

FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 11, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Martin
Mayor Pro Tem Paul Hawkins
Council Member Charles Richardson
Council Member Palmer Dasher
Council Member David Edwards
Council Member Donnie Smith

ABSENT: Council Member Gail Evans

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Craig Stafford
Deputy Sergeant Eric Allen
City Clerk Lori Taylor

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Sandra Martin on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall in Flemington, GA. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Invocation by David Edwards, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. *Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March meeting and accept them as written. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.*
4. Deputy Eric Allen was in attendance to provide council with a list of statistics for the month of March. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins questioned the amount of litter in the City. Councilman Dasher requested the clerk to contact Sara Swida to inquire about the new litter signs. Councilman Dasher inquired about the speed limit on Joseph Martin Road. Matthew Barrow stated that he would get a report ready for next month.
5. Council reviewed the City Expense Report. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins noted to council about a bill for A/C yearly service through The Service Department out of Hilton Head. *He moved to discontinue/not renew the yearly contract with them and utilize a local A/C company for needed services. Seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.*
6. City Engineer Matthew Barrow was in attendance to provide council with updates:
 - a. Wallace Martin Turn Lane – Got final formal approval. Clerk has the contracts for signatures. Project will begin June 1st.
 - b. 2017 Special LMIG Projects – Suggestion was to work on Wallace Martin safety issue to put a colored concrete rumble strip (could be a stamped brick pattern) on the edge of the road. It would improve the look of the road, would require less maintenance, less water ponding, warning to driver's on side of the road, and provide safety to people walking. It does meet safety concerns to both pedestrians and motorists. He also suggested adding some work on the back-slope of the sidewalk to the project. Matthew stated that the project would cost approximately \$100,000 from the Red Roof Inn to Joseph Martin, or about \$75,000 from Red Roof Inn to Coates Road. He also stated that the city can apply for the funds but is not committed to the project. *Councilman Dasher motioned to accept the proposal from Matthew to apply for the Special LMIG funds for the rumble strip project on Wallace Martin Road. Seconded by Councilwoman Smith. All approved. Motion passed.*

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7. Leah Poole – Liberty County Convention & Visitor's Bureau Quarterly Report – Mrs. Poole provided Mayor and council with a report of the previous quarter happenings as well as upcoming projects in the next quarter.
8. Gabby Hartage/Abe Nadji - LCPC:

