

City of Grovetown
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 14, 2023 6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Grovetown City Council was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Gary E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Blair, Councilmember Deborah Fisher, Councilmember Ceretta Smith and Councilmember Sylvia Martin.

Also present were City Administrator Elaine Matthews, Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator Bradley Smith, IT Manager David Nile, Planning and Community Development Director Ronnie Kurtz, Human Resources Director David Toulson, Fire Rescue Chief Wayne Kent, Police Chief Jamey Kitchens, Utility Services Director Keith Lyons, Public Information Officer Jordan Johnson and City Attorney Chris Dube. City Clerk Brian Henderson was absent.

Council conducted a work session to review agenda items at 6:00 p.m.

1.

Call Meeting to Order/Announcement of Quorum

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and acknowledged a quorum.

2.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Smith gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

4.

Approval of the July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

5.

Approval of the July 10, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 executive session minutes. Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

6.

Approval of the July 26, 2023 Public Hearing and Special Called Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 public hearing and special called meeting minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

7.

Committee Chair Reports

Public Safety

Councilmember Blair reported the month of July statistics for the Grovetown Police Department, K-9 Unit, Grovetown Fire Rescue, and Criminal Investigation Department. He reported that once a month the Police Department conducts a high visibility proactive traffic night. Last month on the designated night they performed 34 stops and issued nine citations. Councilmember Blair announced that the Fire Rescue Department continues to test fire hydrants. He also reported that the Fire Rescue Department conducted aero ladder truck training and attended a class on HVAC emergencies. Councilmember Blair thanked the Fire Rescue Department and the Police Department for hosting the National Night Out Back to School Bash on July 28, 2023.

The remaining report was deferred to Fire Rescue Chief Wayne Kent.

Utility Billing and Utility Services

Councilmember Fisher reported on the monthly statistics for the Utility Billing Department.

Councilmember Fisher reported on some of Utility Services Director Keith Lyons concerns at the wastewater treatment plant and the other concern being the issues with stormwater.

The remainder of the report was deferred to the Utility Services Director Keith Lyons.

Planning and Development

Councilmember Smith reported on the monthly statistics for the Planning and Community Development Department. She thanked citizens for keeping code enforcement violations down for this month. Councilmember Smith encouraged citizens to participate in keeping the city clean.

The remainder of the report was deferred to Planning and Community Development Director Ronnie Kurtz.

General Services

Councilmember Martin reported on the monthly statistics, year to date revenue, and field utilization for Leisure and Recreation. Councilmember Martin announced that the General Services Department reworked the flower beds on W. Robinson Ave. and plans to redesign all flower beds around City signs. She also reported on the cleaning, organizing, and maintenance around the City.

The remainder of the report was deferred to General Services Director David Carlin.

Administration

The report was deferred to City Administrator Elaine Matthews.

8.

Financial Statement

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to approve the financial statement. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

9.

Employee of the Month

City Administrator Elaine Matthews presented Rachal Cantrell from the General Services Department with the employee of the month award for July 2023.

10.

Service Award

City Administrator Elaine Matthews recognized April Bryan for her 5 years of service and also recognized Laura McManus for her 30 years of service to the City. City Administrator Matthews presented each with certificates and pins for their service to the City of Grovetown.

11.

Special Recognition for Kash Ferguson

Councilmember Ceretta Smith recognized Kash “The Flash” Ferguson for his athletic and academic accomplishments. Kash will be competing in 100m, 200m, and the 400m sprints at the 2023 AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa.

12.

Public Announcements

Councilmember Smith announced that August 15, 2023 is GMA National City Hall Selfie Day and that the City would be hosting a special guest Mickey Mouse for staff and citizens to take selfies.

Councilmember Fisher announced that she will be resigning from her current councilmember position to qualify for Mayor of Grovetown. She thanked all the citizens, staff, and Mayor and Council for their support.

Councilmember Blair thanked Grove First Baptist for providing dinner for the city council and staff.

13.

Citizens Comments

Marie Geary addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to Columbia County’s feasibility study pertaining to county wide incorporation and consolidation.

14.

General Business: Old

14A.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2023-07-02, Ordinance to Amend and Restate the City Code of the City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 7 (Fire Protection and Prevention), Section 7-1 (Fire Prevention Code), Second Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to accept the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2023-07-02, Ordinance to amend and restate the City Code of City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 7 (Fire Protection and Prevention), Section 7-1 (Fire Prevention Code). Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

15.

General Business: New

15A.

Recommend Approval to add Good Friday as a half-a-day and the Monday after Easter as a day off

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve adding Good Friday as a half-a-day and Monday after Easter as a day off for employees. Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

15B.

Recommend Approval to Enter into Medical Director Contract between City of Grovetown Fire Rescue Department and Abells Physician Services, LLC, on behalf of itself and Dr. Becky Abell (Consultant)

Councilmember Blair made a motion to enter into a Medical Director Contract between City of Grovetown Fire Rescue Department and Abells Physician Services, LLC, on behalf of itself and Dr. Becky Abell (Consultant). Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

15C.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2023-08-01, Ordinance to Annex Property Under the 100% Method (0.08 acres at 0 Whiskey Rd.) Parcel No. 062 3250, First Reading

Councilmember Smith made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2023-08-01, Ordinance to annex property under the 100% method (0.08 acres at 0 Whiskey Rd.) Parcel No. 062 3250. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

15D.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2023-08-02, Ordinance to Annex Property Under the 100% Method (23.96 acres at 409 Whiskey Rd.) Parcel No. 062 3249, First Reading

Councilmember Martin made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2023-08-02, Ordinance to annex property under the 100% method (23.96 acres at 409 Whiskey Rd.) Parcel No. 062 3249. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

15E.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2023-08-03, Ordinance to Rezone 409 Whiskey Rd. (Parcel No. 062 3249) from RA (Columbia County) to R-C2 (Residential), First Reading

Councilmember Smith made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2023-08-03, Ordinance to rezone 409 Whiskey Rd. (Parcel No. 062 3249) from RA (Columbia County) to R-C2 (Residential). Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

16.

Director's Reports

City Administrator Elaine Matthews briefed Mayor and Council on recent activities around the City.

17.

Executive Session- Personnel Matter

Councilmember Blair made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to enter back into the regular meeting at 7:19 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

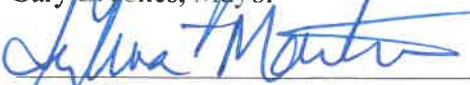
18.

Adjourn

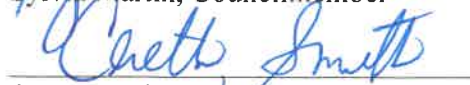
Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.



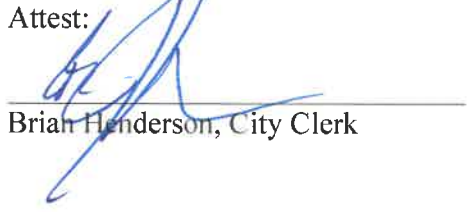
Gary E. Jones, Mayor




Sylvia Martin, Councilmember



Ceretta Smith, Councilmember

Attest:


Brian Henderson, City Clerk



Eric Blair, Mayor Pro-Tem

Vacant Seat

Deborah Fisher, Councilmember