



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 22, 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 Mayor Gary Norton led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Present	
Debbie Johnson	Mayor Pro Tem	Absent	
Linda Smith	Council Member	Present	
Shari Dyal	Council Member	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Bill Herrin	Council Member	Absent	
Thomas Barbee	Council Member	Present	
Phil Jones	City Administrator	Present	
James L. Coursey Jr.	City Attorney	Present	
Shanta Scarboro	Clerk of Council	Present	
Tiffany Lancaster	Director of Leisure Services	Present	
Lee Sherrod	Police Major	Present	
Lance Moore	Chief of Fire Operations	Present	
Chris Lee	Project Manager	Present	

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes/additions:

1. Remove Item # C under **NEW BUSINESS** - One Dollar Per Square Foot Developer Fee;
2. Add Item # G under **NEW BUSINESS** - The Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the 2020 Chatham County Complete Count Committee (CCC) requesting each municipality to participate in the 2020 census;
3. Combine Item # A, B and D under **NEW BUSINESS** as it relates to the motion to provide a draft Charter and authorize the City Attorney to move forward; and
4. Add Item # A under EXECUTIVE SESSION - for pending litigation.

Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

There were none to report.

6. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

There are none to report.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council - Regular Meeting - Jul 25, 2019 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Linda Smith, Council Member
SECONDER:	Shari Dyal, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Barbee
ABSENT:	Johnson, Herrin

B. Executive Session - July 25, 2019

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion to accept the July 25, 2019 Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

8. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Tiffany Lancaster, Director of Leisure Services, addressed Mayor and Council regarding the dedication ceremony for the Tommy Thomas Pavilion by offering two dates to have the event. The dates proposed were September 20th and September 27th at 12noon. Phil Jones, City Administrator, suggested to Council to select the September 27th date due to the Mayor being scheduled to be out of town on September 20th. Mrs. Lancaster went on to state that all City staff will be invited due to Tommy Thomas being a former employee and that food will be served.

Lastly, Mrs. Lancaster invited everyone to the Leisure Services Department Family Fun Punkin' Patch Day on October 18th at 6:00 p.m. The fun day will also include an outdoor movie. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Barbee
ABSENT:	Johnson, Herrin

- A. Change Order No. 1 from Curb & Gutter Professionals, Inc., in the Amount of \$4,016.00 for the Highway 21 Sidewalk Improvement Project.
- B. Pay Request No. 1 from Curb & Gutter Professionals, Inc., in the Amount of \$131,661.00 for the Highway 21 Sidewalk Improvement Project.

- C. Pay Request No. 2 from Griffin Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$65,667.78 for the Hendley Road & Monteith Road Improvement Project.
- D. Pay Request No. 4 from A. D. Williams Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$23,310.50 for the Keller Road Improvement Project.
- E. Pay Request No. 4 from E & D Contracting Services, Inc., in the amount of \$43,053.80 for the Mobley Park Drainage Improvement Phase I Project.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none to report.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Port Wentworth City Council Retirement Program

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion during the **Approval of Agenda** to remove this agenda item and combine it with Item # D - Municipal Government Structure: Council - City Manager Form.

Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT: **WITHDRAWN [3 TO 1]**
MOVER: Shari Dyal, Council Member
SECONDER: Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES: Dyal, Stephens, Barbee
NAYS: Smith
ABSENT: Johnson, Herrin

- B. Raise the Residency Requirement for the Office of Mayor and City Council Member

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion during the **Approval of Agenda** to remove this agenda item and combine it with Item # D - Municipal Government Structure: Council - City Manager Form.

Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT: **WITHDRAWN [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Shari Dyal, Council Member
SECONDER: Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Barbee
ABSENT: Johnson, Herrin

- C. One Dollar Per Square Foot Developer Fee

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion during the **Approval of Agenda** to remove this agenda item as more detail is warranted prior to Council taking action. Mayor Gary Norton suggested a Council workshop be

scheduled for more discussion with the City Attorney, James L. Coursey, Jr and City Administrator, Phil Jones.

Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT: DELAYED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Shari Dyal, Council Member
SECONDER: Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Dyal, Stephens, Barbee
ABSENT: Johnson, Herrin

D. Municipal Government Structure: Council-City Manager Form

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion to approve the City Attorney, James L. Coursey, Jr. to move forward in preparing a draft Charter to include:

A. An increase from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for each year served as it relates to the Port Wentworth City Council Retirement Program;

B. Raising the residency requirement for the Office of Mayor and City Council Member; and

C. More detailed information regarding the job duties of a City Manager.

Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

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

E. School Zone Camera Speed Enforcement Program

Blue Line Solutions, LLC CEO was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

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

F. Memorandum of Understanding Between The City of Port Wentworth and Savannah-Chatham County School System

Major Lee Sherrod, Port Wentworth Police Department, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

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

G. Chatham County Board of Commissioners 2020 Census

Phil Jones, City Administrator, informed Council that a representative will be appointed to represent the City of Port Wentworth and that the costs being requested were calculated based on each municipalities population.

