

FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 13, 2017

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

ABSENT: Council Member Palmer Dasher

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Jeff Arnold
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, June 13, 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. *Councilman Richardson motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the May meeting and accept them as written. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.* Councilwoman Evans also suggested to reconsider the reading of the minutes in future meetings.
4. Deputy Eric Allen was in attendance to provide council with a list of statistics for the month of April.
5. Council reviewed the City Expense Report.
6. City Engineer Matthew Barrow
 - a. Mr. Barrow updated council on the Wallace Martin turn lane project. He stated that all of the required documentation had been completed and that construction is scheduled to begin this week. The project is scheduled for 30 days, thus should be completed before the next council meeting.
 - b. Mr. Barrow informed council that there has not been any update from DOT regarding the Safety LMIG project that was submitted for consideration.
 - c. Mr. Barrow stated that the project on Mr. Godwin's property has hit a stumbling block with the City of Hinesville regarding a possible wetland area. He stated that he requests council's approval to consult an environmental specialist for a study for the area in question. He estimated that the study would cost approximately \$600-\$900. *Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins motioned to go ahead with the study without exceeding \$1000. Councilwoman Smith seconded. All approved. Motion passed. Councilwoman Evans motioned to allow Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins be the representative for the city in dealing with the project. Councilman Edwards seconded. All approved. Motion passed.*
7. Gabby Hartage - LCPC:
 - a. Business License - Application by Nicole Newton for a business license at 1705 E. Oglethorpe Hwy Suite A, for a photography studio. Councilman Richardson motioned to approve the business license, seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passes.

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- b. Temporary Signage – A request by Nicole Newton for a flag located at 1705 E. Oglethorpe Hwy Suite A. Ms. Hartage informed council that the ordinance states that a temporary sign may be erected for 30 days x four times a year, or a total of 120 days. *Councilman Richardson motioned to approve the temporary signage for 30 days, and that the business owner can address council after that period for an extension. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.* Council asked Ms. Hartage to check on truck and trailer parking in the parking lot adjacent to Advantage Auto.
8. 2018 Budget Hearing – Mayor Martin asked if anyone in the audience had public comments, requests, or questions to consider for the 2018 budget. No one responded. A copy of the proposed budget was provided for council to review. Councilwoman Smith questioned the Payroll Tax item on the budget. Clerk Lori Taylor clarified that the payroll taxes paid are equal to 7.65% of the amount paid. Councilman Richardson questioned the Fire Services and whether a tax is something that council may want to look into as Flemington continues to grow with new developments. Mayor Martin also mentioned that the City currently pays for the trash pick-up for citizens, and that could possibly be a topic of future discussion as well. Council discussed fees that are collected by the City and Hotel/Motel taxes. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins suggests that the City could contact GMA for assistance in possibly restructuring the fees that the City collects. *Councilman Richardson motioned to accept the proposed budget for 2018, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins. All approved. Motion passed.*
9. Carpathia Paws – Donnie Smith had a presentation with statistics for the Carpathia Paws organization. She stated that the organization services the local area (Liberty County) with stray animals. They assist with locating animal owners, medically treating injured and sick animals, and rehoming stray animals. They are dependent solely on donations and fundraisers. On behalf of Carpathia Paws, she respectfully requests a monetary donation for the organization. *Councilman Richardson motioned to donate \$1000.00 to Carpathia Paws. Seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.*
10. YMCA Annual Pledge – Matthew Barrow addressed council on behalf of the YMCA. He requested council's approval for a monetary donation. He stated that 100% of all donations are for the local YMCA and their services to local children. All the monies stay in Liberty County. Some of the programs that benefit from donations are summer camp, swim lessons, membership scholarships, after-school care, and meals. *Councilwoman Councilman Edwards motioned to pledge a donation of \$1000.00 to the YMCA. Seconded by Councilman Richardson. All approved. Motion passed.*

Clerk Lori Taylor asks for clarification on whether these donations are going to come out of the current 2017 budget or out of the upcoming 2018 budget. *Councilwoman Evans motioned to donate to both Carpathia Paws and the Liberty County YMCA from the current 2017 budget funds, seconded by Councilman Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.*
11. Unfinished/New business
 - a. City-wide/County-wide Wifi – Councilman Richardson stated that he had come across a city that has city-wide wifi that was provided through a federal grant. He asked council to consider researching it for a possible service in Flemington or even passing along to Liberty County. Mayor Martin asked the clerk to research it and bring it back to council.
 - b. Granny Pads – Councilman Richardson asked council to consider thinking about the “granny pad” discussion again. Ms. Hartage stated that she would email the ordinance revisions to the clerk that had previously been discussed.
 - c. Councilwoman Evans spoke on the issue of the asphalt marbles that were left on the road and sidewalks after the re-paving of Hwy.84. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins stated that he was told it was cleaned up, but he would contact Nils about it again. Ms. Hartage said that she would also contact Nils concerning it as well.

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- d. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins informed council of an issue that has been brought up by Sue Searfoss regarding a neighbor who is raising honey bees in their yard. Ms. Hartage stated that honey bees are protected by state law. Mayor Pro Tem said that he told Ms. Searfoss that the neighbor is within his rights to have a beehive.
 - e. Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins informed council that he attended a Hurricane Preparedness Meeting. He shared with council the idea of having Identification Badges for council to use in emergency situations in order to access the city during a lock-down in an emergency.
 - f. Councilwoman Smith stated that even though council cannot regulate the naming of developments, council should work ahead of problems and discuss development names with developers and ask for consideration of the city and citizens of Flemington.
12. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Second by Mayor Pro Tem Hawkins. All agreed. Motion passed.*