

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 8, 2016 - 6 PM
MAYOR BLACKMON PRESIDING

Council Members Present: Laquita Bridges, Beth Johnston, and Jimmy Yarbrough

City Clerk: Stephen H. Sorrells

Public Works Superintendent: Willis Gabriel

Police Chief: Dennis Bell

City Attorney: Jim Roberts

Mayor Blackmon called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes: Motion by Council Member Johnston to correct Item 12 of the July 11, 2016 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting to indicate that the motion was made by Council Member Yarbrough and Motion Second by Council Member Johnston and approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting as corrected. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

2. Department Reports: Police Chief Dennis Bell presented a report on the number of calls, incidents, arrests, citations, warrants, and community policing for the month of June. Chief Bell reported on the issue with opening day of school traffic on Friday, August 5th specifically commending Game Warden Shane Sartor for his assistance in directing traffic.

Chief Bell noted the heavy case load and the time constraints on holding court only once per month. He suggested that adding another court date should be considered. Mayor Blackmon pointed out that the heavy case load included numerous serious offenses such as DUI's.

Chief Bell reported that the work on the depot was progressing such that an open house may be held around the 1st of October. He reported that events such as a meeting with the elderly and offering the opportunity for prayer service were being considered.

Public Works Superintendent Gabriel reported that the water and sewer systems were functioning good but recent rains had put Public Works concentrating more efforts on grass cutting. Discussed the possibility of using sprays to control weeds and fire ants in common areas downtown.

3. Mr. Ron Farren-Building Set Back Restrictions: Mr. Farren addressed Council concerning his plans to erect an accessory building and a resulting conflict with the city's set back restrictions. Motion by Council Member Johnston to hold a workshop on Sunday, August 14th at 5PM to review the city's variance ordinance. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

4. Call for Special Election: Attorney Roberts advised Council on recent changes in the Georgia Municipal Elections Code and their affect on the upcoming Special Election. In order to prevent delaying the Special Election until March 2017, the polling location for the Special Election on November 8, 2016 will be changed to Comer City Hall.

5. GEFA Loan 2016: Mayor Blackmon reported that the GEFA Loan was to be considered at the August 23rd GEFA Board Meeting. The project is on schedule and a full set of plans for the project should be available at City Hall within a few days.

6. Highway 72 Bypass: Mayor Blackmon reported that changes in the traffic pattern during construction around the Comer Elementary School would have a significant impact on school traffic. He is in discussion with Chairman Anthony Dove and School Superintendent Allan McCannon about the issue.

Mayor Blackmon reported that he had signed the permit for the new traffic light at the new Hwy 98 E/Highway 72 Bypass intersection.

7. Audit for 2015: Mayor Blackmon referred Council to the completed 2015 City of Comer Audit that was copied to each Council Member.

8. September Council Meeting: Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to reschedule the September 2016 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting to September 12, 2016. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

9. History of Property Tax Levy: Council reviewed the proposed newspaper add publicizing the City of Comer 5 Year History of Levy and that the tax rate would be set at the September 12, 2016 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting.

10. New Dollar General Grand Opening: Mayor Blackmon reported that a Grand Opening for the new Dollar General Store is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 13th.

11. Old Dollar General Building: Discussed.

12. Local Georgia Power Office: Mayor Blackmon reported that Georgia Power would be closing the local office on October 20th.

13. Executive Session: Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential property acquisition and personnel. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to go out of executive session. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

14. Committee Assignments: Discussed.

Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to adjourn. Motion second by Council Member Bridges.
Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

_____ Jody Blackmon, Mayor

_____ Stephen H. Sorrells, City Clerk

_____ Date Approved

Subject to Council Approval