



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
MAY 10TH, 2023
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Greenspace Advisory Committee Ordinance**
The BOMC is exploring the potential mission and role of a newly created Greenspace Advisory Committee. This has been discussed at several work sessions.

City Manager Bryant said this initial draft will likely be altered before moving forward. This, he added, was just another opportunity to discuss the issue and step forwards a final ordinance. Commissioner Shortell suggested circulating memos amongst the group with observations. Mr. Bryant said the discussion could also continue in further work sessions. The group talked about tree topping, verge maintenance, memorials, who the committee should report to, and more. City Attorney Quinn weighed in on tree topping. Ms. Shortell mentioned something in the ordinance about trees around the lake that made her uncomfortable. Commissioner Merriam talked about what defined a green space. The group continued to talk about different aspects of the committee to consider. Mr. Bryant said outreach to current members of the boards being combined would be contacted after the draft ordinance was solidified.

Item #4 **Administrative Fee Ordinance**

City Manager Bryant explained what this fee is designed to do – pay for staff time completing tasks related to permits, licenses, and more. He added that the city's fees have not changed in roughly a decade. The group talked about how this ordinance allows the city manager to establish fees. City Attorney Quinn also responded to questions and discussion continued. The consensus was to include language about the ordinance being approved by the Board annually. This item will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

Item #5 **Farm Winery Ordinance**

City Manager Bryant explained a state law that allows for farm winery tasting rooms. He said to qualify, a winery several federal and state licenses, including one from the municipality it operates in. They also have to harvest at least 40% of the grapes they use from Georgia. This item will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

Item #6 **Municipal Court Clerks Week Proclamation**

The Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Council announces this inaugural celebration as a way to recognize the role of these clerks in the judicial system.

City Manager Bryant said this would be on the next regular meeting.

Item #7 **Public Comment**

Jan Hover supported the wine ordinance and said it was a good way to support state businesses. She also asked how residents would interact with the Greenspace Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher said they should still go through staff for any issues they have, unless it's an idea for greenspace improvements. Stacey Bearden thanked staff for the paving work on Clarendon Avenue. She also had a question about the sanitation presentation given by the city manager the previous work session as well as a possible timeline for any changes.

Item #8 **Adjournment**

Commissioner Laratte moved to adjourn. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED MAY 24TH, 2023



Gina Hill, City Clerk