

**CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 8, 2011 6 PM**  
**MAYOR MCMICKLE PRESIDING**

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

**City Attorney:** Jim Roberts

**City Clerk:** Missy Queen

**Police Chief:** Brent Zellner

**Public Works Superintendent:** Willis Gabriel

**Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator:** Jim Baird

City Clerk Missy Queen called meeting to order.

- 1. Minutes:** Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to approve minutes from July 11, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- 2. Mary Anderson:** Mary Anderson of 368 Hwy 72 approached Council to express appreciation to public works department. Stated that she called in with a leak in her yard and the city workers were out there within the hour with leak addressed. However, during time at location, noticed water pressure was extremely low. Council Member Booth instructed Mr. Gabriel to investigate the low pressure problem.
- 3. Rising Sun Youth Club:** Mayor McMickle attended a Rising Sun meeting last month along with many other county officials. Mayor McMickle stated they (Rising Sun) are soliciting donations and support from city and county officials. Mayor McMickle will keep council informed of upcoming events.
- 4. Turning Lane at Comer Elementary:** Mayor McMickle, Council Member Threlkeld, and Police Chief Zellner attended a meeting last week with the Georgia Department of Transportation to discuss a turning lane at Comer Elementary. GDOT promised at the meeting that, "if the City of Comer, Madison County, and the local school system will complete the engineering, grading and base work, the GDOT will use the operational improvement process to complete the paving and striping, up to \$100,000." The only issue at this time will be the timing. Would like to see completed as soon as possible. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough for the City to agree to move applicable water lines. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- 5. Parade Field Letter:** A letter has been composed by Attorney Jim Roberts to send to parade field property owner relieving him of any liability due to the parade and its participants. Motion by Council Member Booth to approve letter to be sent. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- 6. Public Annoyance Ordinance:** Attorney Jim Roberts spoke with Comer Municipal Court Judge Gary Aston in reference to an agreement on the amount of fine if charged with Public Annoyance. Judge Aston informed Attorney Roberts that he would agree with any amount Council felt necessary. Mayor McMickle stated "the intent is to get it cleaned up not to seek revenue from fines." Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to set fine at \$25.00 per day. Motion second by Council member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

## **7. Department Reports:**

### **a. Police Department reported by Chief Zellner:**

- i. School has started back expect traffic to be heavy for a couple weeks. Upcoming turning lane will be a huge help.
- ii. Speed Trailer is still on loan from Danielsville Police Department. Has been set up different places within the City and have seen positive results from awareness.
- iii. Was part of an online demo of crime mapping. This is being offered as a free service to law enforcement agencies. Don't think that the City will have a lot to "map", but there are citizens that would like to see the City take part in crime mapping. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to try as long as it doesn't cost the City any money. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- iv. Attended Chiefs' Conference in Savannah; very educational
- v. Council Member Yarbrough informed Chief Zellner that the real estate sign at the corner of HWY 72 & HWY 22 needs to be moved. It is a hazard being that close to road.

### **b. Public Works reported by Willis Gabriel:**

- i. Wells are holding on considering dry weather
- ii. City received a violation in June due to algae. Issue has been addressed
- iii. In process of picking up leaf/limb debris caused from weekend storms
- iv. Fluoride Training scheduled for August 25 in Athens at the Holiday Inn. Free class given by Georgia Rural Water Association. Motion by Council Member Bridges to allow Mr. Gabriel to attend class. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

### **c. Building & Zoning reported by Jim Baird:**

- i. Permits are slow and there are no zoning matters at this time

### **d. Fire Department reported by Jimmy Yarbrough:**

- i. Fire this morning on Meadow Street; however, fire department was not called
- ii. Parking lot has been paved
- iii. Appreciate all the help for other local fire departments and forestry department, as well as Comer's Public Works for all the help with the train engine fire.

### **e. City Hall reported by Missy Queen:**

- i. City received letter from Chamber of Commerce thanking City for hosting last month's breakfast.
- ii. Reminder of VRAG Conference schedule August 21-24
- iii. Comer Christmas Parade scheduled for December 3, 2011 at 2PM
- iv. Comer Employee Christmas Dinner scheduled for December 7, 2011
- v. Ms. Queen questioned Council of where future Council Meetings would be; thought there was miscommunication between City Hall and Travel Museum. Council was in agreement that Council Meetings should continue to be held in City Hall.
- vi. Council Member Bridges expressed concern of incoming light in Travel Museum would damage pictures. Instructed Ms. Queen to get estimates on tinting windows.

**8. Waste Water Treatment Plant:** Council Member Booth questioned to progress to upgrading the WWTP. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to try Blue Frog Systems. Motion Second by Council Member Booth. Council Member Bridges voted against motion. Council Member Yarbrough questioned Willis Gabriel on his thoughts to trying Blue Frog Systems. Mr. Gabriel admitted to having some reservations because the pond will last another 15 years due to lack of growth in community, and would rather see the City put the money into the collections. Council Member Yarbrough voted against the motion. Mayor McMickle voted against the motion stating the City would put the money in different areas for improvement

**9. Permit Request Letter:** Motion by Council Member Bridges to allow Willis Gabriel to contact John Evans to assist in composing a letter to EPD to request a permit to start the process of upgrading with an additional aerator. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

**10. Executive Session:** Motion by Council Member Booth to go out of regular session and into executive session to discuss litigation. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

After discussion of litigations, motion by Council Member Booth to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

**11. Sunday Alcohol Sales:** Motion by Council Member Booth to pursue the process of Sunday Alcohol Sales on November Ballots. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Council Member Bridges voted against motion. Council Member Yarbrough voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved by majority vote.

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, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved