

## MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF WATKINSVILLE

June 15, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

**NOTE OF RECORD:** These summarize the action at the council meeting. For full discussion at this meeting, a full video recording is available online at [www.cityofwatkinsville.com](http://www.cityofwatkinsville.com).

**PRESENT:** Brodrick, Massey, Campbell, Garrett, Thomas, Tucker, Reitman, Dickerson, Brock, and Klein. Brodrick opened the in person public and simultaneous online broadcast SuiteOne video meeting of June 15, 2022, at 6:30 PM. In attendance in person at City Hall were 2 citizens.

**WELCOME:** At 6:30 PM, Brodrick opened the meeting.

**QUORUM CHECK:** At 6:30 PM, Brodrick acknowledged a quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Brodrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. At 6:32 PM, Tucker moved to approve May 18, 2022, minutes of the public hearing on the proposed 2022 Millage Rate as presented. Garrett second. *Opportunity for discussion.* Motion carried 5 to 0.
2. At 6:33 PM, Tucker moved to approve May 18, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented. Garrett second. *Opportunity for discussion.* Motion carried 5 to 0.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At 6:34 PM, Tucker moved to approve agenda, with changes: Add 13a under New Business –Local Option Sales Tax Distribution; Add Item 17 –July meeting date; and Table Item 12 – Hotel/Motel Excise Tax. Thomas second. *Opportunity for discussion.* Motion carried 5 to 0.

### ADMINISTRATION

**Public Input Process:** At 6:34 PM, Brodrick summarized the public input, if anyone wished to address Council they could do so at the noted times on the agenda or at the discretion of Council. Per City Code Section 2-26(d), comments should be related to items on the agenda, speak from the podium, no more than 4 minutes / person, and Council does not allow debate, argument, personal attacks, or irrelevant discussion.

3. **Employee Recognition: Marc Novak:** At 6:35, Brodrick recognized Novak's landscaping work around the bridge on Harden Hill Road and around City Hall including reviving the roses and properly pruning the crepe myrtles. He explained Novak has a background in horticulture and was a professional landscaper prior to joining the City. Brodrick expressed appreciation for the work and excitement about the forthcoming plans, especially at Harris Shoals Park.

4. **Financial Reports – General, Fund Reserve, SPLOST I, II, III, and ARPA funds:**

At 6:38 PM, Dickerson provided monthly financial reports including a summary of balances for each fund.

5. **Economic Development Reports – Business Licenses, Building Permits:**

At 6:40 PM, Dickerson reported 29 business licenses and 18 building permits received, collecting \$10,019.25 in licensing, and permitting fees in May.

6. **Police Department Report:**

At 6:42 PM, Brock provided his monthly report and an update on strategies to address speeding. He provided detail regarding the VMS placed in various locations throughout the City. He noted when the sign was originally placed the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 39 mph in a 25-mph zone. Since then, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile has decreased to 31 mph. The VFW Drive eastbound data has an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of 30 mph and the westbound average at 29 mph. The speed limit on VFW is 25. South Main Street sign shows the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is 38 mph with a speed limit of 35. Greensboro Highway, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is 50 mph with a speed limit of 45.

Chief hired two part-time employees: Mark Goodman (a Sergeant from Madison County) and William Charles (an Atlanta PD retiree) and one full-time employee: Allan Krish, who joined the City as part-time but recently requested full-time. Cadet Ryan Anglin will be graduating on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the Classic Center. Cadet Rachel Stearns will graduate from her public safety training on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Chief is working to fill positions and is vetting one internal candidate who will likely attend Piedmont's public safety training in August.

The License Plate Reader system has reported many expired tags this month. Citations are mailed by OmniQ directly to violators. The system is beneficial and was recently used in a possible case of animal abuse, which turned out to be accidental; however, Chief noted that it was good to have the data to be able to identify the violator. There will be a link on the City website to allow those who receive tickets to pay online. OmniQ will then submit to the city its portion of the ticket revenue.

Chief reported on two other matters, one involving an officer removing a highly modified Glock from a vehicle without incident, and the other related to a single vehicle crash which resulted in a fatality.

Brodrick expressed his appreciation for the work of the police department and noted that it was good to have speed data as it helps to show there is meaningful progress to slow down traffic.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **7. Approve Budget Amendment**

##### **8. Revise Funding Sources Associated with Contract Awarded for Demolition, Grading, and Construction of City Hall Sidewalk**

At 6:52 PM, Tucker moved to approve consent agenda. Thomas second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public Input Process:** Per City Code 2-26(d), comments should be related to items on the agenda, speak from the podium, no more than 4 minutes / person, and Council does not allow debate, argument, personal attacks, or irrelevant discussion.

##### **9. Public Input on proposed 2022 Property Tax Millage Rate:**

At 6:54 PM, Dickerson provided a brief summary. Brodrick then opened the public hearing. No comments. Brodrick closed public hearing at 6:55 PM.

##### **10. Public Input on proposed Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Capital and Operating Budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):**

At 6:55 PM, Dickerson provided a summary of the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget noting two changes: adding revenue for alcohol beverage taxes and adjusted revenue from Local Option Sales Taxes reflecting 8.63% until January, then 7.7% for the remainder of the year. The changes reflect the need for \$133,859 appropriation from fund balance (Resolution and Exhibits attached) to balance the proposed FY23 budget. At 6:56 PM, Brodrick opened the public hearing. No comments. Brodrick closed the hearing at 6:57 PM.