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

13. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

There were none to report.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

Council Member Mark Stephens made a motion to convene Executive Session and reconvene the Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Shari Dyal. Vote was unanimous.

A. Pending Litigation

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

DISCUSSION 1

Sabrina Purvis, 13 Laurel Lane, addressed Mayor and Council to express the inconsistencies with the services provided by Republic Services.

Bubba Ely, Operations Manager for Republic Services, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council, as well as the constituents.

DISCUSSION 2

Pastor Dale Montgomery, 615 Meinhard Road, wanted to bring to the attention of Mayor and Council his concerns regarding the rezoning of the Meinhard/Monteith Road area where warehouses are being proposed. Pastor Montgomery stated that as the Pastor of Savannah River Baptist Church, both he and his congregants do not want to see this happen. He went on to further state that he represents not only his family but those who attend his church, as well as the other residents in the community. Pastor Montgomery asked Council to please consider other areas for industrial development and if there is a comprehensive plan that the City can stick to? Is there any plan to update the master plan? Will the developers slip in prior to the update of the plan or will their development not move forward?

Phil Jones, City Administrator, responded to Pastor Montgomery by stating that yes there is a plan in place to complete a re-write of the comprehensive plan.

DISCUSSION 3

Wilbert Hurst, 220 Monteith Road, asked Council why is all the work being done on Monteith Road?

Phil Jones, City Administrator, responded by stating that the City is using SPLOST money to make improvements with respect to the drainage pipes and is not related to the potential warehousing as proposed.

DISCUSSION 4

Jay Andrews, of Savannah, Georgia, asked Council what is behind the \$1 developer fee?

Phil Jones, City Administrator, responded by stating the \$1 fee pertains to large warehouses not to small businesses and that this item was pulled off the agenda to allow for more planning and preparation before providing the public with specific details.

DISCUSSION 5

Janet Hester, 440 Meinhard Road, approached Council to ask if the 20-year comprehensive plan completed in 2016 still applies?

Mrs. Hester went on to further state that Hendley Road is listed as Hendley Drive at the Chatham County Tax Assessors Office. Also, according to the County Meinhard Road is zoned C-5 commercial large track and C-4 is small commercial track and urged Council to please look into making these corrections with the tax assessors office. Mrs. Hester inquired as to whether or not there is a ploy to change the zoning of the land.

Phil Jones, City Administrator, stated that no it is not a ploy to reallocate and change land to something else. The plan can be looked at annually should Council choose too.

DISCUSSION 6

Steve Hester, 440 Meinhard Road, addressed Council regarding whether or not it is the City of Port Wentworth responsibility to maintain the ditches? Mr. Hester stated that he was told by Brian Harvey, Director of Development Services, that we are to mow and keep our own ditches clean. Please look into mowing the ditches all the way up to the railroad tracks as the water from the rain causes trash and back up in the ditches and it looks horrible.

DISCUSSION 7

Jason West, 429 Grange Road, spoke to Council regarding his business license. Mr. West stated that he services over 150 trucks per day and wanted to know exactly why his property was shut down due to being non-compliant.

DISCUSSION 8

Frederick Ferguson, 113 Ferguson Road, explained to Council that the redevelopment on Monteith Road affects the three (3) churches located on the street and due to the improvements the parking for one of the churches has been impeded upon leaving persons nowhere to park in the event of a funeral. Mr. Ferguson also stated that his aunt lives at 109 Ferguson Road and has resulted to taking her grandchildren to and from school due to the school buses not being allowed on Monteith Road. Because of this, he asked that the deadline to finish the work be strictly adhered to or if there is some way to allow the buses through to pickup/drop off the children.

Major Lee Sherrod, Port Wentworth Police Department, responded to Mr. Ferguson's comments by stating that the buses were not told that they cannot enter the road. However, that he will reach out to the Board of Education to get the situation rectified. Major Sherrod stated that to his understanding the buses were told that they would have to enter from the Hendley or HWY 30 side.

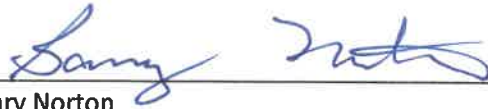
Carrie Smart, 109 Ferguson Road, stated that she spoke with one of the bus drivers who mentioned to her that she was told by a police officer that she would be fined \$150.00 if she drove her school bus onto the road.

Mrs. Smart also went on record to state that Monteith is misspelled on the sign and asked if Council would look into getting this corrected.

Major Sherrod asked Mrs. Smart if she happened to have the numbers for the buses. Mrs. Smart stated that she believes the bus numbers are 619, 229, and 085.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Shari Dyal. Vote was unanimous.



Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 17th day of September, 2019.

ATTEST:



Shanta M. Scarborough, Clerk of Council