

City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
February 10, 2014
7:15PM

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, February 10th, 2014, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 136 City Hall Avenue, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Crawford at 7:15PM. Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Keith Crawford
Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre
Councilmember Jim Chaffin
Councilmember Marty Johnson
Councilmember Jan Johnson

Staff present: City Manager Jimmy Meigs Police Chief Mark Brock
City Clerk Susan Pierce

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Jan Johnson, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting of January 13th, 2014 were read and presented for approval.
Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to approve; second by Councilmember Jim Chaffin; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Business Session:

- A. Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre stated that since the City has been encouraging local businesses to renovate/spruce up their properties, City Hall should set an example since it needs to be renovated, also. He would like to see it restored back to the way it used to be, which was an “Art Deco” style of architecture. Restoring the City Hall building could then set a standard for the rest of the city. Improvements could include exterior painting and new awnings. Mayor Crawford suggested coordinating through Johnnie Huey and the Historical Preservation Commission. Councilmember Jan Johnson asked if Council should have a work session to go over the needed improvements for the exterior and interior of the building. Mr. McEntyre agreed that a work session would help decide the direction we want to go and the funding sources available. Councilmember Marty Johnson asked about the SPLOST money set aside for Historical Preservation. Mignon Wessinger explained that the Historical Preservation Commission makes sure buildings keep their historical character. She also said that she has photos from 1948 which could help with retaining the historical look of the building. Mayor Crawford said that Janice Duncan chairs the Historical Preservation Commission, so we could consult with her, also. Mr. McEntyre noted that this was not a motion for a vote; Council just needs to plan a work session to discuss the possibilities, and Ms. Johnson agreed.

- B. Mr. Johnnie Huey updated the Council on the Zoning Appeals Board members. He stated that Pam Parham and Vicky Browning's terms were up, but that both agreed to stay on for another term. He informed Council that renewing their terms was recommended by the Zoning Appeals Board.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to approve term recommendations; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Financial Session:

- A. Mayor Crawford stated that the Financial Report as of December 31, 2013 was included in the Council packages. He also announced that Capable Financial Solutions (Sabrina Cape) will no longer be preparing our financial reports as of June 30, 2014. She is getting out of the municipal finance reporting area of her business. City Manager Meigs said that he has met with a possible replacement, Rick Hartley, who was recommended by Sabrina Cape and our auditor, Greg Akins. Rick can possibly start in May so as to become familiar with the processes involved. Mr. McEntyre asked if we need a replacement or if this was something that could be done in-house. Mr. Meigs said no, because we are short-staffed and still need the segregation of duties. Mayor Crawford then stated that we are a little short on expected revenues, but we are also below our projected expenses. He asked if we had received a January check from the County for our property taxes; we have not yet received one.
- B. Mayor Crawford also stated that the cash balances as of February 7, 2014 were included in the Council packages.

VIII. Public Comment:

- A. Mignon Wessinger read a letter she wrote publicly commending Police Chief Mark Brock and the Bowdon Police Department.
- B. Miss Fannie Sullivan said she loves Chief Brock and the Police Department, and that the city looks good since everyone has been cleaning up. She said she will help any way she can.
- C. Logan Jackson announced that he is working as the Carroll County Chairperson with the campaign for Georgia Gubernatorial Candidate David Pennington, and that Mr. Pennington was coming to Bowdon on March 1st. He will be at Bowdon Coffee Roasters for a meet and greet. He will let us know the times as soon as possible.
- D. Peggy Sikes, who owns a property at 600 Wedowee Street, wanted to talk about the buzzards. She said that former Mayor David Barrow did a study on the buzzards at one time. She did some research also. Apparently, buzzards do not build nests in trees, but live on cliffs and in holes in the ground. They sleep in the trees. They have some good qualities, but also some bad, which can make them a nuisance. She thinks we need another study to find out where they actually nest in Bowdon and why do they stay here? She said we need to clean up the houses that are in disrepair, and we need to attract new businesses to Bowdon. Ms. Johnson said she remembered that David Barrow and also former Mayor Jim Agan both worked on the buzzard problem. She believes they found that the buzzards were attracted to the area by fertilizer used on the pastures, and that they summer in Ohio before they come to Bowdon to winter.

Councilmember Jim Chaffin asked what would we do if and when we find where they nest? Mignon Wessinger asked what the parameters were for protecting the buzzards. Ms. Sikes said she thought the government would take them, or possible give the okay to kill some of them. Mr. Sikes said he would just like to know what the City can do to solve the problem. Mayor Crawford said he would follow up and see what he could find out. He then asked for any further comments, and Councilmember Marty Johnson apologized for being late to the meeting.

At this time, Mayor Crawford asked if there was any further business. There being none, he requested the meeting be adjourned.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre to adjourn; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

IX. Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Keith Crawford

City Clerk Susan Pierce