



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Norton called the meeting to order.

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	Present	
Thomas Barbee	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
ArtLise Alston-Cone	Council Member	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.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
SECONDER: Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES: Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

A. Dominique Lavoisier

Discussed the following topic(s):

- Oyster Roast

B. Avril Roy-Smith

Discussed the following topic(s):

- CLIC Concerns

- C. Timmy Purcell
Discussed the following topic(s):
- Water
- D. Tony Johnson
Discussed the following topic(s):
- Zoning
- E. Melwyn Turner
Discussed the following topic(s):
- Water
- F. Georgia Benton
Discussed the following topic(s):
- Zoning

7. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes - October 26, 2023
- B.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

9. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Leisure Services Director Tiffany Lancaster invited everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities of the City's Annual Tree Lighting.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

11. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- A. Well Permit Application for Mrs. Tina Newman at 711 Highway 30
- B. Well Permit Application for Mrs. Jackeline Cerezo at 368 Rice Hope Plantation Rd

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Special Use Permit Application submitted by TR Long Engineering, P.C., on behalf of Clifton Landfill Inc, for PIN # 7-0913-01-010 (Clifton Blvd.) for outside storage for the 5.01 acres site in a I-1 (Industrial) Zoning District

Trent Long from TR Long Engineering came before council to ask to use the area that they use for truck parking as an outside container storage with no stacking.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- B. Site Plan Review Application submitted by Clifton Landfill Inc., for PIN # 70913 01010 (Clifton Blvd) for a General Development Site Plan to allow a outdoor storage area in a I-1 (Industrial) Zoning district.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

- C. Fourth Amendment to the 2001 Water Service Agreement

City Manager Steve Davis explained that this amendment to the water service agreement is something that the City has been working on with the City of Savannah to increase the gallons that we receive due to the growth that we have seen in the City. He asked that they approve the amendment, and give the City Manager, CFO, and City Attorney the authority to continue to negotiate the surcharge with the City of Savannah after approval.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

14. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Amending Chapter 17.1 Human Resources Policy - 1st Reading

City Manager Steve Davis explained that this amendment is not changing the HR Policy directly, but it removes it from the ordinances so that it aligns with the procedures of the charter. It will also give the HR Director and the City Manager the ability to make the

changes that are needed without having to come before Council, and take two meetings to get any changes made.

Councilwoman Alston-Cone asked how will the council be kept informed about the policy, so that they still have a place in the policy making process. She also stated that normally HR policies are written by a committee and not just two people. Councilwoman Nelson stated that they should bring back committees, and maybe that would be worth looking into for the HR policy. City Manager Steve Davis explained that there will be provisions and procedures in place to change the HR policy and communication with Council, and that not all internal policies are codified by the Council. Councilwoman Alston-Cone stated that Council should still be informed of any changes made as they are still responsible for those changes.

B. Street Parking Ordinance- 1st Reading

City Manager Steve Davis explained that there has been a lot of concerns and complaints regarding parking and incidents such as: emergency vehicles not being able to get down streets due to the width of the street and school busses that can't go through to pick up children that has brought this to light even more. He stated that the City hosted town hall meetings the with community and staff meetings to help create this ordinance. He explained that the parking will be on an odd even schedule, that will have the cars parking on the odd side on the odd months and even side in the even months (with the provisions that are listed). He also explained that there will be an informational campaign held, signage, and phases of the process.

C. Zoning Map Amendment Application submitted by Steven & Janet Hester for PIN # 70978 05016 (440 Meinhard Rd) to Rezone from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to C-2 (Community Business) Zoning District (1st Reading)

Hannah Hester came on behalf of Hester Farms and presented a presentation to council to ask for a rezoning of the Hester farms.

Councilman Jones stated that the planning commission voted it down because they did not have all of the information that was presented, and thinks that it would take more than a month to make a decision on this project. He also explained that a C-2 zoning has a wide variety of options for what can be placed on that land, and if something that was presented on the presentation were to fall through than they could put just about anything there. Hannah Hester explained that they went through a list of uses that could go there and have chosen the best use options.

Councilwoman Nelson asked that council all keep in mind that the P&Z board voted it down unanimously. She also thanked Ms. Hester for having a mission statement for her project. Councilwoman Nelson also stated that there is also land that is right off of Highway 21 that would be good for something of this magnitude, and wanted to know why they chose that area on Meinhard instead? Hannah Hester explained that the type of building is one reason and the connectivity to the park would increase the connection. Councilwoman Nelson also asked how will this affect the Ferguson's that are nearby and suggested that she speak with them to hear their concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee asked if they had followed the steps to address the concerns that the planning and zoning members had, and Hannah Hester explained that she is taking steps to overcome those concerns.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mayor Pro- Tem Barbee made a motion to reconvene regular session, and it was second by Councilwoman Nelson. Approved Unanimous.

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel
- C. Real Estate

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pro- Tem Barbee made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Alston-Cone. 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