

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2010 6 PM
MAYOR MCMICKLE PRESIDING

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

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 Threlkeld to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

2. Brian Griggs—Travel Museum: Brian Griggs with Phillip Brothers Contractors addressed Mayor, Council, and Citizens with update of Travel Museum. Mr. Griggs elaborated on progress and obstacles they have faced thus far, and will be back at work on museum tomorrow. Mr. Griggs will be back at the July Council Meeting to address gutter issue before moving forward. Stated at this point, they are 20% complete.

3. Quit Claim Deed: Deed from Madison County Board of Education received with obvious mistakes, attorney Jim Roberts looked over. Deed was sent back for corrections and should have revised deed shortly.

4. Firing Range: Comer citizens spoke with concerns over discussed Firing Range for Comer Police Department. Questions were raised as to why it is needed; how often it will be used; who all will be allowed to use range; why is the range in Danielsville not being used. Chief Zellner addressed citizens and stated that the Police Department is mandated to qualify at least once a year. New Range for the Sheriff's office was made for specific agencies only, such as Madison County Sheriff's Office, GBI, etc; Comer Police Department nor Danielsville Police Department was not invited to participate. The new range for Comer PD will only be used maximum four times a year. Harry Carter, retired DNR Sargent and retired bomb instructor address issues as well. Reiterated that the officers will only use the range for qualifying and training. It is a skill that must be learned and officers should stay efficient. It is mandated by the Federal and State agencies that Comer Police Department officers qualify at least once a year. Mr. Carter also stated that, yes, it would be considered a hazardous site, but could easily be removed. Citizens also question was the cost to the City is for this range; Council Member Yarbrough stated that everything had been donated. Mayor McMickle stated that the Council has already voted to amended the Ordinance to allow for firing range.

5. LARP: Georgia Department of Transportation has complete Pine Avenue, and Ivy Street is the next street scheduled to be resurfaced. Council Member Threlkeld questioned why Ivy was next; stated that we have streets that are on bus routes that are far more important than Ivy. Mayor McMickle stated that GADOT is revamping the LARP program so municipalities have more of a voice. Council Member Threlkeld asked to go on record as disagreeing with GADOT, and feels it is a waste of money.

6. Department Reports:

- Police Department—Reported by Brent Zeller
 - 8 arrests, 24 citations, 19 incidents, 3 accidents 2 on private property, 216 calls for service
 - Received a large donation from Comer BP, we will be sending a card of thanks
 - Mr. Greg Schultz of Boy Scouts of America spoke of the Explorer program, that the Police Department could be involved in. It is a coed program to offer HS students what a career would be like in law enforcement. BSA covers all liability. Criminal background checks are done on all adult leaders as well request the take Youth Protection Training. Youth will have to earn a chance to participate in the Ride-Along Program. Training will be twice a month, with hands-on or classroom training. BSA is looking at

August/September to have open house to invite students to participate. There is a \$10.00 annual registration fee for students. Attorney Jim Roberts requested a letter from BSA stating that no liability will fall on the City of Comer. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to pay \$20 annual charter fee for Police Department to participate in Explorer program. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

- Public Works—Reported by Willis Gabriel
 - Still waiting on samples for Well #3; samples were sent to Georgia Tech
 - F350 is in the shop with transmission problems. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to “do what we got to do to fix it” and use the transmission quote for the warranty transmission. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
 - Aerators—the City was given a quote by EMS for two used aerators. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to purchase aerators. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
 - Backhoe—looking at minimum \$2000 in repairs. Council Member Yarbrough would like to continue to look for something else. Council Member Yarbrough stated he does not want to see backhoe fixed. Mr. Gabriel will start aggressively looking.

- City Hall—reported by Missy Queen
 - As a representative for the Travel Museum Committee, the Committee would like to ask Council for a called meeting on June 14, 2010 at 6pm to discuss items for museum. Council had no problem meeting with committee.
 - We have had some recent issues with the computer and software. Current computer is not compatible with upgraded software for Versaprobe. Council Member Threlkeld passed along information from a vendor that he met at GRWA. Representative from QS1 came to City Hall to discuss what they have to offer. Ms. Queen has looked at several vendors and feels QS1 has more of what the city needs. However, there is a price. It would roughly cost the city \$1000 a month to upgrade hardware and software. Council ask if representative could come and speak with them. Ms. Queen stated she would get in touch with him and see if he could be at called meeting.

- Fire Department—reported by Jimmy Yarbrough
 - Joe Alewine has donated 3 buses to the fire department to use for hands on training.

- Building/Zoning—reported by Jim Baird
 - Slow amount of permits
 - Had an informal meeting regarding signs for Farmers Market, almost ready for public hearing

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

_____ Kevin Booth, Mayor Pro-Tem

_____ Missy Queen, Interim City Clerk

_____ Date Approved