

**City of Bowdon**  
**Mayor and Council Meeting/Public Hearing**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**  
**7:00PM**  
**Mayor and Council Chambers, 182 Grammar School Road**

**I.-IV. Agenda Items:**

The Mayor and City Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Chaffin at 7:00PM.

Roll call was conducted by City Manager Gary Bullock.

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

Absent: Councilmember Ward 2 (currently vacant)

Staff present: City Manager Gary Bullock  
Police Chief Mark Brock

Absent: City Clerk Susan Pierce (icy conditions)  
Main Street Director Jan Gibbs (icy conditions)

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

**V. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 were read and presented for approval.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting as presented; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Public Hearing – Animal Ordinance Amendment**

- A. Ordinance for text amendment to Animal Ordinance – Mr. Bullock reminded Council that there had been extensive discussion in October and November concerning the wording of the Animal Ordinance. There are a number of parcels in the City with animals on them. After discussion, documents were put together and sent to City Attorney David Mecklin to compose a proposed amendment which was not voted on by Council but was sent to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. The Planning Commission denied the amendment but requested more time to develop an amended ordinance with more appropriate language to address the issues within the city limits. Council tabled the recommendation. This text amendment is to legitimize what's going on at the present time and give the Planning Commission time to amend and clarify the language in the ordinance. No one will be cited who currently has animals on their property inside the City Limits. This text amendment says that you cannot have retail sales of animals or animal products within the City Limits. The language for this amendment was put forth after a meeting of the Mayor, Planning Commission Chairman, City Attorney and City Manager to prevent anyone from being

in violation of the current ordinance until the ordinance is amended, and allows people to continue what they have been doing concerning having their animals.

Councilmember McEntyre asked about nuisance animals, such as the roosters on Second Street. Mr. Bullock said the Code Enforcement officer was trying to find out the owner of the roosters. They are in a pen, so they can be removed since they are prohibited by the nuisance/noise ordinance.

There was a question as to whether this text amendment addresses the three-year expiration/continuous use section in the original ordinance. After further discussion, Mr. Bullock reiterated that this was just a temporary fix to address possible violations by existing animal owners until the entire ordinance can be amended. He also stated that our instructions to the Planning Commission will be to amend the existing ordinance with haste and get it back to the Council with their recommendation.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

None.

#### **IX. Business Session**

- A. Approval of Text Amendment to Animal Ordinance as presented above during the Public Hearing.

*Motion by Councilmember Marty Johnson to approve the text amendment to the animal ordinance as presented; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried at a 2-1 margin, with Councilmember McEntyre voting in opposition and Councilmember Marty Johnson and Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson voting in approval.*

- B. Resolution to Call for Special Election – Ward 2 Council Seat – A resolution was presented calling for a Special Election to fill the vacant Ward 2 Council Seat created by the resignation of former Councilmember Noah Steed. The tentative date for the Special Election is June 15, 2021, however no date is specified in the resolution so it could possibly be included in this year’s November election.

*Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to approve the resolution calling for a Special Election to fill the vacant Ward 2 council seat created by the resignation of former Councilmember Noah Steed; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.*

- C. City Manager Reports – Mr. Bullock reported that he hopes to have the audit by the end of March. The Municode recodification of our ordinances is still in process due to some discrepancies and omissions found in the proofs. We are trying to schedule a Strategic Planning session possibly in mid-June after the open council seat is filled. Our 2021 LMIG money is in; all is dedicated to sidewalks downtown including College Street west of Hwy. 100 to Johnson Street, both sides, and Wedowee Street south from College Street down to the alley. Work will start as soon as the weather breaks and bids are in. The next street to be paved is Mill Street, but we can’t get it done before the March 16 SPLOST vote. Councilmember McEntyre asked if there was an update on the street sweeper. Mr. Bullock said that there were mechanical problems and we can’t find anyone to work on the Isuzu engine; but we are making the repair a high priority.

- D. Department Reports – minutes from the first DDA meeting are included.

#### **IX. Financial Session**

- A. Property Tax Unpaid Balance Summary – no questions.
- B. January Financial Reports – good shape; taxes coming in and expenses are down; net of \$299,000 on the General Fund and almost \$56,000 on the Water Fund.

C. Cash Balances as of 02/09/2021 – no questions.

**XI. Adjournment**

*Motion by Councilmember Marty Johnson to adjourn; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.*

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Mayor Jim Chaffin

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City Clerk Susan Pierce