

# **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

## **March 9, 2020**

The work session and regular meeting of the Grovetown City Council were held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor Gary E. Jones, Mayor Pro-tem Eric Blair, Councilmember Sylvia Martin, Councilmember Deborah Fisher, and Councilmember Allen Transou.

Also present were Human Resources Director Elaine Matthews, Assistant Police Chief Robert Eastman, Finance Director Bradley Smith, IT Manager David Nile, Planning and Community Development Director Harmit Bedi, City Planner Jonathan Bush, Public Works Director Michael Woods, Public Information Officer Ashley Campbell White, City Attorney Chris Dube, City Administrator John Waller, and City Clerk Roxanne Brown. Leisure and Recreation Services Director Janet Wheatley and Public Safety Director Scott Wheatley were not present.

Council conducted a work session to review agenda items at 6:00 p.m.

1.

### **Call Meeting to Order/Announcement of Quorum**

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and acknowledged a quorum.

2.

### **Invocation**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Blair.

3.

### **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Transou made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

5.

### **Approval of January 27, 2020 Work Session Minutes**

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the January 27, 2020 work session minutes. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

6.

**Approval of February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

7.

**Approval of February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Executive Session Minutes**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 regular meeting executive session minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

8.

**Approval of February 24, 2020 Work Session Minutes**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the February 24, 2020 work session minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

9.

**Committee Chair Reports**

**Public Safety**

Councilmember Blair reported the call volumes for the Police Department and Fire Department for the month of February and congratulated Sherri Clanton for being promoted to Corporal. Councilmember Blair also reported that the brush truck has been received and that Chief Scott Wheatley is now out of the hospital.

**Utility Billing and Public Works**

Councilmember Fisher provided an update on the Utility Billing Department's billing and collection numbers. Councilmember Fisher also reported on the bills received from Columbia County and Richmond County for water and sewer.

**Planning and Development**

Councilmember Transou stated that the Form Based Code Committee will be making recommendations to the City Council at the next meeting for redrawing the boundaries of the city center district.

**Leisure and Recreation Services**

Councilmember Martin reported the activities of the Department for the past month including the number of hours the facilities were rented and the number of current contracts. Councilmember Martin provided an update of upcoming events.

**Administration**

Mayor Jones deferred his report to City Administrator John Waller.

**10.**

**Financial Statement**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the financial statement. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**11.**

**Public Announcements**

Councilmember Blair is a member of the Columbia County Board of Health. In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Councilmember Blair recommended that people check on the elderly and those with chronic conditions, stay at home if you are sick, and wash your hands frequently.

Councilmember Fisher recommended that supervisors and first responders check with the Georgia Department of Health to reference the correct procedures for encounters with individuals displaying symptoms associated with coronavirus (COVID-19).

**12.**

**Letters of Commendation for Public Safety Personnel**

Lieutenant Christopher Powell and Officer Emerick Baxter were presented with letters of commendation for their outstanding performance while conducting a felony traffic stop involving an armed suicidal subject.

**13.**

**Citizens Comments**

**13A.**

**Jennifer Bramblett, Topic: Planning Commission**

Ms. Bramblett was not present.

**13B.**

**Others**

Ferdinand Mullen spoke on behalf of Charles and Dorothy Inglett, 323 Whiskey Road, requesting that the name Whiskey Road not be changed to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Road. Mr. Mullen submitted a signed citizen petition to Mayor and Council opposing the renaming of Whiskey Road.

The Mayor and Council agreed that name of Whiskey Road will not be changed.

Carla Harrison addressed Mayor and Council regarding stormwater fees and her concerns about the years the renters were charged and not the property owners. She asked that the Mayor and Council revisit the entire Stormwater Ordinance.

Ms. Harrison also discussed her concerns with the development on Newmantown Road.

Glenda Anderson appeared before the Mayor and Council to address the rezoning of multiple parcels on Newmantown Road that have been in her family for 80 years. She stated that the sale and development of this property has been hampered due to the slow construction of the wastewater treatment plant and that the plant is still not operational. The delay with the wastewater treatment plant is causing a considerable amount of impatience due to the advanced age of some of the family landowners.

