

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 21, 2018

The work session and regular meeting of the Grovetown City Council were held on Monday, December 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor Gary E. Jones, Mayor Pro-tem Sylvia Martin, Councilmember Eric Blair, and Councilmember Deborah Fisher.

Also present were Planning and Development Director Scott Sterling, Finance Director Bradley Smith, City Attorney Chris Dube, City Administrator John Waller and City Clerk Roxanne Brown.

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 regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and acknowledged a quorum was present.

2.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Mayor Jones.

3.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

Approval of Agenda

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

5.

Approval of November Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2018 regular council meeting. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

6.

Committee Chair Reports

Public Safety

Councilmember Blair reported that the K9 dog for the Department of Public Safety is being delivered to Grovetown. The policer officers completed their annual Taser recertification training in December of 2018. Investigator Sam Long is now the City's certified taser training instructor. This month Fire and Rescue conducted fire suppression, search and rescue, and firefighter self-rescue training at the Columbia County Fire and Rescue Training Center in Appling. Firefighters Joe Taylor and Marquavious Williams completed the EMT course. Bruce Jones was selected Police Officer of the Year and Jonothan Scrum received Firefighter of the Year.

Utility Billing and Public Works

Councilmember Fisher thanked the Utility Billing Department and the Public Works Department for all they have done throughout the year.

Planning and Development

Mayor Jones referred this report to Director Scott Sterling due to the vacant council committee seat.

Director Sterling reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting for January 2019 has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The Planning Commission met on December 20th and approved the Highland Hills, Section 2 site plan for 32 apartments and Caroleton, Phase 2 preliminary plan was approved for 72 lots.

Director Sterling reported that Planning Commission members, Board of Zoning Appeals members, and staff will be receiving training on basic planning and zoning matters from the Carl Vinson Institute. He said the council members are welcome to attend as well.

There are seven single family and two multi-family projects under construction. Director Sterling is currently working on completing the Request for Proposals for the renovation plans for the former city hall building and senior center. The Planning and Development offices will be relocated to this site.

Code Enforcement will assist in the development of an ordinance to address tractor trailer parking on vacant lots. The new City Planner will be starting in early January 2019 and the additional Building Inspector position will be filled soon as well.

Leisure and Recreation Services

Councilmember Martin reported that the Leisure and Recreation Services staff were responsible for setting up and taking down the tables used for the employee Christmas Luncheon on December 19th. The staff worked hard on the Christmas Parade and the Christmas Festival despite unfavorable weather.

A lift was rented, and the staff replaced light bulbs on the gym floor and cleaned the rafters

and windows at the Liberty Park Gym. Staff is working to repair a water leak at the large dog park. The park will be closed until the repair is completed on December 26th.

Donna South was selected Outstanding Employee for the Leisure and Recreation Services Department for 2018.

Administration

Mayor Jones referred his report to City Administrator John Waller.

7.

Financial Statement

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

8.

Citizens Comments

Allen Transou voiced his concerns over the relationship between Councilmember Fisher and Board of Zoning Appeals board member Johnathan Fisher. He feels that it is a strong concern based on what the City has recently gone through and that the City needs to find other members to serve on these boards that are not related.

9.

General Business:

9A.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2018-10-02 – Amend Chapter 15, Article XV (Parking Certain Vehicles on Residential Property or Adjacent to Right-of-Ways) of the City Code – Second Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2018-10-02 amending Chapter 15, Article XV (Parking Certain Vehicles on Residential Property or Adjacent to Right-of-Ways) of the City Code. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

9B.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 257B – Amendments to 2018 Budget - Second Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance 257B amending the 2018 Budget. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

9C.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2018-11-02 – Appointing the City Clerk as the City’s Open Records Officer – Second Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2018-11-02 appointing the City Clerk as the City’s Open Records Officer. Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10.

General Business: New

10A.

Recommend Approval to Extend the Contract of Advanced Disposal as Solid Waste Disposal Provider for the City of Grovetown

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to approve the Fifth Amendment to the Exclusive Contract for Solid Waste Collection Service between the City of Grovetown, Georgia and Advanced Disposal Services Augusta, LLC. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10B.

Recommend Approval of the 2015 Financial Audit

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the 2015 Financial Audit. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10C.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2018-12-01 – 2019 Budget Ordinance – First Reading

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2018-12-01 adopting the 2019 Budget. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10D.

