

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2011 6 PM
MAYOR MCMICKLE PRESIDING

Council Members Present: Laquita Bridges, 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. David Jacks: Mr. David Jacks approached Council regarding organizing a Blessings & Bikes Rally to take place March of 2012. Mr. Jacks stated that this would be a 2-3 day ministry outreach event and is looking for the support of the City. Council Member Threlkeld stated he has no problem with the event but cautions Mr. Jacks of music after curfew. Mr. Jacks stated that his intentions are to stay in compliance with all City Ordinances. Chief Zellner informed Mr. Jacks to advise participants not to “hoss it” through town; they will be treated like any other motorists. Mayor McMickle requested that Mr. Jacks come back before the Council in a few months after meeting with the Lions Club to present more details of event to Council.

2. Department Reports:

Fire Department Reports by Chief Johnny Bridges

- Stated FD is Incorporated and not for profit. FD has a mutual agreement with the City.
- Items for the FD are billed to the City to take advantage of the tax exempt status; then total of billed items are deducted from budget amount due to FD.
- FD roughly saves the citizens of Comer \$970,000.00 per year
- All Comer Volunteer Fire Fighters currently serve their community as volunteers and receive no compensation.
- \$37,000/year for ladder truck; \$94,000/year for property insurance; \$11,000/year supplemental insurance; as well as prices for maintenance, etc.
- Council Member Yarbrough stated that the FD get lots of support from the citizens without going door to door asking for it like other communities do. Also stated that the FD is what it is because of Chief Bridges.

City Hall Reports by Missy Queen

- Brian Taylor with QS1 approached Council with information on new software for the City. Council Member Yarbrough stated that we know we need to do something, but the cost is a concern. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to table the discussion until Mrs. Queen has more information and possibly with lesser fees involved. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- The City requested DOT for approval to reduce the speed limit on Hwy 22; request was denied.
- City closed on Madison Street property this afternoon
- Mandatory Elections training scheduled for the week of February 21-25 in Valdosta. Training is free of charge. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough for Mrs. Queen to attend. Second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- Presented Council with brochure proof to be used for the Travel Museum. Requested that Council look over and make suggestions for final.
- Discussed access from City Hall to Travel Museum. Will work with Jim Baird to get a detailed list of project before putting out for bid. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to proceed with planning. Second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Police Department Reports by Chief Zellner

- For the month of January: 8 arrests; 34 citations; 15 incident reports; 2 accident reports; 170 calls
- Looking into locating snow chains for PD.
- Looking into a 4x4 that could be used by both PD and Public Works
- Part-time opening in PD, ad should be in this week's paper. Accepting applications until position filled.
- Mayor McMickle is looking at cots and case of MREs for PD in case of emergency
- Task Force meeting scheduled for Friday, February 11th in Clarke County.
- Chief Zellner and Sgt. Ingram attended a meeting for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics; will be selling items to help raise money for the cause.

Public Works Reports by Willis Gabriel

- 2 Water line repairs; 2 Sewer line repairs; and 95% of road repairs are completed due to snow/ice.
- PW 80% completion on leaf and limb pick up today.
- Tractor is currently being worked on
- City received 2 bids on shoulder repairs. Bids were the same. Mayor McMickle suggested we stay local. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to approve the bid of the local company. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Building and Zoning Reports by Jim Baird

- Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to open a Public Hearing for the purpose of accepting public comments on an amendment proposal of the subdivision regulations. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Baird reported that previous plat approvals were given to the Council for approval/decline with recommendation by Building/Zoning. Amendment states that "*The Building Inspector shall review the final plat and approve or disapprove of said plat within ten (10) working days after the final plat is submitted. If the final plat is disapproved, the Building Inspector shall notify the subdivider in writing citing the reasons for disapproval. The action of the Building Inspector shall be noted on a copy of the final plat, and one copy shall be returned to the subdivider.*" Also, "*Appeals from decisions rendered by the Building Inspector shall be filed with the Comer Mayor and Council or designated authority withing thirty (30) days of the date of the City Council's decision or the right to appeal is lost.*" No one from the community spoke in favor or opposition.

Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to go out of Public Hearing and return to regular Council Meeting. Motion second Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to approve amendment. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

3. Travel Museum: Last Friday was the final walk through of the Travel Museum. All paperwork has been signed and DBE reports adjusted to reflect the correct work of the DBE. Final pay request has been submitted to GDOT.

4. Citizen Comments: Scott Hancock addressed council with great appreciation of Willis Gabriel scraping the roadways during the snow.

5. Executive Session: Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

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

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

_____ William D. McMickle, Mayor

_____ Missy Queen, Interim City Clerk

_____ Date Approved