



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

JULY 12, 2022

Council Meeting Room

Regular Workshop

6:30 PM

7224 HIGHWAY 21

PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee called the meeting to order.

2. WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion on Ordinance Rewrite

City manager Steve Davis explained how he and his staff have reached out to some consulting and planning groups to assist us in an ordinance rewrite, and to put together a plan and scope of service to show what we can do, and we can do it. The initial phase is to do an audit of our ordinances, which would be them coming in to meet with staff and review what is currently in the statutes now. We will discuss the issues and give them the minutes from the last year that they will review for both city council and planning and zoning. This will take about thirty days. There have been issues trying to find someone who is capable of doing this right now, however, we were able to get three options. The first two options would be from a full time planning group which would be either Horizon Community Planning or Three Point Planning. These are professional planning groups and not just individuals. Their services have been utilized in different cities and municipalities around the country. The third option would be the Coastal Regional Commission, which would probably be the cheapest option. However, none of the options will be able to do it within the six months, and normally these studies take between twelve to eighteen months. The most aggressive option would be Horizon because they gave a nine month window for completion, and also stated that they would help stage it in phases. One of the key topics that was discussed with Horizon was the architectural review and standards that has been lacking. Horizon will also hold town hall meetings with the community and have meetings with the council and staff, and then they will come back and present the final presentation.

Council Member Rufus Bright asked if all of the options provided will have the architectural plans? Mr. Davis said that they will provide similar services.

Council Member Mark Stephens stated that the looking at the letters that were provided from the two planning groups Horizon seems to go into a bit of more detail, and he also thinks that getting an outside source is a good idea. Mr. Davis said that all companies are capable of providing the services we need, but Horizon was the strongest option of the three and was willing to put the work in to get it done closer to our time schedule.

Council Member Gabrielle Nelson Concurred with Council Members Stephens that getting a fresh look from an outside professional opinion would be a good route for us to go, and the timing is very crucial right now being that we are already a month into the moratorium. She also wanted to know if they had any examples that we can go by to see how their services were used. City Attorney stated that their website has a few examples. Mrs. Nelson asked if research can be done to make sure that the cities on their websites have done business with them.

Council Member Barbee also agreed that Horizon would be the better option at this time. He also asked if they needed a confirmation within a specific time period. Mr. Davis explained that they had not given him a specific time period, however, if they wanted to proceed that they would need to add it to the regular meeting agenda.

Council Member Bright also concurred with his colleagues.

B. Honoring Debbie Johnson

Council Member Stephens asked if we could go ahead and start the process of naming the Council Chamber floor after Mrs. Debbie Johnson who was the previous Mayor Pro-Tem. Mr. Davis said that yes, we need to go ahead and move this up on the priority list.

C. Update on Gymnasium

Council Member Barbee asked on the update with the gymnasium. Mr. Davis stated that he spoke to Mr. Long and the original quote that came in was over 4 million dollars, however, it was built to a standard that was wider than it needed to be, so it was scaled down so we are now at 3 million dollars and that is still a high number. Mr. Davis said that another option would be to go through the wetlands instead. Mr. Davis said that he would like some direction from the council.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee adjourned the workshop.
