

**City of Locust Grove
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 Public Safety Building – Courtroom Chamber
 3640 Highway 42 S. – Locust Grove, GA 30248
 Monday, August 2, 2021
 6:00 PM**

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| Members Present: | Staff Present: |
| Robert Price – Mayor | Tim Young – City Manager |
| Carlos Greer – Councilman | Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager |
| Willie Taylor – Councilman | Misty Spurling – City Clerk |
| Vincent Williams – Councilman | Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk |
| Rod Shearouse – Councilman | Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director |
| Rudy Breedlove – Councilman | Derrick Austin - Police Chief |
| | Andy Welch - Attorney |
| | Staff not Present: |
| Members Present via Teleconference: | Jack Rose – Public Works Director |
| Keith Boone – Councilman | Anna W. Ogg – Main Street Director |

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Invocation given by Chief Derrick Austin

Councilman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the August 2, 2021 meeting agenda.

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| RESULT | APPROVED AGENDA |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| VOTE | MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR |

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Chief Austin stepped forward and asked Officer Hurst to step forward. Chief Austin said Officer Hurst was scheduled to be introduced at a previous meeting; however, work related items took precedence. Chief Austin introduced Officer Hurst, and Mayor Price welcomed her to the department. Officer Hurst thanked everyone for the opportunity. Nothing further.

Chief Austin asked Detective Crowell to step forward. Chief Austin said he wanted to recognize Detective Crowell for his involvement with a murder case on July 4th and commend him for the long hours he dedicated to this case until the suspect was in custody. Detective Crowell worked diligently for three to four days without much rest and Chief Austin thanked Detective Crowell for a job well done. Nothing further.

- **Pinning ceremony for Sergeant promotions: Sgt. Honea, Sgt Jones, Sgt. McElhenney, Sgt. Yarian -**

Chief Austin asked the designated Sergeants and their families to come forward. Chief Austin introduced each Sergeant and announced each Sergeant’s tenure with the City of Locust Grove [Sgt. Honea: 3 years, Sgt. Jones: 2 years, Sgt. McElhenney:3 ½ years, and Sgt. Yarian: 5 years]. Each Sergeant was joined by family members who assisted with pinning of new badges. Nothing further.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

1. JULY 6, 2021- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the July 6, 2021, regular meeting minutes.

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| RESULT | APPROVED JULY 6, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

2. JULY 6, 2021 – EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the July 6, 2021, executive session meeting minutes.

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| RESULT | APPROVED JULY 6, 2021 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN TAYLOR |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

3. JULY 19, 2021- WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the July 19, 2021 workshop meeting minutes.

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| RESULT | APPROVED JULY 19, 2021 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

4. JULY 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the July 2021 Financial Statement.

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| RESULT | APPROVED JULY 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

5. Resolution to create a streetlight district in Grove Village subdivision -

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution **#21-08-054**.

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| RESULT | APPROVED RESOLUTION #21-08-054 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

6. Special Event permit request for Cricket Wireless to hold a Back-to-School event on August 14, 2021 –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the request.

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| RESULT | APPROVED SPECIAL EVENT |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN TAYLOR |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

7. Ordinance to amend Chapter 701 of the Personnel Policy “The Pay Plan” and approve the positions and salary schedule –

City Manager Tim Young stepped forward and led discussion this reflects changes related to personnel staffing and mobility among existing employees. The positions of Fire Marshal, Mechanic, and Development Inspector are the positions in which we are looking to move forward with. We may contract the Fire Marshal out if we don’t receive any qualified applicants.

Councilman Greer mad a comment he is not comfortable with approving tonight because he feels like this needs further discussion prior to approving. Councilman Greer made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Discussion took place and Mr. Young asked what is in question? Councilman Greer said there has been no discussion about a Fire Marshal and said he has other questions about the Development Inspector.

