager and Matthew Boylan - Operations Supervisor were present to address all questions/concerns.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Council Member Linda Smith made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

  
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Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 22nd day of August, 2019.

ATTEST:

  
Shanta M. Scarboro, Clerk of Council