



"Preserving Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future"

THE CITY OF

Flemington

GEORGIA

CITY HALL  
156 Old Sunbury Road  
Flemington, GA 31313



Paul Hawkins, Mayor

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Flemington City Hall • Public Participation in person or via Facebook Live

Present at City Hall:

- Mayor Paul Hawkins
- Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher
- Councilman David Edwards (entered at 4:48 pm)
- Councilman Hasit Patel
- Councilwoman Gail Evans
- Councilwoman Rene' Harwell
- Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
- Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk
- Craig Stafford, City Attorney
- SGT Jason Colvin, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Zoom:  
(VIDEO CONFERENCING)                      None

Absent:                                              None

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:39 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Mayor Hawkins welcomed all attendees, both in person and virtually. Zoom participants were instructed to keep their sound muted until they needed to speak.
3. The invocation was given by Councilman Dasher and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Hawkins.
4. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting as written. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

*Councilwoman Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 workshop as written. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

5. SGT Jason Colvin was in attendance to provide Council with a list of law enforcement statistics for the month of March.
6. Council reviewed the Expense Report for the month of March.
7. Mr. Stafford presented to Council a proposed compromise to the derelict billboards between 1574 and 1740 E. Oglethorpe Hwy. Mr. Ben Jones, owner of BeSeen Outdoors, and his attorney, Mr. Webb were present via video conferencing. Mr. Stafford had provided a letter from Mr. Webb to Council which detailed their willingness to remove all wooden billboards and to replace them with a single, double-sided steel mono pole. Mr. Webb shared that the new structure would have static signs (not LED) and that he could have the new conforming sign installed within 90 days. *Councilman Dasher made a motion to grant BeSeen Outdoors a variance regarding sign height, zoning and proximity*

*to other structures and that the LCPC had authorization to approve the sign permit. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approve. The motion passed.*

8. Ms. Gabby Hartage from the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (“LCPC”) came before Council with several items of business.

\*\* Mayor Hawkins adjusted the Agenda to have 8e moved to 8a. Item 8d was moved to 8b. Item 8b to 8d. Item 8c was moved to 8e. The remaining items shifted down. \*\*

- a. First, Council was presented with a proposed subdivision called The Meadows, a 43-home neighborhood to be constructed at the corner of Old Savannah Rd and Old Sunbury Rd. Mr. Bryant Maude, the builder, shared his vision of the neighborhood, which was favorably received. The aesthetic would have a “new country” feel; soft colors with porches, board and batten (no vinyl), and respecting the integrity of the land by keeping the large trees. Ms. Hartage stated that the property is zoned R-2. Mr. Marcus Sack, Engineer for Mr. Maude, stated that the tree buffer between Flemington Oaks and the proposed The Meadows would remain.
- b. Second, Ms. Hartage presented Council with permit plans from the Board of Education to remove their current signs and replace them with non-conforming LED signs. The Board of Education will ensure the sign image would remain for more than fifteen minutes before changing. *Councilman Patel made a motion to approve the Board of Education sign permits. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- c. The third item of business was the Liberty County Address Numbering Ordinance Resolution for adoption. This was necessary because the 911 system was being modernized and transitioning from analog to digital and duplicate names in different municipalities could send emergency personnel to the wrong address. *Councilman Dasher made a motion to adopt the Liberty County Address Numbering Ordinance Resolution. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- d. Next was a business license request from Ms. Tyshana Houston to open a childcare center within The Connection Church building at 116 Patriots Trail. *Councilman Dasher made a motion to approve the business license. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- e. Ms. Hartage reported that David’s Auto Letter of Violation had been received. Mayor Hawkins stated that Mr. Jones, owner of the business, was still within the 45-day window to comply with the corrections in the letter. The violation was regarding excess inoperable cars left in the common area of the property.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mayor Hawkins shared that Georgia Power had submitted a request to have the interior street lights in Flemington Village to be turned over to the City. He also stated that around ten lights were not functioning. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion for the Mayor to approve the billing for the interior street lights once the deficiencies were rectified. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- b. The Mayor asked Council if they had any questions regarding the new contract with the LCSO. Hearing no questions, the Mayor will execute the contract.
- c. The Mayor shared with Council that the installation of sidewalks from O.C. Martin to Liberty High School had been approved as a community project through TSPLOST allocation. The cost was estimated at \$381,000. He explained that 30% of a municipality’s distribution of TSPLOT is placed in the community projects. The committee then decided which projects to award. Installation of the sidewalks will be in tandem with the signalization at McLarry’s Curve.

10. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

*Status Update(s)*

- a. Mayor Hawkins stated that he had spoken to Mr. Sack and the paving of Kallquist should be underway before the end of the week.

- b. Mayor Hawkins asked the Council if they had any questions or wanted to make any changes to the City's RFQ for a City Engineer. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the Engineer RFQ and have the LCPC move forward to bidding. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- c. The Mayor expressed his support in the installation of a reader board so that the residents can be kept abreast to meetings, events and so forth. When the concern of the lumens of the lights was brought up, Mayor Hawkins stated that the boards had the ability to dim at night. The topic was tabled.
- d. Committee Reports
  - i. The Fire Committee Chair, Councilman Patel, reported that the Committee recommended creating a master plan for the City's undeveloped property, consulting with engineers and architects, and possible naming of the City Complex after a Flemington resident.
  - ii. Councilwoman Harwell was the spokesman for the Landscaping Committee. She reported that Jody Smiley Landscaping wished to formally withdraw his resignation. Mr. Smiley was in attendance and expressed his desire to move forward. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to reinstate Jody Smiley Landscaping. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. \*\*Councilwoman Smiley recused due to conflict of interest. \*\**
- e. Mayor Hawkins dissolved the Landscaping Committee.

*No Update(s)*

- a. Old Sunbury Rd. to a State Road (next update expected in 2023)
- b. Millage Rate
- c. Great American Clean Up on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

11. COMPLETED BUSINESS

- a. Wallace Martin Dr. Sidewalk Repair Completed
- b. CD transfer to South Georgia Bank – 12 months at .65%
- c. City awarded Qualified Local Government

12. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.*

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by:



Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk

Approved by City Council: X as written/corrected.



Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Coordinator at 912-877-3223 promptly to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.