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City of Lake Park
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024
6:00 pm

Members present were Mayor Jena Sandlin, Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith, Council Member Michelle Lane, Council Member Busby Courson, and Council Member Carl Spano

Staff Present: City Clerk Lisa Johnson, Fire Chief Matt Ryan, Police Chief Ed Yarbrough

Mayor Jena Sandlin called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Oscar Griffith led the invocation.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the pledge.

Minutes: Mayor Sandlin called for the review and approval of the Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting and the March 18, 2024 Called Meeting. Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Regular and the March 18, 2024 Called Council Meetings. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Sandlin then called for Citizens who have concerns they would like to bring to the Council's attention.

Citizen Concerns:

- Bob Wilbers – 360 Back Forty Dr – reported that the main stone and benches for the Veteran's Memorial is expected to be shipped any day and will hopefully be set in time for the Memorial Day celebration. He thanked the Council for the City's assistance.
- Adam Lee – 408 4-H Club Rd – requested that the City look into sidewalks in the 4-H Club neighborhood; many of the residents walk in the neighborhood regularly, and there is a concern for safety from speeders. He went on to ask about the cluster mailboxes that have gone up; Mayor Sandlin explained that these are temporary pending completion of the Pointers Ridge subdivision. Mr. Wilbers reminded Mr. Lee that the Pointers Ridge subdivision would have walking trails on the interior of the subdivision, when completed.
- Gloria Luke – 201 4-H Club Rd – expressed concern over Air BnBs going in her neighborhood, explaining that her understanding was that one of the properties on Baxley Dr that recently received a variance is planning to rent for a 3-month period. She asked if the City had made any inroads to regulating these. Mrs. Luke also asked about the fence or wall that is supposed to be built around the new storage facility under construction, as she has understood that there are some drainage issues at the site. She then expressed concerns about the proposed condominiums

that may be built on Hwy 41 near Long Pond Rd, asking if the associated traffic could be supported. She asked if the development was in keeping with the City's Comprehensive Plan and what direction the City is going in, who do we want to be.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Department: Matt Ryan

- Presented a monthly call report
- Presented a revised quote for radios for the Fire Department, explaining again that the new TDMA encryption is scheduled to be implemented January 1, 2025, at which time the Fire Department's current radios will no longer be compatible with the County's system. Council Member Spano explained that the cost proposed exceeds what is available in the current SPLOST. A contract utilizing the next SPLOST could not be entered into, as the voters have not yet approved this, and if a new SPLOST did not pass, the City would be left trying to fund the contract from General Funds. Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to table the question and schedule a meeting to discuss ways to pay for new radios. Council Member Carl Spano seconded the motion. Council scheduled a session for April 18 at 6:00 to discuss. Council Member Spano requested more information from the representative.
- Council Member Lane asked Chief Ryan if he had a quote yet for tires for the tanker; he responded that they were scheduled for replacement in June.
- Mayor Sandlin asked Chief Ryan if the fireworks for the 4th of July celebration had been ordered yet, and he responded that they had not. Mayor Sandlin noted that these need to be ordered very soon, so we can be sure to have them in time for the fourth.

Police Department: Officer Ed Yarbrough

- Presented a monthly call report.
- Mayor Sandlin asked if the Police Department's radios needed upgrade as well and if there was a quote for this. Chief Yarbrough stated that he had heard nothing about it, but would be checking into it.
- Reported that the laptops have arrived and thanked Council again for their approval; the officers are excited to have them.
- Reported that he will be at Chief Training April 29 – May 9 in Duluth, but will be available by phone or text and is confident his officers will be able to handle things in his absence.
- Thanked Council Member Spano for his help with the Radar Sign report and reported that the average speed on 4-H Club Rd is 8 mph and there is one person consistently coming through at 73 mph. Council Member Courson suggested the speeds be evaluated from the opposite direction for comparison.
- *Stop signs at Long Pond and 4-H Club Rd: poles and stop bars are up, but signs can't be placed until road is paved.

Water/Public Works Department: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Reported that the State has opened the application period for the supplemental LMIG; as discussed, the City will list drainage at Sheavette and Broadway as this project.

Administration: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Reported that Mauldin and Jenkins were in Lake Park to begin fieldwork for the FY23 audit

- Reported that Maranello Technologies had begun work setting up the Police Department’s new laptops and standardizing computers in City Hall and the Police Department and will be coordinating with Courtware for the setup of the new software. ClerkBooks is set to be installed on April 8 and he will also assist with this coordination.

Financial Reports: Council Member Carl Spano

- Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to accept the unaudited Financial Report for March. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

New Business:

- Mayor Sandlin stated that there is still a problem with people parking on the grass and driving off on the grass at Tom’s Pond. The City has signs in place, but they are not effective. Chief Yarbrough suggested that the City consider signs to read “violators will be towed at the owner’s expense”. **Corrected to add: No vote taken.**
- Fishing is allowed only by resident’s and property owners or their guests, and Council discussed how to enforce this rule. Chief Yarbrough explained that Georgia DNR does not enforce City regulations for fishing licenses, and that his department has no authority to remove to cite people fishing at the pond, as anyone may be a guest of a resident or property owner but will not have verifiable proof. Council Member Spano requested information on what other cities have done.
- Council Member Oscar Griffith reported that Thomas Aquatics has the parts in for the fountain at Tom’s Pond but is having trouble scheduling the electrician. He will update again at the April 18 Called Meeting.


Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to enter Executive Session to review the Minutes of previous Executive Sessions and to discuss personnel. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council Member Spano suggested that Council retire to the Conference Room for Executive Session, rather than remaining in Chambers and asking everyone else to leave. Council entered into Executive Session at 6:49 pm and retired to the Conference Room.

Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to reconvene regular session. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council reconvened Regular Session at 7:41 pm.


Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 6, 2024 and of March 18, 2024. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

There being no further business, Mayor Sandlin adjourned the meeting.

The next regular meeting will be on May 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm.


 Jena Sandlin, Mayor
 5/14/2024

 Date


 Lisa Johnson, City Clerk
 May 14, 2024

 Date

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