

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 10, 2018 – 6:00 PM
MAYOR BLACKMON PRESIDING

Council Members Present: Laquita Bridges, Jimmy Yarbrough and Ron Farren

City Clerk: Stephen H. Sorrells

Election Superintendent: Katie Crane

Police Chief: Dennis Bell

City Attorney: Jim Roberts

Mayor Blackmon called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes: Motion by Council Member Farren to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2018 City of Comer Regular Council Meeting. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

2. Department Reports: Police Chief Bell reported on the number of traffic stops in August specifically noting a stop that resulted in the discovery of a significant amount of illegal drugs. He reported that the school traffic control was going well and that the last day the city will provide the School Resource Officer to the Elementary School will be September 19th. He reported that the department is making plans for the upcoming circus and annual Madison County Fair.

Chief Bell reported on the number of Governor's Office of Highway Safety Meetings held in Comer and the \$20,000 per year grant the department has been awarded for the next three years.

Council discussed security of the fair in more detail.

City Clerk updated council on the sewer treatment effluent test results and planned projects concerning the water system, specifically noting an upcoming hydrant flush sometime in October.

3. CourtWater Software: Progress in implementing the court software system was discussed.

At this time Mayor Blackmon was dispatched to an emergency fire call. Mayor pro tem Yarbrough chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor Blackmon.

4. City of Comer 2018 Property Tax Rate: Motion by Council Member Farren to set the 2018 City of Comer effective property tax rate at 4 mills, the same as 2017. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

5. City of Comer Retirement Plan: City clerk presented revised employee retirement plan documents provided by the Georgia Municipal Association that would ensure continued tax-favored treatment by the IRS for the city's employee retirement plan. Motion by Council Member Bridges to approve the revised document. Motion second by Council Member Farren. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

6. Executive Session: Motion by Council Member Farren to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and potential litigation. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Motion by Council Member Bridges to go out of executive session. Motion second by Council Member Farren. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

7. Granting of Full Time Employment: Motion by Council Member Farren to authorize Mayor Blackmon to offer a promotion from part time to full time to a current part time public works employee. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mayor Blackmon returned to the meeting as Chairman from the emergency fire call.

8. Amendment to the Travel Museum Rental Agreement: Updated agreement language was discussed.

9. Local Legislation Concerning District Voting: Discussed.

10. Vacant Council Seat: Restrictions on dates allowed for a special election was discussed.

12. Siren at City Hall: Progress on getting the siren at city hall relocated was 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