

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:00pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, Hattie Thrasher and David Huth. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 17, 2017

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 council meeting as written. Perry Barton seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. PUBIC HEARING:

A. ANNEXATION/REZONE REQEUST MAP PARCEL XXX126-050

Both Randy Gordon and City Attorney Thomas Mitchell had spoken to Greg, the developer regarding a second access point as follows...The Preliminary Plat must show a second access point on Dooley Town Road in the area between the southwestern line of Lot 69 and northeastern line of Lot 67 or between the southwest line of the Lot 42 and the northeast line of Lot 34 as shown on the Rezoning Plan for Stephens Plantation, drawn by Ringo Abernathy & Associates dated 1/20/17. Before the Final Plat will be approved for recording, the plat must show a second access point on Dooley Town Road approved by the City Zoning official and Barrow County.

Greg is okay with it and Kevin Ringo said that as long as Greg is okay with it, they don't think there is going to be any problems. They are a little concern about the sight distance and cut through on Dooley Town Road. The condition as drawn up to give City the flexibility later as to how the access point actually operates.

Question came from Roger Tripp: He stated that Dooley Town Road is quite narrow so how long is the deceleration lane? Randy Gordon responded to his question.

Mayor closed Public Hearing at 7:04pm.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2nd READ-ANNEXATION/REZONE MAP PARCEL XXX126-050 (Glenn A. Jackson Estate –Donnie Jackson)

Gayle Steed made motion to annex map parcel XXX126-050 into the City. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

Thomas Mitchell reads the full condition of the rezone. The Preliminary Plat must show a second access point on Dooley Town Road in the area between the southwestern line of Lot 69 and northeastern line of Lot 67 or between the southwest line of the Lot 42 and the northeast line of Lot 34 as shown on the Rezoning Plan for Stephens Plantation, drawn by Ringo Abernathy & Associates dated 1/20/17. Before the Final Plat will be approved for recording, the plat must show a second access point on Dooley Town Road approved by the City Zoning official and Barrow County.

Perry Barton made motion to do the specification on map parcel XXX126-050. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. STEPHENS PLANTATION- Preliminary Plat Presentation

Randy Gordon stated that nothing has be to done.

B. LADIES HOMESTEAD GATHERING- Brook Lewis

Mayor Bridges stated that Brook has requested the event to be held on April 8, 2017, from 10am to 3pm. Asked everybody to keep in mind and attend if they have not before.

David Huth made motion to approve Ladies Homestead Gathering. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

C. KENNY'S FOODMART- 1937 ATLANTA HWY-Kabir Nurani

- **Request to Open 24 Hours**

Gayle states that if he wants to stay 24 hours, that's okay.

- **Request for 24 Hours Sale of Beer & Wine**

Thomas Mitchell states that the City's Alcohol Ordinance precludes that item unless Council wants to amend that ordinance. If Councils choose not to act on this, there is no action required. No motion made.

D. VINTAGE BILLARDS- Ed Gerstner

- **Request to Extend Alcohol Sale from 11pm to Midnight**

Thomas Mitchell again states that if Councils choose not to act on this, there is no action required. No motion made.

E. BEEKEEPER SRVICE PROGRAM- Water Plant

Mayor Bridges stated that Tim recommended the one year contract and that he is looking at other options.

Perry Barton made motion to approve for the 1 year contract. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

F. POSTAGE MACHINE & COPY MACHINE

Postage Machine:

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained that the City is spending around \$10,000 a year on postage because the City prints and mail about 1500 or more water bills and also property taxes once a year. If the City gets the postage machine, we will save about \$540 per year just on the water bills itself with the \$0.03 savings per stamp and \$3 per roll of stamps. Mai recommends the postage machine with Reach Technologies. The advantages will that it will be more accurate on postage, more convenient, postage can be accounted by department and we can send ALL types of mail.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve and go with Reach Technologies. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

Copy Machine:

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained the current copy machine now was a trade in pre-used machine. It is out of date and very slow. There is a lot of problems with it jamming every so often. Three quotes were obtain and recommends Duplicating Products for the new copy machine at \$409 p/mo which includes 6000 B/W copies and 4000 color. Any overage would be at \$.0071 for B/W and \$.052 for color. Duplicating Products will take away the old printer and issue an affidavit that memory has been erased. The printer is smaller in size but with all the same capabilities of the old machine and more.

David Huth made motion to approve and go with Duplicating Products for the new copy machine. Perry Barton seconded the motion, unanimous.

G. B & M PALLET COMPANY WATER BILL

Mayor Bridges explained that B & M Pallet Company was burned down and their water bill is \$259.14 and if rolled back to cost it would be about \$80. They thought they had the water cutoff but it was not cutoff. It's up to Council if they want to do anything and Mayor can not handle water bills so they will have to pay for it.

