



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636
City Hall 229-559-7470
Fax 229-559-7499

City of Lake Park Regular Meeting
April 4, 2017
7:30 PM

Agenda

Swearing in of Rubinell McDonald

Minutes – March 7

Financial – March 2017 review

Citizens' Concerns

Ordinance 114 - Lake Park Veterans Park – first reading

DOT information on Ponds/Trails

Cemetery Policy

Resolution 2017-04-04 - Georgia City's Week

Department reports

Citizens' Concerns

Admin/Executive Reports



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Minutes

Swearing in of Rubinell McDonald

Mayor Schindler called the Regular Meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation.

Those present were as follows; Mayor Schindler, Mayor Pro Tem Debbie Sauls, Council Members Ronald Carter, Rubinell McDonald, and Jena Sandlin, Attorney Rob Plumb, Clerk Tabatha Fowler, Maintenance Supervisor Patterson, Fire Chief Brown, Police Chief Breletic, and citizens.

Mayor called on Council to review minutes from March 7 Regular Meeting. Member Carter made a motion to accept the minutes as read, member McDonald second the motion, when question called all in favor minutes approved.

Mayor asked Council to review the March 2017 financials. Member Carter made a motion to accept as reported, Member Sauls second, all in favor motion passed.

Citizens' Concerns

Valdosta Police Chief Brian Childress – expressed appreciation and thankfulness for the Lake Park Police Department and Chief James Breletic.

Laura Minchew, Rivera Prada, congratulated Mrs. McDonald on election, and also praised City Mayor and Council and the Lake Park Police and Fire Departments.

Tony Taylor, Long Pond Rd, introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Lake Park Area Chamber of Commerce and also thanked the Lake Park Police Department for all their hard work and stated appreciation for Police Chief Breletic.

Mayor called for the first reading of Ordinance 114, Lake Park Veterans Park. No action taken.

Mayor asked Police Chief Breletic for information regarding agenda item DOT information on Ponds/Trails. Chief Breletic stated that his research had concluded that there were no monies available for Pond or Trail grants through DOT. No action taken.

Mayor asked Council to respond to the proposed Cemetery "Flower" Policy. Mayor read policy aloud and Council made edits to the text. Mayor stated that text changes will be done and they will re-approach in May for review and vote.

Mayor read the Resolution 2017-04-04 - Georgia City's Week.

Mayor called for department reports;

Fire Chief David Brown gave review of March calls and fire department action.(see report attached) Chief Brown also announced the Fire Department Appreciation Breakfast will be held Saturday April 29 at 9:00 AM at the fire station, and asked for those planning to attend to RSVP. Brown also reported that he wanted to say a big thank you to Jeff Patterson and his community service workers that worked two weekends in a row to hang hoses and lines from the ceiling and cleared the floor of any fall hazards. Also stated he wanted to thank Preferred Rental for their donation of a lift to enable the work to be done. Chief Brown also asked for Council to consider changing the fire volunteers from a 1099 to a W2 tax form. He stated that 1099 were primarily for sub contracted employees, provide their own equipment & insurance. He further stated that the county uses W2's and that the use of 1099 takes more money out of the pocket of the volunteer firemen at the end of the year. Mayor explained that a change in the filing would end up costing the city more money in the long run, and would like to speak to auditor before council makes a decision. Chief Brown stated that he understood that the auditor was supposed to be in attendance tonight to help explain, but that he understood.

Police Chief James Breletic gave review of March calls, arrest, patrolling, and criminal activity. Breletic reiterated that he would like Council approval in increasing the Crime Lab fee on citations from \$5.00 to \$10, Mayor advised they would need to check with legal counsel and they could re-approach in May. Chief Breletic announced the early planning stage of the July 4th Celebration and advised Council that they would again be donating 10% of all Raffle proceeds to the Lake Park Veterans Memorial Park. Celebration is tentatively set for Friday June 30 and Saturday July 1, 2017. He stated that more information would be coming soon. Chief asked for Council approval to allow him and the Mayor to approach Lowndes County School Board to inquire about the Lake Park Elementary Officer position. Member Sauls made a motion to allow Chief and Mayor to attend meeting with school board to gather information about the officer position at the LP Elementary, Member Carter second, all in favor motion passed.

Jeff Patterson, Maintenance Supervisor gave review of projects completed and some that are underway. Patterson advised Council that there was an emergency with the water pump on March 22, 2017. He explained that the pipe that ran the chlorine to the water source at the pump had deteriorated to the point that it broke and they had to switch to Lowndes County Water system while the pump was being repaired. He asked Council to reconsider the previous maintenance agreement proposed through Utility Service Group that currently services the water tower. A representative will be here at 9:00 AM on April 27 to give a presentation on the maintenance contract and all that it covers, and will be

available to answer any questions that we may have. All of Council are invited to be here.

Citizens' Concerns

Tracy Fountain, 1003 Cotton Ave., she advised Council there were conflicts with some ordinance codes online. Codes 5.20 and 5.65 contradict themselves. She stated that she felt targeted by the Lake Park Police Chief and Police Department. She also stated that she did everything she was supposed to before they moved their house onto the property. She stated she had pulled all the necessary permits from the city and from the county. She further stated she was told that Chief Breletic had called in the Lowndes County Inspectors to investigate their house. Fountain went on to say that she was told that there were leaders in Lake Park and named Chief Breletic as one of those. She said she had been told by a number of people that Breletic had made a statement about their house being a termite infested piece of crap. Mayor stopped Mrs. Fountain and asked who those people were that made the claim, and Fountain responded that it was a couple of different people in the community and that this happen back in May. She stated that she let it go and through the permits and inspections they have in place she felt targeted. Fountain stated they know there are some deficiencies' that need to be fixed but she feels targeted. She further stated that she was worried about coming to Council for fear of the repercussions, but she wanted Council to see the codes that contradict themselves, and asked for direction as well.

Mayor asked for Attorney Plumb's insight on repealing of codes. Mayor further tried to explain the process.

Chief Breletic responded with the statement that he was the one that was actually contacted by the Lowndes County Inspector, and was requested to assist in the walk through. He further stated that he was advised of the deficiencies with the house and was told of the repairs that needed to be done. Breletic further stated that during the walk through with the inspector that he was asking if the repairs could be done by the homeowner and he was told yes. Breletic documented the deficiencies and mailed the form by certified mail that was signed by Mrs. Sandlin. Mayor interrupted and asked Mrs. Fountain why the letter was signed by Mrs. Sandlin if it was her house; Mrs. Sandlin responded and said that they were leasing the property from them. Mayor made a recommendation to have a private meeting regarding this situation, that he was happy Mrs. Fountain brought this to their attention but that this was not the venue to discuss this. Mayor invited Mr. and Mrs. Fountain to stay after the council meeting to meet with him to discuss further.

No other citizens concerns.

Mayor stated he would give the admin/executive report.

Mayor advised Council of a potential project coming to Lake Park. However to meet zoning requirements there would need to be a text amendment to the current ordinance. Mayor asked Council to review the proposed text amendment to Lake Park Zoning Ordinance. Under 5-2, Development Standards, minimum lot area for development is amended to read: "1 acre unless public water/sewer is available, then 6,000 sq. ft. is allowed". Council discussion followed, Member Sauls questioned the urgency in getting this done so quickly, Member Sandlin questioned the square footage being sufficient without causing too much congestion in one area. Mayor explained that the decision being made by Council

was only for a text amendment allowing the development in the specific zoning district of R-P to read minimum lot area of 1 acre unless public water/sewer is available, then 6,000 sq. ft. is allowed.

Member Carter made a motion to add to text amendment to the agenda, motion died for lack of a second. Mayor advised that the agenda item be put on the May agenda to re-approach.

Mayor requested clerk to contact Tommy Griffin to set up some budget planning meetings after tax season ends. This needs to be done before the millage rate is set. Everyone needs to be involved in this including department heads. We have in the past set the millage rate then try to plan a budget and that's wrong, we should plan a proposed budget and then set the millage rate accordingly.

Mayor stated that the Council was invited to attend an industry tour Tuesday May 23 on behalf of the Valdosta- Lowndes County Development Authority.

Mayor reported that there are counties currently considering the Resolution in support of starting a Regional TSPLOST.

Mayor announced the Lake Hardware and Feed has a Grand Re-Opening on Saturday April 15, 2017 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Blake Shelton concert ticket give away, door prizes, and in store specials. Scavenger hunt starts at 12! The Easter Bunny is coming to say hi too! Food and refreshments provided.

Mayor also advised Council of the GMA District Eleven Spring Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 19, 2017 at 11 AM in Douglas. You must RSVP by April 12, 2017 if you plan to attend.

Mayor advised Council that they need to approach the personnel policy once a year, and he would like for that to begin annually in May. He explained that January is typical reviewing time but he felt that with new Council coming in and having to learn different policy and procedures that it might be best to review this in May.

Mayor asked if anyone had anything further. Member Sandlin asked if it was appropriate to go into Executive Session to discuss the duties of the City Marshall? Mayor said no that was not possible and Attorney Plumb stated that personnel (hiring, firing) real estate, and or litigation only. Member Sandlin asked if she should put that on the next agenda and the Mayor said that they could talk about it now and address it at the next meeting.

Member Sandlin stated she didn't particularly agree that they had went over this before but then read from previous minutes that she had that stated, Mayor called for Appointment of City Marshall, attorney advised that City Charter stated it was not necessary to appoint the position, that the Chief of Police was responsible for those duties. Then Member Sandlin stated that what she was bringing to Council was that they didn't need a City Marshall, and that she wanted to vote to dismiss that.

Mayor responded by reading Charter Code section 10-21. Same – Duties. Mayor asked what it is that Member Sandlin wished to do, and Sandlin responded she wanted to do away with the City Marshall duties because we didn't need that. Mayor advised that Member Sandlin could not do away with duties because it clearly states those duties in the Charter, and changing the Charter couldn't be done tonight. Mayor advised that due to pending violations, that Member Sandlin could not vote on that anyway. Member

Sandlin asked Attorney Plumb what he thought. After discussion of Charter, duties, ethics, and legalities Member Sandlin stated she would read more up on it.

Mayor asked if there was anything further from Council. Being no more business Member Carter made a motion to adjourn at 9:45, Member Sauls second, all in favor, motion passed.

Read & approved Tabatha Kauler Date 5-2-17

April fire report for City of Lake Park Georgia

15 Fire calls

3 structure fires (2 in county, 1 in city limits)

1 illegal burn

2 assist EMS

7 false fire alarms

2 woods fires

Change from w4 to w2's for firefighters

Breakfast April 29th at 9am Fire Station

GEORGIA CITIES WEEK
April 23-29, 2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE PARK RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 23-29, 2017 AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and


WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF LAKE PARK DECLARES APRIL 23-29, 2017 AS GEORGIA CITIES WEEK.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF CITY OF LAKE PARK ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS, CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THIS WEEK IS RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED ACCORDINGLY.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Lake Park.


Honorable Eric I. Schindler

4/4/2017
Date


City Clerk Tabatha Fowler

4-4-17
Date

SEAL