Recommend Adoption of Resolution 2018-12-02 – Award of Contract for Phase 4 of Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction (Pump Stations) in the amount of \$1,183,098.92 to Fortis Engineering Solutions, LLC, Eatonton, Georgia

Councilmember Blair made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-12-02 awarding the contract for Phase 4 of Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction for three pump stations in the amount of \$1,183,098.92 to Fortis Engineering Solutions, LLC, Eatonton, Georgia. Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10E.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2018-12-03 – Amend and Restate the Code of the City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 3 (Alcoholic Beverages), Article III, Section 3-199 and Section 3-204 (Sale of Alcoholic Beverages – Hours) – First Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2018-12-03 to amend and restate the Code of the City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 3 (Alcoholic Beverages), Article III, Section 3-199 and Section 3-204 (Sale of Alcoholic Beverages – Hours). Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10F.

Recommend Approval of Updated Municipal Court Judges Services Agreements

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the Municipal Court Judge Services Agreements for J. Grady Blanchard and Travers W. Chance. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10G.

Recommend Approval of Modification 2 for GEFA Loan CWSRF 15015, Postponement of Date to Begin Repayment of Loan Principal from May 1, 2019 to June 1, 2020

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to approve Modification 2 for GEFA Loan CWSRF 15015. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10H.

Recommend Approval of Appointment of Shelly Kandian to the City of Grovetown Planning Commission with term expiring December 31, 2022

Councilmember Martin made a motion to appoint Shelly Kandian to the City of Grovetown Planning Commission with term expiring December 31, 2022. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10I.

Recommend Approval of Appointment of Jennifer Bramblett to the City of Grovetown Planning Commission to Fill Unexpired Term of Marsha Keating with term expiring December 31, 2022

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the appointment of Jennifer Bramblett to the City of Grovetown Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Marsha Keating with term expiring December 31, 2022. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10J.

City of Grovetown Planning Commission Appointments – Current Members

Councilmember Martin made a motion to re-appoint the following current members to the City of Grovetown Planning Commission: Mary Ann Navarro to a one-year term with term expiring December 31, 2019; Edward Trimble to a two-year term with term expiring December 31, 2020; and Theopelis Knight to a three-year term with term expiring December 31, 2021.

Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10K.

City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals Appointments – Current Members

Councilmember Martin made a motion to re-appoint Vern Cargil to a two-year term to the City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals with term expiring December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Martin made a motion to re-appoint Johnathan Fisher to a two-year term to the City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals with term expiring December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Blair seconded the motion.

There was some discussion concerning the relationship between Councilmember Fisher and Board of Zoning Appeals member Johnathan Fisher. Director Scott Sterling explained that the Zoning Board of Appeals does not make any recommendation to the Council unlike the Planning Commission.

Councilmembers Martin and Blair voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Fisher abstained from voting. Mayor Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Martin made a motion to re-appoint Laverne Lewis Gaskins to a four-year term to the City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals with term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to re-appoint Virgil Hughes to a four-year term to the City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals with term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Martin made a motion to re-appoint Carla Harrison to a four-year term to the City of Grovetown Board of Zoning Appeals with term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10L.

Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2018-12-04 – Adopt Amended and Restated Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Documents (Master Plan and Adoption Agreement) in Compliance with IRS Requirements – First Reading

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2018-12-04 to adopt amended and restated Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Documents (Master Plan and Adoption Agreement) in compliance with IRS requirements. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10M.

Recommend Approval of Proposed Planning and Development Fee Changes

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to approve and adopt the proposed Planning and Development fee changes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

10N.

Recommend Approval of Proposed Leisure and Recreation Services Fee Changes

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve and adopt the proposed Leisure and Recreation Services fee changes. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

11.

Executive Session: Real Estate Acquisition; Authorize Litigation; and Personnel Matters

Councilmember Martin made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Blair made a motion to enter back into Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Back in Regular Session, Councilmember Martin made a motion to purchase 4 acres of land located on VFW Road (Tax Map 063A, Parcel 029) from Belvin R. Villeza for the purchase price of \$9,000. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Blair made a motion to authorize Attorney Scott Kelly with Fulcher Hagler, LLP to pursue litigation on behalf of the City and GIRMA against Vicky Capetillo and others to recover funds from Capetillo's employee theft. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

No official action was taken on the personnel matters.

12.

Adjourn

Councilmember Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Gary E. Jones, Mayor

Sylvia Martin, Mayor Pro-tem

Eric Blair, Councilmember

Vacant Seat

Attest:

Deborah Fisher, Councilmember

Roxanne Brown, City Clerk