Councilman Williams said he agrees with Councilman Greer. Mr. Young requested action be taken tonight on the Development Inspector position so that we can proceed with posting advertisement tomorrow? Mr. Young said we want to give notice to our current inspectors, Whitley Engineering

due to performance issues. Councilman Greer said he thought Mr. Glaze done inspections for the city. Mr. Young clarified Ronnie Glaze (ICC, Inspections) does our building inspections and Whitley Engineering does the grading inspections and discussion took place.

Attorney Andy Welch made a comment there is currently a motion to table this item by Councilman Greer; however, no one has second the motion. Discussion took place about only acting on the Development Inspector position tonight and table the other positions until next meeting [August 16, 2021]? Mr. Welch replied if Council chooses. Councilman Williams second the motion and all in favor.

Councilman Shearouse made a motion to amend for discussion on the Development Inspector position. Councilman Williams second the motion and all in favor.

Attorney Andy Welch said there can be a more thorough discussion about the other positions at the next August 16th workshop meeting to allow time for questions and discussion. Mr. Welch said the building inspector inspects buildings to ensure all hard building codes are met. The Development inspector inspects all the groundwork. Mr. Young said the development inspector should be doing four inspections per hour for small lots or at least 30 inspections per day. Discussion took place.

Councilman Williams discussed the paygrade level and degree required and said he thinks starting someone at the midpoint would be sufficient because experience is important.

Mr. Foster stepped forward to elaborate on the process and said the city is a local issuing authority by the EPD and discussion took place. Mr. Gibbs said, normally one inspector for a single zone would suffice. We likely will only get two to three applicants who qualify because those who have the experience are retiring.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Williams made a motion to amend and only activate the Development Inspector position for hire by approving ordinance #21-08-055.

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| RESULT | APPROVED ORDINANCE WITH AMENDMENT #21-08-055 |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED – ALL IN FAVOR |

Councilman Greer asked for more clarity on how the Development Inspector position already exists. Mr. Young said the position has been contracted out thus far; therefore, the position already exists in Community Development; however, the position is not activated. Attorney Andy Welch clarified the position exists but is currently an unfilled position. Nothing further.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –

- **Operations update with latest COVID surge and upcoming calendar items / GMA Convention**

Mr. Young stepped forward and said we have two employees from Public Works out with positive COVID tests. We are encouraging all employees to wear masks and get tested. We posted a reminder on social media regarding COVID updates and received a multitude of negative comments. Further, the GMA conference in Savannah is coming up this weekend through Monday.

- **Truck traffic / truck turn restrictions on Colvin, Davis Lake and Jackson Street**

Mr. Young said we are working on an ordinance to define a truck route and signs have been posted on Davis Lake and we will be adding speed humps soon. Discussion took place and nothing further.

Mr. Young said the meeting tonight is being recorded as a test to make sure the recording device is working properly. Discussion took place on the Infrastructure Bill update and Mr. Young said we are upgrading to Incode 10 and will soon be transitioning Incode to the cloud, SaaS hosting and possibly Azure.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Attorney Andy Welch made a comment the County approved a resolution authorizing T-SPLOST and included the ability for bonding for the city. Mr. Welch said the City of Locust Grove is the only city who has that authority. The bond rating is under one percent and being such a low rate, the cost of construction will be at a very low interest rate which will increase the value of the \$7.2 million dollars. Discussion took place and Mr. Welch said the bond and T-SPLOST will be on the November ballot.

Councilman Greer asked if someone could reach out to the election officials about voting locations. Mr. Young said he already reached out to Ameika Pitts with the county and is in process.

Attorney Andy Welch said voting location instructions are part of the SDS agreement and we are implementing those instructions for resolve by this coming election cycle. Nothing further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

ADJOURNMENT –

Mayor Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Greer made the motion to adjourn.

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| RESULT | APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING |
| MADE MOTION | COUNCILMAN GREER |
| 2 ND MOTION | COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE |
| FAVOR | MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:48 PM. |

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk