

**City of Locust Grove
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42 S.
 Locust Grove, GA 30248
 Monday, April 15, 2024
 6:00 PM**

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Vincent Williams -Councilman/Pro Tem	Tim Young – City Manager
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Keith Boone – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Rudy Breedlove - Councilman	Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Colleen Cook – Main Street Manager
	Derrick Austin – Police Chief
	Andy Welch – Attorney

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

Invocation given by Chief Derrick Austin

Councilman Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion. Councilman Greer made the motion to approve the agenda.

RESULT	APPROVED AGENDA
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS –

1. Amendment to the City of Locust Grove Municipal Code Chapter 5.36 – Special Events –

Daunte stepped forward to comment. Daunte said the council brought up concerns last September about special events and asked if staff would review and address the total number of special events allowed per calendar year. Currently the city allows 14 special events per calendar year. The proposed amendment is to reduce the allowed number to twelve per calendar year and one per month per applicant. In addition, an amendment to allow administrative review and approval of those events that are annual and non-controversial.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams said this is a public hearing and asked for comments from anyone in favor of the request and there were no comments.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from anyone opposed to the request and there were no comments and closed the public hearing.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from the council.

Councilman Greer asked how the Girl Scout events will be affected with the suggested amendment. Daunté said the Girl Scouts got permission from the property owner for their events and discussion took place about TNT fireworks events.

Andy said the amendment suggests one event per month and maximum twelve per calendar year. Daunté said this came up last year with a previous applicant. Andy said there were multiple points from the request last year that brought up concerns and Daunté is making suggestions based on the council's request. Tim said consideration also needs to include public space and private space events which may determine what is allowed at each event location.

Councilman Breedlove commented about the duration of the permit. Andy said the council can place brackets on it or a fee schedule to avoid abuse of the permit. The maximum number of days is 30 consecutive and operate two, 30-day maximum permits per year and charge per day to self-regulate the number of days that people want to get a permit. Daunté said the daily permit fee is [\$22.00] per day and a cap at maximum 30-days [for private property] and cap [public property] to one per month at \$150.00.

Councilman Greer asked if there have been issues in the past related to our discussion. Daunté said within the last five years there were none, only a protest that was held and he clarified not with the current ordinance. Greer has concerns with changing the requirements over one concern.

Daunté said in his opinion we have been implementing the current ordinance very well. This was only suggested based on concerns from the event request from The Artisan Market last year.

Councilman Boone said the concern was the length of time for the permit. Pro Tem Williams suggested a seven-day fee for \$150 and Tim said to also review restrictions between public versus private property. Andy said it is more reasonable to regulate public space. Breedlove said he would like to keep approval/denial for the council with approval from the staff. Daunté said he will revert to the original language. Nothing further.

2. Amendment to the City of Locust Grove Municipal Code Chapter 5.40 – Portable Eating Establishments –

Daunté said this amendment specifies reviewing every six months versus every twelve months and Code Enforcement to check. This will require the individual to renew every six months with an inspection as well. We will also keep our database current.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams said this is a public hearing and asked for comments from anyone in favor of the request and there were no comments.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from anyone opposed to the request and there were no comments and closed the public hearing.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from the council.

Councilman Greer asked how many of these establishments are in the city now and Daunté said there are none.

Andy asked if there is a health code advantage to reviewing every six months. Daunté said health inspections are annual and our ordinance has criteria that specifies if in violation, the council can revoke the permit. Tim recommended removing the any other language except for food and beverages only. Nothing further.

3. Amendment to the City of Locust Grove Municipal Code Chapter 5.48 – Yard Sales –

Daunté said this amendment suggests reducing the total number of yard sales permitted per calendar year from five to three for [two consecutive days].

Mayor Pro Tem Williams said this is a public hearing and asked for comments from anyone in favor of the request and there were no comments.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from anyone opposed to the request and there were no comments and closed the public hearing.

Pro Tem Williams asked for comments from the council.

Councilman Breedlove clarified the suggested amendment [from five days to three] and nothing further.

OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS -

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS – COLLEEN COOK

Ms. Cooks gave an update. It's Aught BBQ restaurant will open in June. The HPC is working on the Local Government status update. Locust Grove Day is April 20, 2024, with 125 vendors and 33 parade entries. The council has a table and tent that will have materials for the public regarding annexations and SPLOST. There will be a special presentation at 1:00 PM on the stage. Nothing further.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS – CHIEF AUSTIN

Chief Austin reviewed the monthly report and gave an update total collected in March 2024 was \$93,783. The department completed 216 training hours in March. We had 42 new cases for investigation and cleared 18 of those cases. Chief Austin reviewed the crime analysis report provided and said a man was approached and struck by an individual in Patriots Point subdivision and still ongoing investigation. Ford F-series trucks are being stolen and those cases are still being investigated. The clerk office construction in the lobby of the Public Safety building will begin any day. Nothing further.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE

Public Works Director Jack Rose said we are continuing with regular maintenance and working on the playground at City Hall. We are continuing with grass cutting and preparing for Locust Grove Day. We moved the gate where Price Drive was closed and please remember the family of Dana Daniel. He was a very hard worker and will be missed.

ADMINISTRATION –BERT FOSTER

Mr. Foster gave an update on ongoing projects, the extra lane on Highway 42 and the Bill Gardner Parkway modifications. We ordered bollards and fencing for the Veteran's Memorial. GDOT is still reviewing the plans for the downtown corridor study and GDOT agreed to reduce the speed to 50 miles per hour. Signs have been placed to notify us of the upcoming delays through the end of the month for the traffic signal at Bethlehem Road. The streetlights for the intersection at Indian Creek and Tanger have arrived and will be installed within two weeks. The equipment for the city hall playground is expected to arrive around May 1, 2024. Nothing further.

4. Resolution to create a streetlight district in Oak Ridge Meadows, Phase 1 subdivision -

Mr. Foster said this would include 129 lots with 28 lights. The total would be \$31.34 per lot. Nothing further.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – DAUNTÉ GIBBS

Mr. Gibbs gave an update that his department has issued a total of 354 permits for 2024 and 43 new house permits. We have issued 58 COs [35 residential / 23 commercial] with 137 business licenses issued so far for 2024.

Councilman Boone asked for an update with Bowery Farms. Daunté said they have not continued thus far. Nothing further.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) – NONE

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –TIM YOUNG

Tim gave an update the quarterly budget amendments will be ready the first of next week. Tim mentioned joining the National League of Cities organization. Misty is working with the accountants this week in preparation for the audit. The Atlanta Business Chronicles industrial projects of the year have all been in Henry County for the past three years.

5. SPLOST VI update -

Tim said we will have a public meeting coming up on May 20, 2024, and should have all Census Data in place to determine how SPLOST will be distributed. If agreed, Locust Grove will collect \$21 million dollars. The projects list is pending further discussion with Henry County and GDOT. Tim reviewed the capital projects on the list and other projects and said we are trying to allocate to infrastructure and not just transportation this time.

Councilman Breedlove asked if the county would agree to this split. Tim said the official discussion will start in June with the county. They haven’t had a Level I project, and Andy said we need to consider making another bond agreement for the election to speed up implementation of projects.

Councilman Greer asked if the sidewalks to link to Peeksville Road are part of this list. Tim said that will be part of CDBG and said we leveraged enough money to look at some wording of those projects for pedestrian linkages at Grove Road. Nothing further.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilman Boone made a comment tomorrow would be the mayor’s 80th birthday.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Pro Tem Williams said keep the family of Dana Daniels in your prayers. Also, the Veteran’s Memorial is beautiful, come by and apply for a brick.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss property acquisition matters by Councilman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Greer Motion Carried All in favor 7:34 PM.

At 8:28 PM, motion to come back into regular session made by Councilman Breedlove and seconded by Councilman Shearouse.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION -

Councilman Breedlove asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the following three items.

RESULT	APPROVED ADD THREE ITEMS
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR

ADD ITEM –

1. Agreement - One and Two Vestige Properties, LLC

Councilman Breedlove asked for a motion to approve agreement with One and Two Vestige Properties, LLC to purchase right-of-way and temporary construction easement in the amount of \$116, 500.00.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR.

2. Temporary Construction Easement -

Councilman Breedlove asked for a motion to approve an agreement with Sanidhya, LLC for acquisition of temporary construction easement of the sum of \$1.00.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR.

3. Engagement Letter with Parker Poe to include fees and expenses dated March 28, 2024.

Councilman Breedlove asked for a motion to approve the engagement letter with Parker Poe.

RESULT	APPROVED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT-

Pro Tem Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Greer made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:31PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk