

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2012**

The Mayor and City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012, at 6 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett, council members Armour, Cullars, Harris, Rainey, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Attorney Fleming and City Police Chief Glenn.

Visitors present were the same as listed in the Work Session held on July 9, 2012.

Police Chief Glenn opened the meeting in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by Cullars, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of the work session and regular meetings held on June 11, 2012.

AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented adding the introduction of Mr. Jarvis McNair, an executive session for two personnel matters and one legal matter and further deleting the 9-1-1 Resolution.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT: Chamber Director Jenny Clarke advised that the July 3rd fireworks event was well attended and had some 24 food vendors participating.

Clarke reminded citizens of the July 17th SBC consultations with six available slots per month and of the July 24th TSPLOST meeting at the Court Street Livery at 6 PM.

MR. JARVIS MCNAIR – MAY SALLY’S DINER: Mr. McNair, the new owner of May Sally’s Diner, introduced himself to council and advised that he currently has some eight employees, but anticipates hiring more as the diner will begin opening on Sundays. Mr. McNair also presented council with tee shirts.

TOURISM: Tourism Director Erin Pollock thanked all city departments for work done in helping with the July 3rd fireworks. Pollock advised that she will be attending a Classic South meeting on July 13th. Pollock also reported some 230 visitors during the month of June 2012.

FIRE REPORT: City Administrator Eskew advised that council had been given a corrected Fire Department report for the month of June 2012.

POLICE REPORT: Council had no questions of the June 2012 Police Department report, but Council member Rainey did extend appreciation to the department for work done in two separate family crisis issues.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Economic Development Director David Jenkins asked for council approval of CDBG Policies & Procedures. On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved request 6 to 0. A copy of the CDBG Policies & Procedures is on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Jenkins reminded those present that the Black Patriots Monument unveiling will be an event of August 11, 2012. Promotion of the event will be done over the next month.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett advised Mrs. Clara Sutton that her request for use of the square on September 8, 2012, for a music extravaganza was granted.

Mayor Barnett thanked those involved in the planning and execution of the July 3rd fireworks event.

Mayor Barnett advised that the Citizens Review Panel is still working and can be contacted at citizensreviewpanel@gmail.com. Mayor Barnett also advised that the city will work to collect delinquent taxes and utilities.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CULLARS: Council member Cullars advised that he had completed 120 hours of GMA training. As provided for in the City Charter, once the city is notified by GMA of the completion of this training, Cullars will receive an additional \$100 per month salary.

TOPICS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL:

RAINEY: Council member Rainey made a motion that the city go to Zero Based budgeting beginning with the 2014 City Budget, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0.

On motion by Rainey, second by Cullars, that the city eliminate the current Ethics Ordinance, council voted 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Armour, Harris and Scarborough. Mayor Barnett voted against the motion breaking the tie vote.

On motion by Rainey, second by Cullars, that the city contact GMA to learn their recommendations on ways to keep the city "green", council approved 6 to 0.

On motion by Rainey, second by Cullars, that the city retain ownership of Callaway Plantation, but contract with the Chamber and Tourism offices for the operation of the facility. After discussion, council member Harris made a motion to table this matter for two months for further study with the Chamber and Tourism offices with recommendations to be presented in September, second by Scarborough, council approved 3-3-1. Voting against the motion to table were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion to table, breaking the tie vote.

Council member Rainey apologized to Mrs. Sutton for the confusion about her request for use of the square.

TUTT: Council member Tutt advised that GED Instructor Corey Miller had advised him of a decrease in GED class enrollment.

Tutt also advised that some city infrastructure needs improvement as noted during recent heavy rains.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

City Administrator Eskew advised that a RFP for collection of city taxes will be sent out in order that council may approve at the August 2012 meeting.

Eskew reported a request from Beta Sigma Phi for use of the square on August 10, 2012, 6 to 8 PM for a skating event for children and a fund raiser for the Animal Shelter. On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, request was approved 6 to 0.

Eskew asked for council approval of revisions to the travel policy. On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, to table this matter for further discussion at the August work session. Council approved motion 6 to 0.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & AUTHORITIES: City Administrator Eskew requested council approval of Mayor Barnett's recommendations as follows: Louis Ricciuti and Patricia Wilder to 3 years terms on Historic Preservation; Charles Wagner and Tom Owen to replace Albert Rucker and Mike Scarborough on Planning Commission; Laura Toburen, Andrew Jackson and Thomas Mills, Jr. to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Margaret Norris to replace Gale Siebert on the Mary Willis Library Board; and Robert M. Willingham, Jr. and Sim Dill, Jr. to the Board of Zoning Appeals – Signs for 3 year terms. On motion by Scarborough, second by Harris, council approved appointments 3-3-1. Council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt voted against the motion. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

There was discussion concerning the recommendations for appointments to the Senior Citizens Advisory Council. Members of the Advisory Board, present at the meeting, did not agree with the Board's recommendations. Action on these appointments was delayed until the August meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved 6 to 0 to enter into a previously approved executive session for a personnel and legal matter.

On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved 6 to 0 to re-convene in open session at 7:35 PM.

City Attorney Fleming gave report that one personnel and one legal matter was discussed with no final action taken.

On motion by Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 to have Mayor Barnett sign an executive session affidavit.

Cullars made a motion to discontinue service to a downtown business and begin legal action to collect past due bills, second by Rainey, council vote 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were Armour, Harris and Scarborough. Mayor Barnett voted against the motion, breaking the tie vote.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 7:42 PM.

_____MAYOR

_____CLERK