

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
September 5, 2023**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 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
Chief Finance Officer Tammy York
Director of Utilities and Public Works Richard Vereen
Chief of Police Belinda Penamon

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

On motion by Councilmember Hightower and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the agenda.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember Sims, Council unanimously approved the August 7, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as circulated.

On motion by Councilmember Shropshire and seconded by Councilmember Hightower, Council unanimously approved the August 25, 2023 Budget Workshop minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton abstained from voting due to him having to leave the meeting early.

City Manager Turner gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 603 to adopt the 2023-2024 Operating Budget, set the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate at 3.067 mills, and amend the 2022-2023 Operating Budget.

City Manager Turner gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 604 to adopt the 2023 Schedule of Fees, Charges and Rates. Councilmember Hightower inquired if the fees are posted for the public to view. City Manager Turner responded they are not, but the public can come by City Hall and request a copy. Mr. Hightower noted these were discussed at the Budget Workshop and they don't include the Parks and Facilities Fees. He also inquired of the effective date of the new fees. City Manager Turner said October 1, 2023.

REPORTS

Councilmember McDaniel thanked City Manager Turner for the Carter & Sloope report on the Spencer Street property. He asked for an update on the Redbud Drive lot next to Wanda Brothers. City Manager Turner reported they were able to clear the lot and they will be using a septic tank. He further reported Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen had looked at the pipe and said it was clear. Councilmember McDaniel reported the limb truck missed him last week and he inquired if there were any issues. Mr. Turner acknowledged he had been missed due to a new driver and they will get caught up this week. Mr. McDaniel complained about loud mufflers and he said he didn't think we were issuing citations or tickets. City Manager Turner said he would talk to Chief Penamon about this.

Councilmember Sims asked for an update on the Food Truck and Short Term Rentals Ordinances. City Manager Turner reported they have been written and the attorney has reviewed the Short Term Rentals and he said it looks good. He reported the Food Truck Ordinance is being reviewed now by the attorney. Councilmember Sims reported the trash and limbs on Gordon Road are looking awful again. He inquired if any parking permits have been issued yet. City Manager Turner reported none have been issued, but they will be issued at the same time when the Collier Building is completed. Mr. Sims expressed concern about the manhole risers on Redbud Drive. Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen said he's already done what he could do.

Councilmember Hightower reported he has spoken with City Manager Turner about several requests and he thanked him for having responded. He reported there have been household goods out on Johnson Street for three weeks and he asked for them to be picked up. Councilmember Hightower thanked City Manager Turner and Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen for following up on the requests of Ward 2.

Mayor Pro Tem Claxton reported he'd met also with the City Manager. He reported the contents from the Summers Field two story apartments have been moved on City property and he'd like this cleaned up and to make sure it doesn't happen again. City Manager Turner said he'd take care of it.

Councilmember Shropshire said to make sure there is a loud noise ordinance in the Food Truck Ordinance. He also said he appreciated the update on Mr. Murphy. Councilmember Shropshire told Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen he appreciated him coming out to talk to his constituents. He asked for an update on the Mill Street trees discussed last month. City Manager Turner reported they have identified the dead ones and they will be taken down after Buggy Days.

Mayor Banks thanked everyone for their prayers after having a heart attack last month on his 85th Birthday. He reported he was back now and doing pretty good.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jane Huguely said she had come before the Council two months ago and asked about the subdivision down by Dr. Fuller's Office. She said now she's learned about a new subdivision in the Aldora area and asked if it was going to be anything like College Manor which she said is not a plus to the City and Harrell Circle suffers for it. Ms. Huguely said the same people planning the two subdivisions are the same ones who did College Manor. She asked the City to look into it and to stop them if they're shady. Councilmember McDaniel clarified Aldora is not in the City and Aldora has its own Mayor. City Manager Turner and Mayor Banks explained about the Grove Street subdivision. Ms. Huguely expressed she doesn't want to see them change Barnesville because it is a great place to live and work.

Ms. Debbie Cone complained about the overgrowth on both sides of the double bridges on Veterans Parkway and inquired who takes care of these areas. Director of Utilities and Public Works Vereen reported part of it is the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the other part is the City. He said he will try to get in touch with the DOT. Ms. Cone also complained about the trash on Brown Street and Johnson Street and she asked for a no dumping sign to be put up. She asked for the ditches to be cleaned out completely and the bamboo cut back or cleared on Woodruff Avenue. Ms. Cone also reported at the Atlanta Street bypass at the triangle area going north pass Hot Shot, it is dangerous here and it needs to be addressed.

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

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folson, City Clerk