Mrs. Anderson requested that the Mayor and Council review the numerous conditions recommended by the Planning Commission before making their decision.

Rex and Carole Hurst stated their concerns with only receiving a sewer adjustment on their utility bill for filling their swimming pool. They stated that there should be a reduction on both the water and sewer portions of the bill.

The Hurst also expressed their concern with vehicles speeding on Whiskey Road and suggested speed bumps be installed. Mayor Jones instructed Assistant Chief Eastman to place a speed limit indicator sign at the location and increase traffic enforcement on Whiskey Road.

**14.**

**General Business: Old**

**14A.**

**Discussion of RV Parking Ordinance**

Councilmember Transou made a motion to repeal Ordinance 2018-10-02, thereby eliminating restrictions on the parking of certain types of vehicles in residential zoned areas. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried. Councilmember Transou recommended that Council review and reconstruct the Ordinance at a later time.

**14B.**

**Discussion of Renaming a City Street in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Mayor and Council agreed to not rename Whiskey Road and to distribute a survey to the citizens to receive input and/or recommendations on a road renaming or dedication of green space in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**14C.**

**Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2020-02-02, Amend and Restate the Code of the City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 5 (Buildings, Construction and Related Activities), Article I, Section 5-1 – Second Reading**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to accept the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2020-02-02, Amending and Restating the Code of the City of Grovetown, Georgia, Chapter 5 (Buildings, Construction and Related Activities), Article I, Section 5-1. Councilmember Transou seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**15.**

**General Business: New**

**15A.**

**Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2020-03-01, Adoption of Republished Code – First Reading**

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2020-03-01, Adoption of Republished City Code. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**15B.**

**Recommend Adoption of Ordinance 2020-03-02, Rezone 10 Parcels of Land (Parcel ID Numbers: 063A 001; 063A 003; 063A 004; 063A 004A; 063A 004C; 063A 031; 063A 008; 063A 007; 0063A 006; and 063A 005) Consisting of Approximately 24.2 Acres on Newmantown Road From R-1 (Residential District) to R-4 (Townhouse Residential District) – First Reading**

Prior to voting on this item, the Mayor and Council requested to hear from Director of Planning and Development Harmit Bedi. Director Bedi reviewed the proposal and the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission. Discussion was held regarding ingress and egress, possible traffic issues and obtaining a traffic study.

Mrs. Glenda Anderson requested again for the Mayor and Council to review all of the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission. Prior to the vote, Mrs. Anderson asked to postpone the vote on this rezoning petition until the next council meeting so that the petitioners can gather information on comparable multifamily zoned properties, traffic issues, etc.

Upon questioning, City Attorney Chris Dube stated that the zoning matter was properly before Council for decision and there was no reason to postpone the vote of Council.

Councilmember Transou made a motion to deny the petition for the rezoning of 10 Parcels of Land (Parcel ID Numbers: 063A 001; 063A 003; 063A 004; 063A 004A; 063A 004C; 063A 031; 063A 008; 063A 007; 0063A 006; and 063A 005) Consisting of Approximately 24.2 Acres on Newmantown Road From R-1 (Residential District) to R-4 (Townhouse Residential District). Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**15C.**

**Recommend Adoption of Resolution 2020-03-03, City of Ethics Recertification**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03-03, City of Ethics Recertification. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**15D.**

**Recommend Approval of Acceptance of Infrastructure Deed of Dedication for Pepper Hills Estates Phase 3**

Councilmember Transou made a motion to approve the acceptance of infrastructure deed of dedication for Pepper Hills Estates Phase 3. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**16.**

**Director's Reports**

Directors briefed Council on recent activities of their respective departments.

**17.**

**Adjourn**

Councilmember Transou made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary E. Jones, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Blair, Mayor Pro-tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Martin, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Fisher, Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Transou, Councilmember

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roxanne Brown, City Clerk