



# CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 15, 2022

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 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**

Council Member Rufus Bright led in prayer and Major from the 8U Youth football team led 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	Absent	

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

A. 8U Youth Football- CAA 2022 Champions

The Mayor and Council presented the team with the team with the championship trophy going 8-0, and recognized the coaches and parents as well.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

A. Georgia Benton

Georgia Benton discussed the following topic(s):

- Ditches
- Thanked Councilwoman Nelson
- Issue Notifications

B. LaRay Benton

LaRay Benton discussed the following topic(s):

- Budget Amendment
- Industrial Moratorium Extension

**7. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

**8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2022

B.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

**9. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

A. New Park Update

City Manager Steve Davis gave an update on the Park and shared a Drawing with the council and explained what the park consisted of, and proposed some changes as well. He also explained that they did a tree survey and that the circles that were on the drawing were legacy trees. He stated that he is also communicating with the YMCA as well.

Councilwoman Nelson stated that we need to find a way of transportation to get the children from the school to this area, so that they can be involved in after school programs and having the YMCA could help with that. The Mayor said that could work for summer programs as well. Councilwoman Nelson asked what the time frame would be and Mr. Davis said that they are closing on the properties at this time. However, they hope for a ground breaking in February 2023.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Police Department

Councilman Bright stated that he rode with one of the officers this past week and he didn't get to see them do their job, but was just driven on the scenic route. He told Chief Libby that he wanted to see the action because he wants to see what the citizens are talking about.

Chief Libby explained that unfortunately it wasn't a busy night, but his number one priority is his safety. He also stated that each officer has a camera and can show what they are doing during a stop.

Councilman Bright asked about de-escalation training and Chief Libby that he believes that it is going very well and that police officers are only required to have 20 hours of continuing training hours but he requires 80 hours of training to make sure that they are taking the measures that they can.

B. Clearwater Solutions

Councilman Stephens asked for an update from Clearwater on the list of the things that were supposed to be getting fixed. Mr. Jay Jones stated that it is about 60-70 percent done, and Clearwater meets everyday with the city manager to discuss any and all concerns.

C.

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

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Sewer Overflow Response Plan 12/2022
- B. Agreement between CSX Transportation and the City of Port Wentworth (12" Force Main Railroad Crossing)
- C. Well #1 Repair at Appleby Rd.

## 12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Amendment to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System, Defined Benefit Retirement Plan- 2nd Reading

Mr. Davis explained that this was the second reading and a hearing/discussion was had on whether we move it from 25 to 50 or 100 dollars and the 100 dollars was chosen and is what is placed before them. Everything else stayed the same. This is also in conjunction with GMA standard, and this will only be going forward. He also explained that every cities retirement plan is different, but it does have to go through an approval process with the pension board.

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

- B. Budget Amendment for The Year Ending 6/30/2023- 2nd Reading

Mr. Davis explained that this was a second reading and that this was discussed at the previous meeting, but he also re-informed the council that this amendment cleaned up some mid-year pay adjustments and SPLOST reallocation for the Fire Department.

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

- C. Redistricting- 2nd Reading

Mr. Davis explained that this was a second reading for this agenda item. He also stated that a public hearing was held, all of the required advertising was done, and that it meets all the guidelines.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

### 13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Site Plan Review Application submitted by White Oak Development Partners, LLC on behalf of PWJB, LLC., for PIN #'s 70906 04033 and 70906 04034 (5 & 7 Magnolia Blvd) for a General Development Site Plan to allow a Self-Storage Facility (Silo Self Storage) in a M-P-O (Master Plan Overlay) Zoning District

Kennon Strowd with Roberts Civil engineering came and discussed the site plan review that was placed before council.

Councilwoman Nelson asked if they would be doing any fencing, and he said that they wanted to keep with the aesthetic of Rice Hope so they will not have a fence. Mayor Norton asked if the police or fire needed to get in how would they, and would they have enough space. He stated that he would have to ask about that, and Chief Libby explained that they would be required to include a Knox box.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [4 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Smith, Stephens, Bright
<b>NAYS:</b>	Nelson
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

- B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application submitted by Shahid Mehmood for a Beer / Wine and Sunday Sales License for Mehmood Traders 2022, LLC., DBA Fast Market (7308 Highway 21) located in a P-C-1 (Planned Neighborhood Business) Zoning District

The Business owner came in and explained that they have just recently obtained the property and have already begun doing renovations and was now before council to obtain the alcoholic beverage license.

Councilman Stephens asked if this was a transfer and the owner said yes.

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

### 14. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

- A. City Council meeting dates for 2023.

Mr. Davis shared a 2023 Council Meeting Schedule with the council and explained that there was a change in the schedule that requested for extra quarterly meetings instead of an extra meeting every other month.

Councilwoman Nelson explained that February 9th was Savannah-Chatham Day, so it was decided that this meeting would be rescheduled for March 9, 2023.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Smith, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

B. Industrial Moratorium Extension

Mr. Davis explained that the Industrial Moratorium was set to expire at the end of the month and we are still active within the ordinance rewrite. They are on schedule to be completed by their March deadline, but we are asking for an extension until the end of April or until Council adopts the new ordinance, because adopting the new ordinance will take two readings.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [4 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>NAYS:</b>	Smith
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Stephens made a motion to go into executive session and it was second by Councilman Bright. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Barbee made a motion to reconvene and it was second by Councilman Stephens. The vote was unanimous.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Council Member Gabrielle Nelson 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zahnay Smoak, Clerk of Council