

City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
Online Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
May 11, 2020
7:00PM

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met for an online, virtual, regular session on Monday, May 11th, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Chaffin at 7:00PM.

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Jim Chaffin
Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson
Councilmember Noah Steed
Councilmember Wes McEntyre
Councilmember Marty Johnson

Staff present: City Manager Gary Bullock
City Attorney David Mecklin
City Clerk Susan Pierce
Police Chief Mark Brock
Main Street Director Jan Gibbs

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Wes McEntyre and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the agenda; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting on April 13, 2020 were read and presented for approval.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2020 meeting as presented; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

None.

VIII. Business Session

- A. Approval of zoning change – 128 Tarpley St. – Mr. Bullock said this was reviewed by the Planning Commission and recommended to the City Council for approval. The property is currently zoned R-2 Residential and is recommended to be changed to C-1 Commercial per a request from the new owner Daniel Ivey. Mr. Ivey owns Wildcat Construction and would like to use this property for office space and to store landscaping materials and small equipment. The adjacent properties are already zoned C-1. Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson said some citizens had expressed concerns about increased traffic on Tarpley Street and the affects of clearing the lot for the building. Councilmember Steed asked what the percentage of availability in the Industrial Park was and expressed concerns on changing the zoning. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Chaffin asked for a motion to either approve or table the zoning change.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the zoning change for 128 Tarpley St. from R-2 Residential to C-1 - Commercial as presented; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried at a 3-1 margin, with Councilmember Steed voting against the zoning change. Councilmember Steed also wanted it recorded in the minutes that he was attempting to make a motion to table when the motion to approve was presented, saying he would like to have had more information including the minutes from the Planning Commission who recommended the change.

- B. Approval of alcohol application – 133 Wedowee St. – The new owner of Bowdon Minit Market, Stephanie Dawn Bruce, has applied for a license to sell packaged beer and wine. Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson asked about the non-conforming sign. Ms. Bruce said she would submit a sign variance application.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the alcohol license application for Bowdon Minit Market at 133 Wedowee St.; second by Councilmember Steed; motion carried unanimously.

- C. Approval of alcohol application – 108 City Hall Ave. – The new owner of El Mezcal (formerly known as Las Palomas) has applied for a pouring license for the restaurant.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the alcohol license application for El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant at 108 City Hall Ave.; second by Councilmember Steed; motion carried unanimously.

- D. Approval of Main Street Memorandum of Understanding – The Main Street Board submitted their annual MOU for approval. Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson asked about the new annual plan; Jan Gibbs, Main Street Director, said they would have it in a timely fashion.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the Main Street MOU as presented; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

- E. Hazard pay for employees working through quarantine – Mr. Bullock noted that the Hazard Pay qualifies for reimbursement. The maximum for the City is \$25,000 for 10 weeks and next week will be 8 weeks. He proposed \$100 per week per employee.

Motion by Councilmember Steed to approve the Hazard Pay for city employees working through the quarantine as presented; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

- F. City Manager Reports – Mr. Bullock reported that the revenues during the quarantine were better than he expected.

- G. Department Reports – Recreation summer camps are all cancelled. Gymnastics has resumed with only 5 per team practicing at a time. The Library is limiting the number of people who can come in at one time, and Summer Reading has been postponed. Also, all materials are cleaned when returned by patrons. Public Works continues to work on leaks as well as the water line replacement. The Water Treatment Plant rehab is in process. Main Street reports that some businesses are slowly re-opening. Our new I.T. program is scheduled for onboarding next week. We are working on the budget and should have a draft by next Monday. The 2 Public Hearings for the FY 2021 Budget will be held in June. Councilmember Steed asked about domestic disputes are doing since we are in quarantine. Chief Brock said there did seem to be an increase. Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson asked would there be a decrease in the budget due to the quarantine, and Mr. Bullock said it was too early to tell.

VIII. Financial Session

- A. Reviewed Property Tax Unpaid Balance Summary.
- B. Reviewed April financial reports.

C. Cash balances as of May 8, 2020.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to adjourn the meeting; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Mayor Jim Chaffin

City Clerk Susan Pierce