#### **APPEARANCES**

##### **11. Beer/Wine Pouring and Brewery License Application for South Main Brewing, LLC (Stanton Porter):**

At 6:58 PM, Klein noted all documentation for this application is complete except for the Letter of Credit which she anticipated tomorrow.

Stanton Porter stated they received approval for the brewery in April. The next step will be temporary local license for brewery and pouring, which is needed to submit for the state application. The bond for the brewery will be a letter of credit of \$3500. They are hoping for an August opening.

At 7:01 PM, Thomas moved to approve the Pouring and Brewery Alcohol Licenses for South Main Brewing, LLC subject to the Letter of Credit within 7 business days of this Council meeting. Campbell second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 4 to 1. Massey opposed.

**12. ORDINANCE: Adopt Hotel-Motel Excise Tax:**

Tabled with agenda approval to allow additional time for more information and finalize the amendment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**13. ORDINANCE: Adopt Excise Tax on Distilled Spirits by the Drink:**

At 7:02 PM, Thomas moved to adopt excise tax on distilled spirits by the drink. Tucker second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

**13a. Consider Local Option Sales Tax Certificate of Distribution:**

At 7:07 PM, Garrett moved to approve resolution to set the Local Option Sales Tax at 7.77%, which will be for 10 years and start January 1, 2023. Campbell second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Brodrick noted the 7.77% will also apply to all future SPLOST and TSPLOST agreements with the County. In response to an inquiry from Tucker, Brodrick stated the City will receive 8.637% until the end of December 2022, and 7.77% from January 1, 2023 forward, including Costco sales tax once the business opens.

**14. RESOLUTION and ADOPTION of 2022 Property Tax Millage Rate:**

At 7:08 PM, Tucker moved to adopt 2022 Property Tax Millage Rate at 2.081. Garrett second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

**15. RESOLUTION and ADOPTION of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):**

At 7:09 PM, Tucker moved to adopt Fiscal Year 2023 Budget including the Resolution as presented with exhibits. Thomas second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

**16. Ratify Emergency Road Work on Layle Lane:**

Manager Dickerson provided a report.

At 7:13 PM, Tucker moved to approve \$45,121.92 from SPLOST III: Roads, Bridges, & Streets for the emergency repair work on Layle Lane completed by the County Road Department. Thomas second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 4 to 0. Garrett recused. Dickerson noted \$19,907.50 would come from the remaining balance in the Fiscal Year 2022 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Resurfacing Project and \$25,214.42 from 2021 SPLOST III, Roads, Streets, and Bridges category, from planned future LMIG matching funds, which are estimated in excess of what staff projects will be needed.

**17. July meeting date:**

At 7:15 PM, Tucker moved to approve the July council meeting on July 13, 2022, at 6:30 PM. Garrett second. *Opportunity for discussion*. Motion carried 5 to 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

At 7:15 PM, Brodrick shared the news of the opening of ESP's Miracle League Ball Field. He thanked Campbell for speaking at the event. Dickerson played a clip from an NBC News story about the opening. Brodrick thanked ESP, Council, John Daniell and the County, and staff for all the hard work. He noted it is amazing to see what has happened in just seven years since ESP broke ground on their main building.

Brodrick recognized and congratulated Jared Reeves, owner and operator of Certified Clean Care, for being a local business featured in Georgia Trend Magazine.

Brodrick attended an event on June 11<sup>th</sup> to recognize Women Veterans Day. He shared a picture from the event and pointed out former Mayor Giardini's daughter who was in attendance. He expressed appreciation for their service and acknowledged Dory and Steve Brown and the John Andrew Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, who sponsored the event.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**18. Chuck Garrett:** At 7:21 PM, no report.

**19. Connie Massey:** At 7:21 PM, several citizens told her recently that vehicles are not stopping at the stop signs at Thrasher, School, and Third Streets. She expressed concern about large trucks parking in spaces behind Eagle Tavern with part of their vehicle in the roadway. She suggested having them install "compact cars only" signs and enforcing it. Brodrick asked Brock to check into this matter.

**20. Brett Thomas:** At 7:22 PM, Thomas shared that Elmer Weatherford was the mayor of Watkinsville 65 years ago when Anaconda built its factory on Barnett Shoals Road. He noted there was an article about it in The Oconee Enterprise. Larry Weatherford is working to obtain a copy of it. It will be nice to see the thread about thoughts from citizens then about the Anaconda plant especially in light of the Wire Park upgrades of the facility today. Thomas reminded everyone that July 4<sup>th</sup> is coming up and asked citizens to turn the city red, white, and blue once again. Brodrick asked him to work with Angela to get a press release out. Thomas also shared that Bob Marable is working on the OCAF gardens.

**21. Christine Tucker:** At 7:24 PM, Tucker shared that she had another meeting of the subcommittee for the old playground and plans to partner with different organizations, like OCAF, on the project. Tucker reminded everyone that Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> the city will be handing out popsicles at the Playground of Possibilities from 4 PM to 6 PM. Brodrick noted 3 signs in Harris Shoals Park which show plans for the park improvements. Tucker added, Summer Fest will be on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 PM to 6 PM at the Civic Center.

**22. Jeff Campbell:** At 7:26 PM, no report.

**ADJOURN**

At 7:27 PM, Tucker moved to adjourn. Campbell second. *Opportunity for discussion.* Motion carried 5 to 0.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**JULIE A. KLEIN, CMC**