Action Items

- a. Ms. Hartage presented a request for **business license** by Christina Mansfield for an art studio to be named Azure Creativity Art Studio at 226 Old Sunbury Road (Davis House). Ms. Mansfield stated that she will have art classes for approximately 5-10 children per class. The hours will be 10am-6pm. Each class will be one hour long. Mrs. Jackie Davis was in attendance and clarified that Ms. Mansfield will be using the carriage house and that there is plenty of parking available. Ms. Mansfield also stated that she is looking to hire another assistant and possibly a nurse, but that she does have CPR certification for children as well. *Councilman Dasher motioned to approve the business license for Ms. Mansfield. Seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.*
 - b. Mr. Nadji presented a request for preliminary plat approval for Flemington Oaks Subdivision consists of 32 Single-Family residential lots. Mr. Nadji stated that all lots meet the minimum lot size per ordinance, and 5.3 acres of the property are wetlands. He stated that in November 2017, the new flood zone maps will show that the area south of Old Savannah Road will be in Flood Zone A. Marcus Sacks clarified that that designation means that the houses would have to be built 3 feet above lowest adjacent grade, but that will not really impact because of the fall of the land. The area north of Old Savannah Road will be curb and gutter, drainage will be piped under the road to the pond. LCPC recommended approval. Councilman Edwards questioned the wetlands and buffer between the historic church. Mr. Sacks stated that those wetlands will be intact and will provide a nice natural buffer. He also stated that the accommodations have already been approved for JLUS agreement with Ft. Stewart. Bill Nutting stated that they did agree to a 25 ft. buffer to the church, and that Marcus will add it to the plat to show it as such. Mr. Nadji stated that this is just the preliminary plat and that they will bring a final plat to council before any building of houses will occur. *Councilman Dasher motioned to accept the proposed preliminary plat. Seconded by Councilman Richardson. All approved. Motion passed.*
9. Unfinished/New Business:
 - a. YMCA Annual Campaign/Fort Morris Donation – Clerk Lori Taylor presented council with requests from both the YMCA and Ft. Morris for an annual donation. The YMCA has previously been given \$1000.00, and Ft. Morris has been given \$1500.00. Ms. Taylor stated that both were approved for donations in FY2016, however, the donations were not disbursed until FY2017. If council approved to disburse another donation, it would show up as two donations in one budget year. She also stated that she spoke to Lisa Lee at Golden & Associates and was advised that as long as there was funds available in the budget line item available, then council could choose to disburse as they wish, regardless of the budget year. Ms. Taylor informed council that the Social Services line item has a budget of \$5000, of which \$2000 has been disbursed already. The Ft. Morris donation would come out of the Tourism budget line, per Lisa Lee. *Councilman Richardson motioned to approve the donations. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins. Councilman Dasher called to question the legality of giving donations without receiving something in return. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins motioned to table it until next month and have Mr. Stafford research the legalities of giving donations. Seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.*
 - b. FEMA Billing Report – Mayor Pro Tem explained to council about the billing for the Hurricane Matthew cleanup. The total amount due for Flemington is \$7,895.59. We have the option of paying the lump sum or in 3 separate payments. *Councilman Dasher*

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motioned to pay the lump sum of \$7,895.59. Seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motioned passed.

- c. Personnel Items – Councilman Richardson stated that council has been working on personnel items for over 7 months. He said that council did not vote in open session on items discussed in executive session last month. He reviewed the items (salary, benefits, bonuses, and forms) that were discussed previously. There was some discussion of the evaluation form and process. Councilman Richardson clarified the wishes of council to have all council members submit an evaluation to the Mayor and discuss the rating in executive session prior to finalizing an annual evaluation. Councilwoman Smith suggested that the evaluation form needs to be more specific. Councilman Richardson stated that they will have a new evaluation form by next month. *Councilman Edwards motioned to approve the forms, excluding the evaluation form. Seconded by Councilwoman Smith. All approved. Motioned passed.*
 - d. Hotel/Motel Ordinance – *Councilman Dasher motioned to adopt the Hotel/Motel Ordinance. Seconded by Councilman Richardson. All approved. Motioned passed.*
 - e. Tree Ordinance – Jeff Ricketson reviewed the changes (annotated in yellow) he made on the proposed Tree Ordinance. Changes include: (page 1) to preserve mature live oak trees to the maximum extent possible; (page 6) the designation of an exceptional tree as a live oak 24 inches in diameter, and any other selected designated as an exceptional tree; (page 7) the removal of an exceptional tree may be authorized by council if no other options are available. Mr. Ricketson said that there are not state requirements for advertising for this ordinance, so council just needs to adhere to its own policy to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Stafford states that he will research the policy for adopting ordinance. *Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins motions to table the adoption of the tree ordinance until next month, pending researching the adoption process. Seconded by Councilman Richardson. All approved. Motion passed.*
 - f. Councilman Richardson briefed council on the Transit meeting that he attended this month. He stated that Walthourville had joined with Transit and that there is the possibility of adding a bus stop on Patriot's Trail.
 - g. Jeff Ricketson informed council that there will be a proposal coming to council next month about the Flemington Village PUD. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins asked if someone could attend the LCPC meeting on April 18th to hear the information regarding the PUD since he will be out of town. Councilman Richardson stated that he could attend in his place.
10. *Councilman Dasher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Second by Councilman Edwards. All agreed. Motion passed.*