

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 5, 2010 6 PM
MAYOR MCMICKLE PRESIDING

Council Members Present: Laquita Bridges, Jimmy Yarbrough, Howard Threlkeld, and Kevin Booth

City Attorney: Jim Roberts

Interim City Clerk: Missy Queen

Police Chief: Brent Zellner

Public Works Superintendent: Willis Gabriel

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator: Jim Baird

Interim City Clerk Missy Queen called meeting to order.

1. Minutes: Motion by Council Member Booth to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

2. Weather Siren Update: No updates at this time. Tabled until May.

3. Well #3: Dan Elder of Oconee Well Drillers presented options/opinion to Council in reference to Well #3. Mr. Elder stated that the well is decreasing in capacity and proposed rehabilitating Well #3. Mr. Elder has consulted with Geologist, Bob Atkins, with options for the City. Mr. Elder and Mr. Atkins propose that the City starts with removing the existing pump system and video the well. It is possible that sediment have filled the fracture. Once video has been review, they will have better advice on further procedures. However, at this point they are suggesting to drill past existing point an additional 50 feet, and enlarge to 8 inches. Mr. Elder feels there is no reason for any concerning of losing the well altogether, states there is 1% or less in losing the well. Mayor McMickle questioned Mr. Elder on looking at another site. Mr. Elder stated that if they looked for another site, the City would have to rebuild a well house and would risk not getting the same vein. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to proceed with video to allow for Mr. Elder and Mr. Atkins to consult and revisit Council on how to proceed from that point. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

4. Comer Farmers' Market Signs: Barbara Bendzunas, Leslie Chandler, and Mark Black addressed Council. Proposed that local business sponsor signs for Farmers' Market and the City allow the signs to be hung from same hardware and position of City's Christmas lights. Ms. Chandler stated that Comer Farmers' Market is attracted people from surrounding counties and would like to continue to see the market grow. Council was in favor of promoting the local community. Zoning Administrator, Jim Baird, informed Council and representatives that current proposals were not in compliance with Ordinance. Mr. Baird suggested they come up with a definite description of proposal and submit to him.

5. Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance: Jim Baird reported. The state and federal flood damage prevention has new date and has asked the City to update their Ordinance. Mr. Baird has worked on the Ordinance to make sure it fits with current Ordinance. The City is required to participate in Order to receive certain grants. Mr. Baird informed Council they have a few months to look over and accept before he has to submit back to state.

6. Department Reports:

➤ **Police Department reported by Chief Brent Zellner.**

- Chief Zellner has met with Council to propose a firing range. Council Member Yarbrough questioned if there would be a problem with the Ordinance. Attorney Roberts provided Council an amendment to Ordinance to read as follows: "Section 31-102 shall not be construed to prohibit the use of a firing range in the city limits operated by the City of Comer Police Department." Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to accept amendment. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- 8 Arrests; 26 Citations; 18 Incident Reports; 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2 with injuries; 225 Calls

- **Public Works reported by Superintendent Willis Gabriel.**
 - Discharge reports have been out of compliance due to algae blooms. Working with EPD to resolve.
 - Installed new 2” meter at Gholston/McCrae Estate.
 - Getting quotes for bushhog. Price of one locally is \$2237. Motion by Council Member Booth to purchase new bushhog. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
 - Council Member Booth instructed Mr. Gabriel to go through inventory and compile a list of anything questionable. Once City has a list, City have a closed bid on items, including old bushhog.

- **City Hall reported by Interim City Clerk Missy Queen**
 - Phillips Brothers dropped off concrete samples for Travel Center for color approval.
 - Mrs. Queen will be out of the office April 22, for a grant writing class in Gainesville.

- **Building and Zoning reported by Zoning Administrator Jim Baird**
 - Brought to Council's attention a plat that may become an issue involving auctioned Gholston Estate. No disputes currently, but may be in the future and wants Council to be aware.

- **Fire Department reported by Fireman Jimmy Yarbrough.**
 - Department has had 3 structural fires and 4 grass fires.
 - Department has had 2 four hour classes
 - Department purchased new cascade system
 - Finances are in good shape, however, purchase in the near future will consist of new turn out gear
 - Department continues to work on Simulated Burn Training Facility

7. Household Garbage Policy: Mayor McMickle is working with the contract with AAA to create into a policy so residents are clear of requirements. Council Member Booth suggests AAA should pay for any publications in regards to printing/publishing the policy. Resident Uwe Happek questioned the availability of smaller containers, stating on AAA's website they offer smaller containers, yet City resident's were not offered the options. Mayor McMickle stated that he would do more research on the containers.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Keith Callaway, Comer resident, reported that he had an issue and contacted Public Works Superintendent Gabriel and stated Mr. Gabriel immediately took care of the problem and appreciated the promptness.

9. Jim Baird, Comer resident, questioned road side dumping and who's responsibility it is to pick up. Mr. Baird was informed that the County Code Enforcement would provide that service and will work with the City's Public Works department if needed.

10. City Storage Buidings, Council Member Threlked stated that the top of one storage building has caved in and the side of another needed repairs. Larry Gantt gave a quote of \$1500.00 to do the repairs. Motion by Council Member Booth to allow Mr. Gantt to do repairs. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

11. Executive Session: Motion by Council Member Booth to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

After litigation discussion, Motion by Council Member Booth to go out of executive session. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Motion by Council Member Booth to adjourn. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

_____ William D. McMickle, Mayor

_____ Missy Queen, Interim City Clerk

_____ Date Approved