

**City of Locust Grove  
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes  
 Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42 S.  
 Locust Grove, GA 30248  
 Monday, February 19, 2024  
 6:00 PM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Vincent Williams – Councilman/Pro Tem	Tim Young – City Manager
Rudy Breedlove - Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Keith Boone – Councilman	Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Derrick Austin – Police Chief
	Andy Welch - Attorney
<b>Members not Present:</b>	<b>Staff not Present:</b>
Robert Price – Mayor	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Colleen Cook– Main Street Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation given by Chief Derrick Austin

Councilman Boone led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA –**

Mayor Pro Tem Wiliams asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to amend to add [a proclamation presentation] to Presentations.

RESULT	APPROVED ADD ITEM
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Shearouse made the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

RESULT	APPROVED AGENDA AS AMENDED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

**PRESENTATIONS – (ADD ITEM)**

**Proclamation - Unity Grove School Restoration by the (HCACA) and partners as part of Black History Month 2024 –**

Tim read the proclamation aloud and Pro Tem Williams presented the proclamation to Ms. June Woods.

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE**

**CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS –**

**MAIN STREET OPERATIONS – TIM YOUNG for COLLEEN COOK**

Tim gave an update that the Easter Egg event is scheduled for March 23, 2024. LG Day will be April 20, 2024, with discussion to possibly host on the front lawn. We are reviewing entertainment options and other ways to utilize resources. The front lawn “Christmas trees” are damaged and need to be removed. We have researched options for purchasing an artificial tree for upcoming Christmas as an alternative (in the interim) and options to plant new trees for growing. The artificial oversized trees are expensive; however, would suffice until planted trees reach maturity. Nothing further.

**PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS – CHIEF AUSTIN**

Chief Austin reviewed the monthly report and gave an update total collected in January 2024 was \$92,257.33. The department completed 56 training hours in January. We had 33 new cases for investigation and cleared 23 of those cases. Chief Austin reviewed the crime analysis report and nothing further.

**1. Consideration of contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Fleet 3 in-car camera systems –**

Chief Austin said this is consideration for updating the entire fleet with cameras. We have an existing agreement with Axon; however, we have older vehicles without active cameras. The contract includes all equipment, data storage, advanced license plate readers, FLOCK integration and on-site installation. This is a five-year contract and includes a 100-percent warranty on [22 cameras] and the latest version upgrade.

Councilman Breedlove asked if the funds are available now? Tim said he is reviewing the budget and said this will be more efficient over the life of the contract both in productivity and legal aspects.

Discussion took place about cloud storage and Tim said most of our data storage is in the cloud now. Tim said we may be able to fund this additional expense with the building permit revenue we just received from a project.

Pro-Tem Williams asked Tim if he could provide the council with an updated budget that reflects available funds. Tim said he will work on an amendment to reflect the recent revenue and add this item to the budget as well. Nothing further.

**2. Consideration of Locust Grove Police firing range –**

The chief said the department is currently utilizing Hampton and Henry County firing range for training practice; however, their facilities are not always available due to scheduling conflicts. This would be completed in several phases, with Phase I being a basic starting point. Public Works operators are willing to build the berm and we will use temporary target systems until we can proceed with Phase II. The initial cost will be \$4,000 for (equipment) and will utilize seized funds for that expense. Phase II will have a storage facility and restroom. This will be returned at the next meeting for action and hopefully grading to begin soon thereafter. Nothing further.

**PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE**

Public Works Director Jack Rose said we have had lots of rain and infiltration problems at the wastewater plant. Water production is consistently good, and we are managing the increase in bulk trash pick-up. We are continuing normal maintenance including road patches and work orders.

Councilman Breedlove asked Tim if he has posted the administrative assistance position for public works and Tim said he is working on getting that position posted along with the wastewater manager. Nothing further.

#### **ADMINISTRATION –TIM YOUNG for BERT FOSTER**

Tim gave an update the Bill Gardner Parkway modifications are nearing completion except for signs. The conceptual plan has been submitted to GDOT for the Downtown Corridor study and meeting with GDOT next week. Tim gave an update on the traffic signal at Tanger and MLK and Indian Creek and Tanger four-way stop. Nothing further.

#### **3. Resolution to create a streetlight district - Bridle Creek, Phase 2-B subdivision –**

#### **4. Resolution to create a streetlight district – Copperfield subdivision –**

Tim said both streetlight district items will be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting. Nothing further.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – DAUNTÉ GIBBS**

Mr. Gibbs gave an update that his department has issued a total of 173 permits for 2024 and 22 new housing permits. We have issued 19 COs (10 residential and 9 commercial) with 51 business licenses issued so far for 2024. Nothing further.

#### **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) –**

#### **CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –TIM YOUNG**

Tim gave an update staff met with an instructor from Southern Crescent Technical College for review of a work program for CDL driving training. We have three employees (Casey, Jack, and Zeb) who are qualified to implement the training and would be able to begin in the fall semester. We will have an agreement soon for presentation/approval.

#### **5. Draft SPLOST VI information and project listing -**

Tim said he had a meeting with Henry County and the recording is available on the county website. Tim said this is estimated based on conservative data from 2023 and almost a 35/65 split between the county and city. If we have an agreement, we can collect for six years in the range of \$17-\$20 million dollars. Tim reviewed the list of projects for consideration and said it is mostly transportation related. Andy asked Tim if the roadway behind Ingles could be a part of this project list and Tim said he is trying to qualify for LCI funds for that particular project. Tim said this is preliminary and trying to stay proactive.

#### **6. Audio Visual System update –**

Tim said staff has contacted three vendors and only two submitted quotes. Both quotes were about \$83,000 with different pros/cons. Tim said we are still doing comparisons and will review and update at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Pro Tem Williams asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Ms. Evelyn Roberts stepped forward to comment. Ms. Roberts asked if there are plans for any projects on Hwy 42 and Davis Road. Tim said there is consideration for turning lanes and potential signalization for presenting to GDOT. Andy said nothing is urgent as of now. Ms. Roberts said she would like GDOT to consider a review for three lanes. Tim also mentioned that the speed limit for the northern portion of Highway 42 is to be reduced to 45 mph; however, they are still studying the southern portion of Hwy 42 as part of the request to them last year.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS –**

Pro Tem Williams made a comment to please keep Mayor Price and his family in your prayers.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND LITIGATION**

Motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and property acquisition matters by Councilman Boone and seconded by Councilman Shearouse. Motion Carried All in favor 7:11PM.

At 7:22 PM, motion to come back into regular session made by Councilman Breedlove and seconded by Councilman Shearouse.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

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

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:22PM.

Notes taken by:

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Misty Spurling, City Clerk