



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 27, 2022

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

6:30 PM

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Norton called the meeting to order.

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Paul Mongin led in Prayer and Mayor Norton led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Present	
Thomas Barbee	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Jo Smith	Council Member	Present	
Gabrielle Nelson	Council Member	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Rufus Bright	Council Member	Present	
Glenn Jones	Council Member	Present	
Edwin L. Booth	City Manager	Present	
Shanta Scarboro	Clerk of Council	Present	
Tomi Rikkinen	City Accountant	Absent	
Brian Harvey	Director of Development Services	Present	
Lance Moore	Chief of Fire Operations	Present	
Yolanda Irizarry	Director of Human Resources	Present	
Tiffany Lancaster	Director of Leisure Services	Present	
Matt Libby	Chief of Police	Absent	

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion approve the agenda with the following additions:

1. under **Elections and Appointments** add item 6. C. Accept the resignation of James L. Coursey, Jr. as City Attorney;
2. under **Elections and Appointments** add item 6. D. Appoint Janet Hester and Margo Barbee to the City of Port Wentworth Planning Commission.
3. under **Unfinished Business** accept items 11 .A., 11. B., and 11. C. as one vote;
4. under **New Business** add item 12. G. Award the Hotel/Motel Contract to the existing Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce contingent upon a two (2) business day review by the newly appointed Interim City Attorney;
5. under **New Business** add item 12. H. Budget Adjustments to allow funding for additional staff;
6. under **New Business** add item 12. I. Award the GFAAC Contract contingent upon a two (2) business day review by the newly appointed Interim City Attorney.

Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Fire Fighter of the Year

Chief Lance Moore of the Port Wentworth Fire Department presented the Fire Fighter of the Year Award to Brannen Wilson.

6. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Rufus Bright made a motion to appoint Council Member Thomas Barbee as Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

B. Interim City Attorney Employment Agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee made a motion to appoint Joseph B. Ervin of The Ervin Law Firm, P.C. as the Interim City Attorney. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Stephens, Bright, Jones
RECUSED:	Nelson

C. Accept the Resignation Letter Submitted by James L. Coursey, Jr. City Attorney

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

D. Appointment of Janet Hester and Margo Barbee to the Port Wentworth Planning Commission

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones
RECUSED:	Barbee

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council - Regular Meeting - Dec 16, 2021 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

B. Executive Session Minutes December 16, 2021

Council Member Glenn Jones made a motion to adopt the minutes of the December 16, 2021 Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee. Vote was unanimous.

8. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

A. City Manager Updates

City Manager Edwin Booth updated Mayor and Council on the following matters:

1. Waste Pro of South Carolina Contract being sold to Capital Waste Services, LLC (CWS, LLC).
2. Growth the Development Services Department is experiencing which is the reason for the request to expand into an additional office suite.
3. The need for an Impact Fee Resolution to complete the implementation of the impact fee.
4. The need for additional staffing for the City, particularly maintenance workers to cover what is not listed in the ClearWater Solutions, LLC contract.
5. The completion of Rice Hope pipe repairs south of Rice Creek.
6. Closing of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway lift station and putting in a septic tank for a rough estimated cost of \$6,000.00 as compared to a cost of \$200,000.00 to repair the lift station.
7. Closing of the Houston Museum burial grounds to new burials.
8. The resignation of two Administrative Staff Members, the Director of Human Resources, Yolanda Irizarry and Municipal Clerk II, Amanda Ramos.
9. Budget change of \$115,000.00 for the Police Department to allow purchases needed to replace the GPS System in all City vehicles, police radios, and a new server/SQL License.
10. That J.C. Lewis Healthcare will be in the parking lot of City Hall on Saturday, February 5th to offer FREE COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and booster shots.
11. ClearWater Solutions, LLC hired a company to pickup all illegal waste throughout the City.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

10. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- A. Antrim Road Roadway Improvements Pay Request No. 1
- B. Red Robin Court Roadway Improvements Pay Request No. 2

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Site Plan Review Application Lakeside at Rice Hope Phases 20-23 & 29A (Specific)

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- B. Subdivision Application Lakeside Ph 23 Preliminary Plat

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- C. Subdivision Application Lakeside Ph 29A Preliminary Plat

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposal to Expand Office Space for the Development Services Department

Council Member Glenn Jones made a motion to approve the expansion of the Development Services Department to Suites 302 and 303. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application Package Shop & Sunday Sales Rice Hope Liquors

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER: Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- C. Alcoholic Beverage License Application Package Shop & Sunday Sales Port City Spirit

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER: Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES: Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- D. Subdivision Application FINAL PLAT A Major Subdivision of Tract 1-1, The Plantation of Rice Hope

Council Member Glenn Jones made a motion to approve the Subdivision Application Final Plat, contingent upon Mr. Paul Herrin's approval. Seconded by Council Member Rufus Bright. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- E. Site Plan Review Application StopNStor Expansion 8901 Hwy 21 (General)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- F. Zoning Map Amendment 7-0976-01-005 920 Hwy 30 1st Reading
 Josh Yellin was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.
 No action (vote) was taken on this agenda item as it was first reading.

The following residents spoke in opposition of the project:
 LaRay Benton, 135 Saussy Road
 Trevor Ferguson, 6 Laurel Road
 Abraham Manor, 11 Laurel Road
 Janet Hester, 440 Meinhard Road
 Julius Robinson, 225 Grant Road

- G. Award the Hotel/Motel Contract to the Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the award of the Hotel/Motel contract to the Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce contingent upon a two (2) business day review by the newly appointed Interim City Attorney. Seconded by Council Member Jo Smith. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Jo Smith, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- H. Budget Adjustment to Hire Additional City Staff

Council agreed to discuss this matter further during a scheduled City Council Workshop to be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

- I. Award the GFAAC Contract

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the award of the GFAAC Contract contingent upon a two (2) business day review by the newly appointed Interim City Attorney. Seconded by Council Member Rufus Bright. Vote was unanimous.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones
RECUSED:	Smith

13. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

There were none to report.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were none to report.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Dale Montgomery, 615 Meinhard Road, addressed Mayor and Council regarding drainage issues. Willie Johnson, 250 Meinhard Road, voiced his concerns regarding missed trash pickup at his sisters property, truck traffic on the road and the water runoff issues at the Promised Land Farm.

David Brisbane, 749 Highway 30, discussed trash concerns.

Chris Ruth, 202 Turnberry Street, expressed to Mayor and Council the problems the excessive travel of dump trucks up and down Crossgate Road are causing.

Morris Glover, 110 Miller Park Circle, spoke on the recent burial of a Reynolds Family relative at the Houston Museum.

Vince Vaughn, asked for a copy of the January 27, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting minutes and what employees the City will use to clean the ditches? He also stated that as a business man he has never seen someone so pushy to get a contract approved, as he referred to the GFAAC Contract.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

Shanta M. Scarboro, Clerk of Council