

On Monday, April 11, 2022 the council meeting was called to order by Mayor Nash at 7:00 p.m. All council members were present and it was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item of business was to approve the agenda. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.

After the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, all present were reminded of the Rules of Decorum for a public meeting.

The next item of business was approval of minutes. All council members had previously read all minutes. Council member Blakeley motioned to approve the minutes of the council meeting of March 14, 2022, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous. Council member Askvig motioned to approve the minutes of the work session of March 28, 2022, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous. Council member Watts motioned to approve the minutes for the emergency meeting of April 4, 2022, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was to replace the "Zoning Committee" previously voted on, with a "Land Use Advisory Committee". Council member Watts made this a motion, seconded by council member Keith. After some discussion to clarify the legality of having certain individuals on a Land Use Advisory Committee as opposed to a zoning committee, the vote in favor of this motion was unanimous. Council member Watts motioned to name the previously nominated members to the committee, being Joe Nash, Keith Summerour, Chip Perdue, Gary Alford and Greg Westbury. Council member Askvig seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

In an effort to diversify the committee, council member Watts asked Shellie Lester, who was in attendance, if she would consider being on this committee as well, and she said she would like more information first, but it seemed like something she would be interested in.

Next on the agenda was Historical Preservation. Council member Keith said some work was done, but it was some time in the past and it is unknown whether it was done with/through the Historical Society. More information is needed in order to continue and council member Keith said she will get

information and report on it. Further discussion was tabled until such time as information is available.

Next item for discussion was our Charter. It was recommended by council member Watts that we ask Rep. Buckner for her opinion as to whether the charter needs amended and if so, ask for her help.

Council member Watts also asked if our alcoholic beverage ordinance also includes distilled spirits, or just wine and beer, and how our charter is affected by it.

The next item for discussion was getting a municipal attorney for our Town. Clerk had contacted one but was told he does not specialize in municipal law and at this time he does not have the time to do so since his office is so small.

Council members Askvig and Keith both mentioned names of attorneys they had been told about. Clerk will make contact and see if any of these would be interested in representing Gay.

The next item on the agenda was the Special Events Ordinance. At the recently held emergency meeting, it was decided that the effective date of the ordinance would have to be amended to be after the spring fair. It was determined that for the spring fair the various fair operators and a local business owner would pay actual costs for Meriwether County deputies, an emergency evacuation plan and, if required, for EMC presence.

Mayor Nash said the cost for EMC's will be \$250.00 each day and the rate for the deputies will still be \$25.00 per hour for each deputy. She still recommends the fairs use the approximate number of vendors to arrive at an equitable figure.

The Evacuation plan will not cost anything, however, the State Patrol, Georgia 911, Sheriff's Department and the fair owners must still work together to create a revised Emergency Evacuation Plan to have in place.

Council member Keith motioned that the Special Events Ordinance be amended to have the effective date changed to May 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The last item on the agenda was monthly work sessions. Council member Blakeley motioned that after the work session already scheduled for April 25, 2022, future sessions be called only when an actual need arises. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Under additional business, council member Keith asked if there was any new information on the seemingly unsafe house on Caldwell Street. Mayor Nash said we have to get an attorney involved before we attempt any legal action. Financial documents were available but there were no questions nor discussion.

As there was no further business to discuss, council member Watts motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ruth Nash – Mayor

Sharon Richmond - Clerk

