

CITY OF BREMEN
Council Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2016

Meeting Location: Public Safety Complex • 191 Georgia Avenue North • Bremen, GA 30110

City Officials and Administration Attending Meeting:

Mayor Sharon Sewell	City Manager, Perry Hicks	Police Chief, Keith Pesnell
Council Member Dobby Harris	City Attorney, Sam Price	Fire Chief, Jay Hurley
Council Member Salli Thomason	City Clerk, Amy Ridley	Recreation Director, Matthew Cody
Council Member Jai Otwell	Operations Manager, Mike Thompson	
Council Member Terry Crawford	Codes Enforcement Officer, Steve Muse	

6:00 P.M.
Work Session
Mayor & City Council
Informal Discussions Session

The Work Session is an informal discussion among Mayor Sewell, City Council Members, City Manager, Department Heads and the City Attorney. There is no action taken during the work session. The following items were the topics of discussion during this work session.

2016 Property Tax Millage Rate
Department Head Updates
FY 2017 Budget

Mayor Sewell adjourned the work session and everyone prepared to begin the regular scheduled council meeting.

7:00 P.M.
City Council Meeting
Mayor & Council Members
Regular Scheduled Session

Agenda

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Invocation*
4. *Review and Modification of the Agenda*
5. *Approval of Minutes from the July 18, 2016 Regular Council Meeting*
6. *Crosstown Parkway Rezoning Requests*
 - (a.) *17.2 Acres 0106-0001B Oxford Investments LTD requests ER Zoning Estate Residential*
 - (b.) *18.52 Acres 0106-0001E, 22.52 Acres 0106-0001F, 11.18 Acres 0106-0001G, 9.71 Acres 0106-0001H*
 - (b.) *18.61 Acres 0106-0001J Georgia Crosstown Holding LLC requests ER Zoning Estate Residential*
 - (c.) *3.02 Acres 0106-0001 Mar Distribution, Jason Robinson requests R-20 Zoning Single Family Residential*
 - (d.) *1.43 Acres 0106-0001K Daniel & Tammy Orourke requests R-40 Zoning Single Family Residential*
 - (e.) *17.09 Acres 0106-0001D Benchmark Enterprises Inc. Larry & Kirk Boggs requests R-20 Single Family Residential*
7. *2016 Property Tax Millage Rate Discussion*
8. *Open to the Public*
9. *Adjourn*

Call to Order

Mayor Sewell called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Review & Modification of the Agenda

Mayor Sewell stated that we are adding 5a to the agenda to consider placing "In God We Trust" decals on the police and fire units. She stated that we are also adding 5b to the agenda for the approval of two hour parking on Buchanan Street in the downtown area.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Sewell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on July 18, 2016.

Council Member Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on July 18, 2016. Council Member Otwell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

"In God We Trust" Decals for Police & Fire Vehicles

Council Member Jai Otwell had recently inquired as to why Bremen does not have "In God We Trust" on any of the public safety vehicles and stated that we should look into getting some decals for the police and fire vehicles.

Mayor Sewell stated that she has discussed the issue with the police and fire chief and they have requested to have the "In God We Trust" decals placed on the police vehicles and the fire vehicles.

A motion made by Council Member Otwell seconded by Council Member Harris to approve the request for "In God We Trust" decals to be placed on each of the police and fire vehicles. The motion carried unanimously.

Buchanan Street (Downtown Area) 2 Hour Parking

Police Chief Keith Pesnell stated that they have talked to all of the business owners along Buchanan Street in the downtown area and the best solution that we can come up with is to put in 2 hour parking on Buchanan Street for the section that runs from Tallapoosa Street to Jackson Street.

Council Member Crawford made a motion seconded by Council Member Thomason to approve the request for the section of Buchanan Street that runs between Tallapoosa Street and Jackson Street be changed to 2 hour parking. The motion carried unanimously.

Crosstown Village Parkway Re-zoning Requests

City Manager, Perry Hicks stated that each of the rezoning requests being heard tonight have already been heard by the planning and zoning commission and they have recommended the approval of each of them.

17.2 Acres / 0106-0001B / Request by Oxford Investments to rezone to ER Estate Residential

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone is present to speak in favor or in opposition of the ER Estate Residential rezoning request by Oxford Investments.

There was no one present who wished to speak in favor of nor against the request being made by Oxford Investments for 17.2 acres.

Council Member Crawford seconded by Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the rezoning request for 17.2 acres / 0106-0001B requested by Oxford Investments to rezone the property to ER Estate Residential. The motion carried unanimously.

18.52 Acres / 0106-0001E, 22.52 Acres / 0106-0001F, 11.18 Acres / 0106-0001G, 9.71 Acres / 0106-0001H

18.61 Acres / 0106-0001J / Request by Georgia Crosstown Holding LLC to rezone to ER Estate Residential

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone is present to speak in favor of or in opposite of the ER Estate Residential rezoning request by Georgia Crosstown Holding LLC.

