

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 3, 2023**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 3, 2023, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

Mayor Peter L. Banks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Christopher Hightower opened the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Peter L. Banks
Mayor Pro Tem Bill Claxton
Councilmember Christopher Hightower
Councilmember Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.
Councilmember Joseph Sims
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Timothy T. Turner
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson
Director of Utilities and Public Works Richard Vereen
Chief of Police Belinda Penamon

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the agenda.

Councilmember McDaniel noted a notation was missing from the June 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes where the Council approved for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to act as a pass through for the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund Application for the renovation of 215 Main Street by Southern Venture Partners LLC. He said he raised the question of can the City be held liable for the loan and City Manager Turner said no neither the City nor the DDA can be held liable for the loan. Councilmember McDaniel asked that this be noted. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton also had an amendment to be made to the last sentence of his report. He said he inquired how we are going to police the parking for the current and coming loft apartments. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton said parking is omitted. On motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton, Council unanimously approved the July 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as amended.

City Manager Turner read for the record the Notice of Holding a General Election on November 7, 2023 for Mayor, Councilmember - Ward 1, and Councilmember - Ward 3.

Chief Penamon informed the Council of the recent Police Department promotions that have been made from five interviews conducted on May 24th within the department with her and Chief Flowers of the Gordon State College Police. She reported the three highest ranking officers were selected. Lieutenant Ernie McWhorter was promoted to Captain over Operations, Sergeant Michael Rainer was promoted to Lieutenant in Investigations, and Sergeant Michael Blankenship was promoted to Lieutenant over Patrol. Chief Penamon said they will be pinned on July 12th. With all three officers present, Council congratulated them.

REPORTS

Councilmember McDaniel expressed kudos to City Manager Turner and the road crew for the great paving job on Redbud Drive and the good patch work job on Memorial Drive. He said the paving done on Memorial Drive and Atlanta Street should be used as the standard. Councilmember McDaniel reported Spencer Street needs work. He reported his takeaway from the Savannah Conference was the big push to promote the Mayor's reading program due to the fact that in the State of Georgia, 68%, 6 out of 10 4th graders can't read. Councilmember McDaniel said he signed up to receive a packet to be used in conjunction with the library's program. He reported at 304 Spencer Street, the City is waiting on a report from the engineers and Mr. John Bennison, the owner of the property, is here tonight. Councilmember McDaniel stated we need to do whatever we can to help him address the run off issues there and get with the engineers and come up with some recommendations.

Councilmember Sims stated he'd like to see all elections at one place instead of two when City and County elections are held on the same day. City Manager Turner said he is looking into it. Councilmember Sims also asked for an update on the Splash Pad. City Manager Turner reported a portion of the total cost has been paid and the parts have been ordered. He further reported the bottom of the current pool will be saw cut and next week, they will start filling it and the piping will be run the last of August or the beginning of September.

Councilmember Hightower thanked the City Manager for his response to his Ward 2 concerns. He asked the City Manager for a paving report on the order of resurfacing and paving of streets. City Manager Turner replied the Director of Utilities and Public Works will work on the report for him. Councilmember Hightower reported the Savannah GMA Convention was great again and he learned a great deal that he looks forward to sharing hopefully at the Council's Fall Retreat.

Mayor Pro Tem Claxton commended the paving on Forsyth Street. He said Savannah was also a good trip this year where he received recognition on his training hours. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton officially announced he's running for reelection this year. He said we've made a lot of good progress and we have a good conducive Council. He also said we have a long way to go and a lot of work ahead of us and he looks forward to those challenges. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton thanked everyone for allowing him to be a part of this group.

Councilmember Shropshire asked for an update on Mrs. Marge Virden. Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen reported he spoke to her three weeks ago and the ditch will be dug out on Wednesday. Councilmember Shropshire commented that he received some good training in Savannah where he learned a lot. He also announced he will be running for reelection as well for Ward 3.

Mayor Banks reported the Savannah Conference was good and he really enjoyed the fellowship with the Council. He commented Atlanta Street is progressing and looking prettier each time he goes by.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jane Huguely of 512 Thomaston Street inquired about the new development on Grove Street and any future plans on the Atlanta Street sewer. Mayor Banks reported there's a new single family residential subdivision going in that's not Section 8. He also confirmed we still have a sewer moratorium.

Mr. John Bennison thanked the Council for the opportunity and he commented it is good to see the City Council in operation.

Councilmember McDaniel announced in observance of Independence Day tomorrow, the Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring an event in the United Bank parking lot and Advanced Roofing will be sponsoring a free water park.

After no further business, on motion by Councilmember Shropshire and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton, Council unanimously adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folson, City Clerk