



# CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 25, 2023

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21  
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee called the meeting to order, and asked for a moment of silence for the men and women who served for our country. He also asked for a moment of silence for James Curry and Cleveland Fountain "Cleve" who passed away.

## 2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Rufus Bright led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Absent	
Thomas Barbee	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Gabrielle Nelson	Council Member	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Rufus Bright	Council Member	Present	
Glenn Jones	Council Member	Present	

## 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A.

Councilman Bright made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

1. Treat the zoning ordinance as a listening session
2. Add Personnel to Executive Session
3. Add 14D Amend Council Meeting Dates

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

## 5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

A. Georgia Benton

Discussed the following topic(s):

- Phone Lines
- EPA Plan

## B. Avril Roy-Smith

Discussed the following topic(s):

- Thanked Council for the new Alcohol Ordinance

**7. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS****8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

## A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2023

1.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

**9. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

City Manager Steve Davis gave the following updates:

- FY24 Budget was available on the website for everyone to see.
- The light at the intersection of Hendley and Highway 21 will go active June 7th and the improvements are done.
- The turn lanes at Saussy Rd are complete.
- The temporary light at Hodgeville and Highway 30 are up.
- All of the piping is in for Well #1, some testing still has to be done, but should be up soon.
- The City had an Employee Benefit Meeting.
- Police Chief is working with the School System Police Chief to move the busses.

Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee stated the following:

- June 2nd there will be a Front Porch Friday Concert
- June 16th will be the Juneteenth Celebration and it will be annually going forward.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

**11. CONSENT AGENDA****12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****13. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Site Plan Review Application submitted by Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group Inc., for PIN # 7-0906-04-042 (Lakeside Blvd.) for a Specific Development Site Plan to allow a Single-Family Subdivision Development (Rice Hope Lakeside Phase 24) in a M-P-O (Master Plan Overlay) Zoning District

Jason from Pittman Engineering came on behalf of the developer and stated that phase 24 is an extension of the phases that are currently being developed apart of lakeside, and there is infrastructure to support this project.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- B. NLC Utility Service Warranty Agreement

City Manager Davis explained that this is a program that Councilwoman Nelson brought in from her time at the NLC convention, and this is a warranty program that will allow the residents to get low cost warranty's for plumbing cost and waterlines. He also presented a power point presentation that consisted of more information about the organization and the services provided.

Councilwoman Nelson stated that the 1st district has a lot of older character as well as homes that we are still building. She also explained that with older homes comes older infrastructure that we cannot get around and need to figure out a fix.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

#### 14. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Designation of Primary Bank/Financial Institution

City Manager Davis explained that the City has been with the same bank for years and it has very limited capabilities based on the processes that we've been putting into place this year. Truist is one of the largest banks in America and their capabilities align with our processes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee stated that he was glad that we reached out to and researched multiple banks to pick the best one.

Councilwoman Nelson explained that there has been some issues with our current banking institution that was very discouraging. She also stated that she brings up often the value of people being good community partners and they have never checked that box. However, she is glad to see that financial literacy has been happening in our community through Truist Bank as they have been co-hosting financial literacy seminars educating the families of this community.

Councilman Stephens explained that the return on our investment with the current banking institution has been abysmal, so he is in favor of the re-designation.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

B. Alcohol Ordinance Rewrite- 2nd Reading

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

C. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

David Jirousek from Horizon explained that they have worked with the City attorney and Staff on any changes that needed to be made and were willing to answer any questions.

Councilwoman Nelson thanked him for all of his efforts and the work that he has done.

City Attorney Scott Robichaux explained that this just a listening session and not the official hearing.

D. Ammend Council Meeting Dates

1.

A motion was made to move the early May meeting to June 8th as a regular scheduled meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Stephens made a motion to retire to executive session, and it was second by Councilwoman Nelson. Approved Unanimous.

Councilman Stephens made a motion to reconvene regular session, and it was second by Councilwoman Nelson. Approved Unanimous.

Councilman Stephens made a motion to retire to add a regular Council Meeting on the 15th of June at 7:00PM, and it was second by Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee. Approved Unanimous.

A. Litigation

B. Real Estate

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilman Bright made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Stephens. Vote was Approved Unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zahnay Smoak, Clerk of Council