

City of Grovetown
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2023 6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Grovetown City Council was held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Gary E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Blair, Councilmember Ceretta Smith and Councilmember Sylvia Martin.

Also present were City Administrator Elaine Matthews, Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator Bradley Smith, IT Tech John Klosinski, 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 Blair gave the invocation with a moment of silence for all those lost on 9/11, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones welcomed Columbia County District 4 Commissioner Alison Couch to the council meeting. District 4 Commissioner Alison Couch provided an update on various projects taking place in Columbia County.

3.

Approval of Agenda

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

4.

Approval of the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

5.

Approval of the August 14, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 executive session minutes. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

6.

Committee Chair Reports

Public Safety

Councilmember Blair reported the month of August statistics for the Grovetown Police Department, K-9 Unit, Grovetown Fire Rescue, and Criminal Investigation Department. He announced that the Police Department conducted annual in-service training on their tactical rifles and shotgun qualification last month. Councilmember Blair announced that Grovetown moved up from the 7th spot to the 3rd of one of the safest places to live in Georgia. He also announced that Police Chief Jamey Kitchens, Major Robert Eastman and Captain Chris Powell participated in the Augusta Star Special Olympics Bike team. Councilmember Blair thanked TAC Officer Nasie Gordon for working hard to get ready for the compliance audit from GBI, GCIC and helping the Grovetown Police Department pass the compliance audit. Councilmember Blair announced that the Fire Rescue held a ceremony where they observed a moment of silence for all who had fallen on 9/11 and also honored all the firefighters and police officers. He also reported that Fire Rescue is still conducting hydrant testing around the City.

The remaining report was deferred to Fire Rescue Chief Wayne Kent and Police Chief Jamey Kitchens.

Utility Billing and Utility Services

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 of Grovetown for 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. She announced that on Friday, October 27, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Leisure and Recreation will host Trunk or Treat at Liberty Park. She announced that if you are interested to please call Liberty Park or go online to register. She also asked if there were any vendors who would like to come set up, to go online and register and the fee for one spot is \$20.00. Councilmember Martin also announced that on Friday, September 15, 2023 at Liberty Park there will be a blood drive from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Administration

The report was deferred to City Administrator Elaine Matthews.

7.

Financial Statement

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

8.

Employee of the Month

City Administrator Elaine Matthews presented Captain Christopher Powell from the Grovetown Police Department with the employee of the month award for August 2023.

9.

Service Award

City Administrator Elaine Matthews recognized Samantha Coker for her 5 years of service, Cleatha Reese for 10 years of service and Phillip Knight for 15 years of service to the City. City Administrator Matthews presented each with certificates and pins for their service to the City of Grovetown.

10.

Discussion on becoming a Certified City of DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging)

Councilmember Smith presented information to Mayor and Council pertaining to the City becoming a certified City of DEIB. Mayor Jones announced that he would form a committee of Councilmember Ceretta Smith and Councilmember Eric Blair to research all the requirements.

11.

Discussion on Sidewalk Continuation off Old Berzelia Rd

Mayor Jones and Councilmember Smith discussed this matter and deferred this topic to the October 10th meeting.

12.

Announcement of Services Provided by Concerned Women INC.

Councilmember Martin welcomed Mrs. Sanders to speak on services that Concerned Women INC. provide to the citizens of Grovetown and the CSRA. Mrs. Sanders announced to the Council that Concerned Women INC. was in the need of donations.

13.

Announcement of Vacancy on Planning Commission

Planning and Community Development Director Ronnie Kutz announced there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission. If anyone is interested, please send resumes to City Council and they will pass them to the Planning and Development Department to set up a meeting. An announcement will be made at a subsequent meeting once a candidate is chosen.

14.

Public Announcements

Councilmember Ceretta Smith announced that on Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. the Art Committee will be unveiling the first art project at Liberty Park. She thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work with getting this accomplished, since the first project did not go as planned.

Councilmember Eric Blair announced that in the past month City workers picked up 96 bags of litter and asked the citizens of Grovetown to help Streets and Sanitation with the City's litter problem. He also addressed bulk and yard waste and asked citizens to call City Hall to find out what their bulk and yard waste pick-up days are so that we may keep the streets and roadways clean and clear.

15.

Citizens Comments

Carla Harrison addressed Mayor and Council to speak on the programs offered by Concerned Women INC.

16.

General Business: Old

16A.

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, Second Reading

Councilmember Smith made a motion to accept the second reading and adopt 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.

16B.

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, Second Reading

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

16C.

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), Second Reading

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

17.

General Business: New

17A.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2023-09-01, Ordinance to Amend Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (Article I & Article VI, Amending definition of radial lot, Amending 6.030, adding 6.250 & 6.260), First Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2023-09-01, Ordinance to amend Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (Article I and Article VI, amending definition of radial lot, amending Section 6.030, adding Sections 6.250 & 6.260). Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

17B.

Recommend Adoption of Resolution 2023-09-02, Resolution to Adopt the 2023 Amendments to the City of Grovetown Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2026

Councilmember Martin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-09-02, Resolution to adopt the 2023 amendments to the City of Grovetown Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2026. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

17C.

Recommend Approval of Police Vehicle Lease Budgeted under 2023-2024 Budget

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the Police vehicle lease budgeted under 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$227,437.00. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

17D.

Recommend Approval of Deed of Dedication for Greens Plaza at Iveys Crossroad (Formerly Cedar View Farms) to City of Grovetown

Councilmember Smith made a motion to accept the Deed of Dedication for Greens Plaza at Iveys Crossroad (Formerly Cedar View Farms) to the City of Grovetown. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

17E.

Recommend Approval of Deed of Dedication for Brighton Woods Townhomes to City of Grovetown

Councilmember Blair made a motion to accept the Deed of Dedication for Brighton Woods Townhomes to the City of Grovetown. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

18.

Director's Reports

City Administrator Elaine Matthews and Directors briefed Council on recent activities of their respective Departments.

19.

Executive Session- Personnel Matter

Councilmember Smith made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss real estate acquisition. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to enter back into the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

20.

Adjourn

Councilmember Blair made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.



Gary E. Jones, Mayor



Sylvia Martin, Councilmember



Ceretta Smith, Councilmember

Attest:


Brian Henderson, City Cler



Eric Blair, Mayor Pro-Tem

Vacant