



"Preserving Our Heritage, Shaping  
Our Future"

THE CITY OF  
*Flemington*  
GEORGIA

CITY HALL  
156 OLD SUNBURY ROAD  
FLEMINGTON, GA 31313

*Paul B. Hawkins*, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher  
Council Member Gail Evans  
Council Member Rene Harwell (entered at 4:40 p.m.)  
Council Member Donnie Smith  
Council Member David Edwards  
Council Member Leigh Smiley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Craig Stafford, City Attorney  
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk  
SGT Grant Porter

**ABSENT:** None

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:35 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall in Flemington, GA. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Invocation by Mayor Hawkins, followed by a special flag presentation and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Dasher.
3. *Councilman Dasher motioned to dispense with the reading of the February minutes and accept them as written. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
4. SGT Grant Porter was in attendance to provide council with a list of statistics for the month of February.
5. Council reviewed the City Expense Report for the month of February. The Clerk notified Council that the City's CD at Ameris Bank was maturing on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Several interest rate offers were submitted, however, the prime rate was being affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to allow the Mayor and Councilman Dasher to review the rates at the time of maturity and to go with the highest rate. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

**\*\* The Mayor moved Mr. Gandhi from 9(ii)(1) to this spot in the meeting due to Mr. Gandhi's time constraints.\*\***

6. Mr. Nirav Gandhi from the Liberty County Planning Commission presented to Council the Five-Year Work Program for the Comprehensive Plan. During the review, members of Council noticed discrepancies in the document presented versus their notes from the workshop. Council asked the Clerk to review the recording from the workshop to ensure accuracy. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Plan with corrections. There was no second. The motion died. Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to table the adoption until the April meeting so that corrections could be made. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.*
7. Ms. Krystal Hart, the 2020 Census Outreach Coordinator, appeared before Council and gave an overview on the Census, the importance of participation from the population and the ways a resident could submit their

survey. New this Census is that approximately 14,000 soldiers and their families would be counted if they live in Liberty County. Ms. Hart stressed the importance of a complete count.

8. Mr. Larry Logan from the Liberty County Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA) spoke of the Mutual Aid Agreement which was executed by the Mayor. This agreement's scope includes different entities in the county supporting each other if assistance is needed. The contract term is four years. In regards to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Mr. Robert Dodd, also from LCEMA, reported that although there were 17 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state, there were no cases reported in Liberty County. Mr. Dodd urged all persons to take extra care. Residents were encouraged to follow CDC recommendations for prevention, such as: frequent handwashing, the use of hand sanitizer, avoiding shaking hands and coughing/sneezing into your elbow.
9. Ms. Gabriele Hartage from the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC) had two items of business to bring before the Council. The first was a proposed update to the Vehicle Ordinance which tightened verbiage regarding parked and stored cars. A notable change included the restriction of having more than four (4) cars uncovered for a period of seven (7) days. Violations of the Ordinance could result in conviction and fines/punishment as ordered by a Judge. *Councilman Dasher made a motion to adopt the updated Vehicle Ordinance with the special condition that no residents could be grandfathered in. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The next item Ms. Hartage presented was a proposed change to the Transient Merchant Ordinance to address food trucks operating within the City. Ms. Hartage stated that the current Ordinance requires Council approval to grant a transient merchant business license, which carries limits of only three (3) days of sales at a cost of \$250.<sup>00</sup> for the business license. It was suggested that in order to encourage and accommodate the growing food truck industry, the Ordinance could include the language that the business license could be valid for thirty (30) days at a cost of \$30.<sup>00</sup> per day, with a maximum fee of \$500.<sup>00</sup> for the month. Ms. Hartage stated that she would make the changes and then come before Council again in April with those changes.

10. Mr. Marcus Sack was in attendance to present to Council a request for the installation of six (6) septic tanks on behalf of Jody Smiley for his lots on Old Hines Rd. Mr. Sack stated that gravity flow sewer was not available from those lots, and that there were three solution options for sewer: a) install septic tanks, b) extend gravity sewer, or c) install grinder pump stations.

Mr. Sack stated that although he drafted the engineering plans with grinder pumps, it was his professional opinion that septic tanks would be a better solution. Mayor Hawkins consulted two Engineers, and both favored septic tanks over grinder pumps. Unclear during the discussion was the definition of sewer being "available". Mr. Smiley stated that when the property was purchased, Mr. Matthew Barrow (Flemington City Engineer until the end of February 2020) stated that sewer was not available and that septic tanks would have to be installed. The subdivision plans that were submitted to the LCPC for final plat approval had not included sewer, however, Ms. Hartage stated that the LCPC reasonably assumed that sewer was "available" when the final plat was presented to Council.

After lengthy discussion regarding environmental issues, maintaining consistent standards for all developers of subdivisions and the costs associated with each sewer solution option, *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to allow the six (6) septic tanks on Mr. Smiley's property. Receiving no second, the motion died. \*\*Councilwoman Smiley recused herself from all conversation and voting due to personal conflict of interest.\*\**

#### 11. Unfinished Business

- a. Mr. Stafford shared with Council that the proposed IGA was moving forward to transfer the cost of solid waste to the homeowners' property tax bill. Mr. Stafford stated that he would compose a mass-mailing notice to the residents before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and forward it to the City Clerk for distribution.

#### 12. Executive Session

- a. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel. . Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed at 7:15 p.m.*
- b. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to resume Open Session. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed at 7:41 p.m.*

c. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to appoint Mr. Marcus Sack as the interim City Engineer until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 with the new contract for the City Engineer to be placed for bid with a start date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.*

13. *Adjourn – Councilman Dasher made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.*