

**PEMBROKE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Pembroke City Council was held on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Judy B. Cook; Councilmembers Tiffany Walraven, Ernest Hamilton, Karen Lynn, Diane Moore and Johnnie Miller. Attorney Dana Braun and City Clerk, Sharroll Fanslau were also present.

CALL TO ORDER . . . The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cook.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE . . . Councilman Johnnie Miller gave the invocation and led the pledge.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES . . . A motion to adopt the minutes as presented of the April 10, 2017 council meeting was made by Karen Lynn, seconded by Diane Moore and agreed upon by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS . . . none

PROCLAMATION. . . Municipal Clerks Week – The Mayor read a Proclamation declaring the week of May 7 through May 13, 2017 as National Municipal Clerks Week. Mayor Cook presented both the City Clerk, Sharroll Fanslau and the Deputy City Clerk, Arlene Hobbs, with certificates.

GMEBS – Retirement Benefit Adoption Agreement – 2nd reading and Adoption . . . A motion to dispense with the reading of the entire document was made by Tiffany Walraven, second was made by Karen Lynn and agreed upon by all. A motion to adopt the Retirement Benefit Agreement as presented was made by Tiffany Walraven, seconded by Diane Moore and agreed upon by all.

ALCOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – Title 7 Chapter 3 – 2nd reading and adoption . . . Attorney Dana Braun explained the amendment to Mayor, Council, and attendees. A motion to adopt the amendment was made by Tiffany Walraven, seconded by Johnnie Miller and agreed upon by all.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS . . .

Police – Chief Alexander reported that Officers Bacot and Wayne were on medical leave. Both were job related injuries. Johnnie Miller asked how our hiring process is and what must an officer do to qualify. The Chief responded that they must qualify even if they are former officers. That normally takes two weeks to one month.

Downtown Development Authority – Alex Floyd made everyone aware of the official recognition of the “Thomas Waters Park” dedication and the “Gloria Eason” dedication, both held during Georgia Cities Week. He also mentioned the city pool will open on May 27. On May 29, there will be a Memorial Day Service held at 11:00 a.m. in downtown at the Thomas Waters Park. On June 8 there will be a sunset walking tour from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The DDA plans to rework packets this summer for businesses. Floyd also reported on his recent facebook challenge which increased followers from 846 to over 1100 forcing him to spend the night in the original city jail.

No other department reports were given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS . . . none

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REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE . . . The clerk presented a request for a street closure of Bucks Lane on May 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. A motion to deny the request was made by Johnnie Miller, seconded by Diane Moore and agreed upon by all.

PLANNING AND ZONING / PUBLIC HEARING . . . The following requests were made by Dain Reams, Planning and Zoning.

- a. Re-zoning for property located at 108 N College – this request is considered the first reading of R1 and B3 property and requires a second reading, motion, and adoption at next council. A motion was made by Tiffany Walraven seconded by Karen Lynn and agreed upon by all. First Reading
- b. Trailer placement for Dukes at corner of Taylor and Cherry – Planning and Zoning recommended approval with repairs being made completely on or before first week of July. If not, then mobile home must be removed no later than the first week of August. A motion was made by Johnnie Miller to postpone the decision, a second was made by Tiffany Walraven and agreed upon by all.
- c. Letters of Notice to Rezone AR-1 to R-1 (approximately 230 parcels) were sent out as Mr. Reams explained. Any property over 5 acres would be omitted and also conservation areas with a minimum of 5 acres. There are no home offices in AR-1 and setbacks cannot be met on smaller acreage. Those properties are grandfathered as is by both the city or county tax base and not by zoning according to Bryan County. Any property owner may request to opt out with valid reason. However, that request must be presented to City Council and must meet with their approval. In June, we will plan the 1st reading of the ordinance to rezone with any exemptions. The second reading and adoption will follow in July. Poultry will be grandfathered in as per the City attorney. Public comments were allowed as an open session. The following residents spoke:

Tim Jackson – regarding conservation concerns

Dennis Odum – regarding tax concerns

Debra Odum – regarding land concern

Laura and Dan Yawn and Agnes Carter – regarding farming and livestock

Sharon Cook – regarding wild hogs. This was addressed by Chief Alexander saying they could obtain a nuisance permit through DNR

Tiffany Walraven mentioned the feral cat issues within the city

Pam Geiger – regarding heir property

Michael Butler – regarding the benefit to the land owner and the city. Tiffany Walraven responded that the city could possibly gain opportunities such as grants, etc. Dana Braun responded that it did not make any difference whether or not the city would ever be allowed to take property, but that was not the intent. The Mayor responded that Council wanted to be crystal clear. We want “controlled growth” making it easier for our citizens.

Jackie Butler – regarding taxes being raised stating that she wants the honest truth and thanked the Mayor and Council for the meeting.

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Alex Floyd – regarding his support as both a city employee and a land owner defending the city in saying it was not required to send letters regarding this but chose to as a matter of openness.

Charlotte Bacon – Chair of Planning and Zoning explained setbacks for different zoning and what that could mean.

Robert Adkins – asked what if any benefit from federal or state grants would be. Tiffany Walraven answered with examples of different funding opportunities as a rural community.

Johnnie Miller responded and stated again that the council is trying to control growth in the right direction.

Tiffany Walraven requested that letters be sent again to property owner of 5 acres of more or with conservation acreage assuring them of no rezoning.

Johnnie Miller agreed stating again that grandfathering of certain items, such as poultry, goats etc. would be in place and there would be no tax increase by the city due to this rezoning. Dain Reams was assigned by the Mayor and Council to accept any requests for opt out approval. Dana Braun confirmed that this was only a public hearing and must be placed as an amendment to our zoning and presented to council twice. Opt out requests must be made to council and council would decide whether or not to allow the opt out on a case by case request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) – Discussion, Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate . . . A motion was made by Johnnie Miller to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Ernie Hamilton and agreed upon by all. A motion to return to regular session was made by Johnnie Miller, seconded by Karen Lynn and agreed upon by all.

LAND ACQUISITION . . . A motion to ratify a land purchase for the water / well project in Bulloch County from Elvie Owens and enter into contract was made by Diane Moore, second was made by Karen Lynn and agreed upon by all. Tiffany Walraven recused herself. (Contract attached)

ADJOURNMENT Having no further business to come before the City Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Diane Moore, seconded by Johnnie Miller and agreed upon by all.

ATTEST:

Sharroll Fanslau, City Clerk

Judy B. Cook, Mayor