H. CITY OF STATHAM CLEAN UP

The clean up date will be May 12th and 13th , 2017.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve the clean up date for May 12th and 13th , 2017. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

I. BARROW COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY REQUEST

- **Adding Fire Hydrant**

Mayor Bridges stated that Barrow County Water Authority had a request but he would like to look into it a little more. He would like to table it.

David Huth made motion to table it. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

6. CITIZENS CONCERNS:

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Paula House (Absent)

B. DWIGHT McCORMIC (2123 Smith Dr., Statham)

- **1921 Broad St. House**

Dwight stated that some of his friends and the community had some concerns on the acquisition of 1921 Broad St. house. Their concerns were some serious of events that led up to the purchase of the house. Mrs. Magness had spent a lot of money on the house, getting the roof put on and all of a sudden, it went to zoning for her business shop or what she was going to do. The City turned down the zoning for her. His concerns is what makes it "ok" for the City to conduct their business and not ok for her. They had issues with what was said and how she was treated. What does the City plan on doing with it? Does the City need it, is it going to be offices, if so, who's offices, what is the game plan and what is the blue print, who is the contractor, is it getting inspected, and is it being inspected by the City besides the Prison workers and City workers running in and out of it.

He also notice that a beautiful oak tree was cut down and he does not know why but it was done on a Saturday. There are numerous requests from the residents of the City to get their trees trim and there is no money in the budget. He would like to remind everybody that there is a lot of wonderful things going on in the City that is being done and he notices. He would like to formally request a hearing based on some facts in next month's City Council meeting after they have their open records request for the property filled and that they have enough information and maybe a

affidavit or testimony from Mrs. Magness on what was said to her. What do they need to do to have a hearing to inform the public, inform the citizens of Statham of what they are doing? This is a major purchase, they have the right to know what's going on?

Mayor Bridges stated that anytime he has questions like this, Mayor is always up here on and off or he is 5 minutes away. Mayor would be glad to answer any questions that he may have on a personal basis or a group basis.

Dwight stated that he fully understands the Mayor's open door policy but he just thinks the City and the residents here deserved and have the right to know what is being done with the property and where the money came from, what's the budget, what's the game plan? He is remodeling a 8 year old home and he has a budget and a game plan. There are a series of events that has to take place before this and that. He and the concern citizens would like to know what the City is doing and where the money is coming from.

Mayor Bridges stated again, if anybody have questions, he will be glad to answer them. 1) it's the lot next door for the future. 2) Office space, we have office space and you can put office space on Broad St. and what Mrs. Magness asked for was a whole different thing that was not even in the zoning for that particular property. Mayor stated he be glad to tell Dwight the price.

Dwight stated that he would like to have a hearing where input can come from the citizens. It doesn't matter how much was paid for but what matters is what the City's need being met. He goes on stating that he comes down here to pay his water bill and does not see anybody without an office so he does not know whose office is going in there.

Mayor Bridges stated that Dwight hasn't asked. Dwight stated that this is what he is doing now, asking in a public forum. He is representing the citizens that does not know what is going on. Mayor stated he can come in next month or at the work session and will be happy to answer.

- **Status of City Audit**

Dwight also have questions on why the audit is taking so long and why is it not here?

City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell explained that problems they are having with the audit is going back to the prior fiscal years and they can not seem to reconcile the journal entries on some of the accounts. The issue now is that they have done as much as they can do without running into the problem of auditing their own work. Mr. Hawkins and Thomas had conversations of what would be required to move the audit forward. In reviewing correspondence with Mr. Hawkins and referencing email, as of November 17 of last year, City staff had been told by the auditor that we provided every information that they've asked for and was not told that there was anything else that was necessary. There were conversation email correspondence in December reiterating that the City believed that the City has provided everything to the auditor that was necessary. The response that Thomas got back from the auditor, McNair that was working on it and copied Mr. Hawkins was that it was simply a matter of time in order to finish. It's only been the last two weeks that City has been informed that there is additional information or data needed. As of three months ago, City was under the impression that everything was provided. Thomas does not have a time frame for the audit to be done.

Dwight question that there was a concern that a large sum of money was missing or not accounted for. Is that the documentation that the auditor is requesting? Thomas specifically asked the auditor on the work they've done, do they have any indication that there was any funds missing. The response that Thomas got was no, there were no red flags, it's just simply of a matter of being able to reconcile various accounts. The problem being the previous auditor, when they did their adjustment, they did not properly document their adjustments the way that the current auditor can understand.

Gayle stated that the previous auditor changed auditor, the City did not do it. The previous auditor turned it over to this current auditor, Hawkins firm and the City had just been dealing with it. It's been something that Mayor and Council member has been at their office numerous times. The City is working really hard on it.

A lady in the audience asked "for what reasons did they turned over to the current auditor"?

Thomas Mitchell stated that the auditor just resigned that they were not in the position to do it and the City were in a position in December 2015 to locate a new auditor. The old auditor turned the books over to Hawkins. July 2016, City were given a report about some of the issues and over a couple months, additional data was provided and as of November 2016, City staff understand that they had all the data needed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

8. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.