

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 16, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:01pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, and Hattie Thrasher. David Huth was absent. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, APRIL 18, 2017

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 council meeting as written. Perry Barton seconded the motion. 4-0

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. 2nd Reading: Rezoning 1679 Bethlehem Rd. (Chris Wood)

Mayor Bridges asked if anybody would like to say anything. No comments were made.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2nd Reading: Rezoning 1679 Bethlehem Rd. (Chris Wood)

Gayle Steed asked if Randy can explain the reason again. Randy explained that Mr. Wood's intent is to build 2 houses in the back side for himself and his brother. His further intent is to build a building large enough to house his welding equipment that is on the trailers to be out of site and protected.

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the rezone. Betty Lyle seconded the motion. 4-0

B. 2nd Reading: Standard Unsafe Building & Abatement Code

Randy Gordon explained that Thomas Mitchell had reviewed this ordinance and it is to give the City a little more powers with the International Property Maintenance Code in abating certain unsafe and hazardous buildings and conditions when the City have to enforce as the Code Enforcement. Randy has researched a number of them and this one seems to be the best.

Perry Barton made motion to adopt the Standard Unsafe Building & Abatement Code. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4-0

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. John & Kathy Williamson- Plans for Osborne Property

Randy Gordon stated that they are representing the 102 lots across from the Middle School. The builder is here and wants to get the approval to start. Information was given out at the Work Session on what type of home he is building. The builder will be building high ends and more little up beat Craftsman homes. Kathy stated that the builder could not be here tonight but he is very excited about coming to Statham. They will be building homes in the \$250-\$260 ranges. They are going to come in and do it right and get out and do what the people want and make it look very nice. They will provide 10 plans and let the City choose them.

No action was needed.

B. New Software

Mai Chang stated there are a lot of issues with the current software. It is not doing what we are expecting and reporting are limited and recommendation to move forward with Harris Local Government (SmartFusion) software.

Thomas Mitchell stated that he looked at the Charter and it is ok to use the money from within the same department because money is not being moved from a different department.

Gayle Steed stated to make it clear to the audience that the City will be choosing a new software to make it easier and friendly user for the City. Money has been put in next year's budget but would like to have it in process before roll over to make it easier and work out any glitches that there may be. Half will be paid this year and half next year.

Kendra Sexton asked if there was a contract with the current software. Joyce Jacks asked if everything will be transferred. Mai Chang stated there is no contract with them now. Gayle Steed gave more details on the problems with the current software. All data will come over.

Gayle Steed made motion to recommend and approved to pay half by June 2017 to be put in place. Perry Barton seconded the motion. 4-0

C. City Administrator/Account Position

Mayor Bridges explained about the City Administrator/Account position being opened and advertised for it. Asked if there was any questions.

No comments were made. No action was needed.

6. CITIZENS CONCERNS:

A. Kelly Pickens (2996 Waters Rd., Atlanta)

Thanking the City: Kelly Pickens would like to thank the Mayor, Randy Gordon and Betty Lyle for letting them use the Community Center the past weekend for a fund raiser. They were able to raise \$1100 so far. They appreciated the City and helped some families in Statham

B. Dwight McCormic (2123 Smith Dr., Statham)

Budget-1921 Broad St. House: Dwight stated he had some concerns about the upcoming budget and about some pay raises that were given out and needed clarifications. He got a look at the proposed 2017-2018 budget and noticed that salary of the Police Officers and that the Chief, he had a substantial raise. Dwight asked is it July when it goes for approval? If the raises are already in place, what is being voted on? Chief got a bump from \$50,000 to \$60000 and he does not agreed with given the current situation with the Police Dept. Dwight was reading the City Charter and did not see anything about raises or money and he understands that if this is a strong government Mayor, the Mayor probably has that authority. It seems strange that the raises took effective out of cycle and he needs justification and approval of the raises that has already been given out.

Mayor Bridges explained that before Council votes on the budget, if he operates within his Budget than he Okays it. Gayle Steed stated that Chief Johnston has a lot of Comp time and worked numerous hours and has not able to take the time off due to being on salary and shorthanded. Given all the Comp time that Chief has, he was going to wipe it out and put the increases in. Officers are not coming in with the Salary being paid here and the number of hours that they have to work.

Dwight stated he had more questions on the house. Is it going to be in the budget? Are we ever going to find out how much the City has spent on the house? How much the City intent to spend? Does the City have a plan? He stated that last month it didn't go well with him and the Mayor and if this month, it doesn't go well, he will be back next month. He is in to get involved with his government.

Mayor Bridges apologized for not giving Dwight the right answer last month. What Mayor should have done was get back with Dwight on the exact amount spent on the house. Mayor Bridges gave Dwight a list of how much money has been spent on the house and he can take it. Mayor Bridges explained that about \$1000 was spent due to whomever called EPD, to send somebody to class to get certified and now he's certified, the City is going to get back on it. Dwight stated he does not agreed with the figures because the City has invested more than \$2700 and he is going to come back next month for a more accurate amount and goes on without letting Mayor Bridges saying anything. He wants the purchase price and the labor cost. Mayor Bridges stated that he wants Mai, the City Clerk to answer. Mai stated that the City paid \$65000 for the house and the expenses are on that sheet of paper for the little repairs that has been done up until now.

Mayor Bridges suggested that some of the young people such as Dwight, himself to step up and run for office and make sure it is done like they want to. Mayor Bridges stated he has had his 5 minutes and for him to sit down.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Perry Barton made motion to go into Executive Session at 7:32pm. Betty Lyle seconded the motion. 4-0

Perry Barton made motion to go out of Executive Session at 7:35pm. Betty Lyle seconded the motion. 4-0

8. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, Gayle Steed made a motion to adjourn. Perry Barton seconded the motion. 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.