

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 11, 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 Yarbrough to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. 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.

Public Works Superintendent Gabriel reported on water leaks for the month of June and that one of the lift pumps at the Hwy 172 lift station is being repaired.

3. Called for Special Election: Election Superintendent Katie Crane reported that the earliest a Special Election to fill the District 2 Council Seat would be November 8, 2016. Qualifying would begin on August 29 and end on September 2nd with a qualifying fee of \$45. Motion by Council Member Johnston to call for the Special Election. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

4. GEFA Loan 2016: Motion by Council Member Bridges to authorize Mayor Blackmon to establish a line of credit with First Madison Bank for interim financing for the upcoming GEFA project. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

5. Last Blast for 2016: Scheduled for August 27th.

6. Highway 72 Bypass: Mayor Blackmon reported that his discussions with the Hwy 72 Bypass construction contractor indicated that the current traffic pattern would remain for approximately the next 12 months.

7. LMIG Funding for 2017: Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to authorize Mayor Blackmon to submit a list for 2017 LMIG projects that will include cut out and patching of streets in defined areas, sidewalk construction and downtown right of way landscaping. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

8. Delinquent Tax Interest and Penalty Rates: Attorney Jim Roberts presented Council a summary of state law effective July 1, 2016 that would stipulate the interest and penalty rate charged to property owners with delinquent tax due. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough for the city to change the city's delinquent tax interest and penalty rates to those required by state law. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

9. New Dollar General Opening: Discussed.

10. GDOT Traffic Light at Hwy 98 and the New 72 Bypass: Mayor Blackmon reported on the progress of the traffic light.

11. Citizen Concern –Crime: Mrs. Diane Satterfield expressed her concern about criminal activity in her neighborhood.

12. Police Department Expansion: Motion by Council Member Johnston to allow the Police Department to use the depot building and property on Spring Circle. Motion second by Council Member Johnston. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

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

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

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

Jody Blackmon, Mayor

Stephen H. Sorrells, City Clerk

Date Approved