There was no one present who wished to speak in favor of nor against the request being made by Georgia Crosstown Holding LLC for 18.52 acres, 22.52 acres, 11.18 acres, 9.71 acres, 18.61 acres.

Council Member Harris made a motion seconded by Council Member Thomason to approve the ER Estate Residential zoning request made by Georgia Crosstown Holding LLC for 18.52 acres / 0106-001E, 22.52 acres / 0106-0001F, 11.18 acres / 0106-0001G, 9.71 acres / 0106-0001H, 18.61 acres / 0106-0001J. The motion carried unanimously.

3.02 Acres / 0106-0001 / Request by Mar Distribution to rezone to R-20 Single Family Residential

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone is present to speak in favor or in opposition of the R-20 zoning request by Mar Distribution.

There was no one present who wished to speak in favor of nor in opposition of the request being made by Mar Distribution for 3.02 acres to be zoned R-20 single family residential.

Council Member Crawford seconded by Council Member Thomason made a motion to approve the rezoning request for 3.02 acres / 0106-0001 requested by Mar Distribution to R-20 single family residential. The motion carried unanimously.

1.43 Acres / 0106-0001K / Request by Daniel & Tammy Orourke to rezone to R-40 Single Family Residential

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone is present to speak in favor or in opposition of the R-40 zoning request by Daniel & Tammy Orourke.

Tammy Orourke was present and stated that she and her husband purchased the property because it adjoins another tract of land owned by them and they wanted to use it for future investment. There was no one to speak in opposition of the R-40 zoning request by Daniel & Tammy Orourke.

Council Member Crawford seconded by Council Member Thomason made a motion to approve the rezoning request for 1.43 acres / 0106-0001K requested by Daniel & Tammy Orourke to R-40 single family residential. The motion carried unanimously.

17.09 Acres / 0106-0001D / Request by Benchmark Enterprises Inc. Larry & Kirk Boggs to rezone to R-20 Single Family Residential

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone is present to speak in favor or in opposition of the R-20 zoning request by Benchmark Enterprises Inc. Larry & Kirk Boggs.

Kirk Boggs was present and stated that he is half owner of the property and wishes to have the request approved. He stated that he is satisfied with the compromise they have made with the planning and zoning board. There was no one to speak in opposition of the R-20 zoning request by Benchmark Enterprises Inc. Larry & Kirk Boggs.

Council Member Thomason seconded by Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the rezoning request for 17.09 acres / 0106-0001D requested by Benchmark Enterprises Inc. Larry & Kirk Boggs to R-20 single family residential. The motion carried unanimously.

2016 Property Tax Millage Rate

Perry Hicks stated to the mayor and council that we need to advertise and prepare to set our millage rate for the 2016 property tax billing. He gave the mayor and council two different figures to go by and one being that we set one gross millage rate for both Haralson and Carroll and then rollback from there based on the sales taxes received from each county. This would be an increase to the Carroll County portion of Bremen. The other figures were the same as we have used in the past with each one figured using separate gross millage rates prior to the sales tax rollback.

Council Member Otwell made a motion to set the millage rates based on the same gross millage for each county prior to applying the sales tax rollback rate to each county.

Mayor Sewell had previously spoken her opinion in the workshop stating that she does not believe it is ethical and she told the council that she does not believe we should shift burden to our Carroll County residence just so the Haralson County residence can pay less. Mayor Sewell stated that she feels like that would be us treating our Carroll County residence the same way that we've been treated by Carroll County in regards to how much sales tax we receive and it's treating them like we've been treated by Haralson County in regards to the millage differential. She stated that she could not support using the same gross millage rates for both counties in order to set our 2016 tax millage rates. She asked that council give their explanation as to the reasoning behind the decision they make.

Council Member Harris stated that he believes that we should go with the option of setting one gross mill rate for both Haralson and Carroll and then rolling back based on the sales tax received per county. He stated that although they are in two different counties, they are all City of Bremen residents and the issue with how much sales tax we receive is not up to us. We should treat our citizens the same and we should set one millage rate. It is a law that says we need to rollback separately and we cannot control how much sales tax we receive from either county.

Council Member Thomason stated that she agrees with Council Member Harris and believes that we should not look at it like two separate counties because they are all the City of Bremen.

Council Member Crawford stated that it is a hard decision to make but feels like we should treat them the same and use one gross millage rate for both counties.

City Manager Perry Hicks stated that this will put Carroll County at an 8.854 mill rate and Haralson County will be at a rate of 6.596 for the 2016 property tax billing and collections.

Mayor Sewell stated that Council Member Otwell has made a motion and asked if there is a second to the motion to use the same gross mill rate for both counties and then applying the sales tax rollback from each county to set the 2016 tax millage rate.

Council Member Harris seconded the motion and the motion to set the same gross millage rate for both Haralson and Carroll counties for the 2016 tax billing and collecting. The motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Public

There was no further business to come before the mayor and council.

Adjourn

Council Member Crawford made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.