

# FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**January 9, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Council Member Donnie Smith  
Council Member David Edwards  
Council Member Palmer Dasher  
Council Member Gail Evans  
Council Member Keith Moran  
Council Member Rene Harwell

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

**ABSENT:** <none>

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 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 Mayor Hawkins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Hawkins welcomed everyone to the first council meeting of 2018, and introduced the new council to those in attendance.
4. *Councilman Palmer Dasher motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December meeting and accept them as presented. Councilman Keith Moran seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.*
5. Deputy Eric Allen provided council with a law enforcement report for the month of December. Mr. Hasit Patel, owner of the LaQuinta Inn & Suites, asked permission to explain the shooting incident at the hotel. He stated that the individual involved was the same individual that was involved in the shooting last month, and that he was part of a group staying there from a company in Hinesville. He said that the entire group was since been removed from the hotel, and are now staying at a hotel located in Hinesville. Councilman Moran suggested informing the Hinesville Police Department of these incidents so they may be aware of the problems.
6. Council reviewed the City Expense Report for December.
7. Mayor Pro Tem Nominations – Mayor Hawkins opened the floor for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Flemington. *Councilwoman Donnie Smith made a motion to nominate Councilman Palmer Dasher. Councilwoman Gail Evans seconded the motion. All approve. Motion passed.* Mayor Hawkins read the duties of the Mayor Pro Tem and asked Councilman Dasher if he accepted the duties as read. Councilman Dasher accepted the duties. Mayor Hawkins also read the duties of Council Members.
8. Matthew Barrow – Engineering Update
  - a. Mr. Barrow stated that he had to update the 2018 LMIG list with GDOT. He said that previously, GDOT would accept a list of all projects, however, they now only want a short list reported. He stated that all of the projects are eligible, but the top 3 projects that were submitted were: Wallace Martin resurfacing, the paving of Kallquist Drive, and the

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improvements on Shawn Court. He clarified that the city is not limited to those projects, and the list can be changed at any time.

- b. Mr. Barrow informed council that he, Mayor Hawkins, the city clerk, and the contractor doing the rumble strips had a pre-construction meeting last week. He stated that they were planning to complete the work in one day, weather permitting, but that it would be a quick project. The rumble strips will be on Wallace Martin Road and Old Sunbury Road.
  - c. Mr. Barrow presented council with the Radar Speed Data from the radar on Hwy.84. He clarified the question of the peak speeds reported. Councilman Edwards and Deputy Allen both suggested that those peak speeds are likely emergency response vehicles, and that the average speeds indicated by the report were very positive for the amount of traffic.
9. Leah Poole – LCCVB – Ms. Poole presented council with the quarterly report from the LCCVB, including the projects completed in the previous quarter as well as the planned projects for the upcoming quarter.

### 10. New/Old Business

- a. Mayor Hawkins informed council of the need to address updating the City Charter. Councilman Dasher suggested that council begin reading through the charter to note some changes that should be addressed. Mayor Hawkins suggested that council begin the planning process in early spring, after council has completed the mandatory training courses.
- b. Mayor Hawkins informed council that he was contacted by Phil Odum regarding a Historical Preservation meeting on January 29. He said that he had requested that Councilwoman Gail Evans attend the meeting on behalf of Flemington.

### 11. Council Comments

- a. Councilwoman Harwell said that she had received some complaints of traffic on Wallace Martin Road, but maybe the rumble strips will help to alleviate some of that.
- b. Councilman Edwards welcomed the new council and stated that he was looking forward to serving with everyone.
- c. Councilwoman Smith stated that council approve the increase of the Hotel/Motel tax last month, and that we need to explore options for ways that those funds could benefit Flemington as well as other areas in the county. Mayor Hawkins said that Ms. Poole is supposed to have a workshop with a specialist from DCA to make sure that everyone is informed and educated about the tax money and how it can be spent. Councilman Edwards stated that he was not in favor of the Hotel/Motel tax increase, and that we should have more control over the money that is generated in Flemington.
- d. Mayor Pro Tem Dasher expressed concerns regarding the financial position of the city in the future. He suggested contacting organization regarding a possible fire grant to offset the city's fire expense. Councilwoman Evans suggested researching some impact fees that could benefit the city. Councilman Edwards suggested looking into law enforcement grants as well.
- e. Councilman Moran stated that he had some citizens report to him that there had been some dump trucks going into the borrow pit with unauthorized dumping. He also informed council that the asphalt on the edge of Old Savannah Road was cracked and broken from the construction work.
- f. Mayor Hawkins thanked Councilwoman Evans, Councilwoman Smith, and the clerk, Lori Taylor, for the work on Mayor Martin's retirement celebration.

12. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harwell. All agreed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.*