

**CITY OF MORROW, GEORGIA
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 2012 – 7:30 pm**

Note: These are summary minutes. For anyone who would like the full dialogue of the meeting, CDs are available in the City Clerk's office through the open records act.

Mayor Burke called the regular meeting of the Morrow City Council to order at 7:30 pm. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers of the Morrow Municipal Complex, 1500 Morrow Road, Morrow, GA, 30260.

City Clerk Evyonne Browning called the roll and those present were Mayor JB Burke, Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges, Councilman Virlyn Slaton, and Councilman Larry Ferguson. She stated Councilman C.R. Huie was absent, but there was a quorum present.

Mayor Burke asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent reflection.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

City Clerk Evyonne Browning stated there were no changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Burke called for a motion and vote.

MOTION AND VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges moved to approve the Meeting Agenda. Councilman Virlyn Slaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

City Clerk Evyonne Browning read the following Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of the March 27, 2012 Regular and Work Session Minutes.

Mayor Burke called for a motion and vote.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilman Virlyn Slaton moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. Fire Chief Mark Herendeen presented a 10 year Service Pin to Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Rawlins.

2. Presentation of a Proclamation to Mike Twomey and the Morrow Business and Tourism Association for their support of Clayton County Family Care, a non-profit organization supporting the City of Morrow and Clayton County. Presentation by Janna Szeto with Clayton Family Care and State Representative Glenn Baker from District 78.
3. Dan Defnall gave a Financial Update.

PUBLIC HEARING

City Clerk Evyonne Browning read the following Public Hearing item:

The business occupying 6681 Jonesboro Road, Suite 118, Morrow, Georgia, 30260 is requesting a Sign Code Variance from the City of Morrow's current Sign Ordinance to allow for use of the property as viable business location with illuminated window signs indicating the service provided.

Mayor Burke read the rules for the Public Hearing and then opened the Public Hearing on the request for a Sign Code Variance.

(The full dialogue on the Public Hearing is available on CD through the Open Records Act)

Michael McLaughlin and Brecca Johnson presented the Sign Variance Request – Staff Evaluation.

Mayor Burke gave the floor to the Applicant and reminded him he has 10 minutes.

The Applicant's Attorney made statements on behalf of the Applicant for the Mayor and Council to grant the Applicant's request for a variance.

Mayor Burke asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of the applicant. There were none.

Mayor Burke asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition to the variance.

The following people spoke in opposition:

1. Jim Duckworth (citizen of Morrow)
2. Goody Johnson (citizen of Morrow)
3. Danny Rudd (citizen of Morrow)

Mayor Burke asked if the Applicant would like to make any final statements.

The Applicant's Attorney made a final appeal on behalf of the Applicant for the Mayor and Council to approve the variance request.

Mayor Burke called for a motion on the item.

Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges made a motion to defer the decision for up to 30 days. Councilman Larry Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

FIRST PRESENTATION: None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

City Clerk Evyonne Browning read the following old business item:

1. Approval of a Resolution authorizing the City of Morrow to collaborate with the Atlanta Regional Commission to implement the “Lifelong Community” Initiative in the City of Morrow, Georgia; To authorize the Mayor and Council and the Director of Planning and Economic Development to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this Resolution; and to provide an effective date of this Resolution; and for other purposes.

(Presented by Michael McLaughlin, Planning + Economic Development Director)

Michael McLaughlin presented the item.

Councilman Larry Ferguson asked several questions about the Resolution and particularly about it would impact the houses on Westwood Way where he stated several residents still live there and have for over 50 years. He requested some additional language be put into the Resolution to protect those individuals from being pushed out and possibly destroying those homes.

Michael McLaughlin stated the Resolution does not have anything to do with any future plans that may come into play with the University Station project being headed up by Clayton County. He said this Resolution is to accept the concept of the Lifelong Community initiative and the City of Morrow giving their support.

Mayor Burke said we need to move on and called for a motion.

MOTION: Councilman Larry Ferguson made a motion to table the item for a later date. After a brief discussion, Councilman Larry Ferguson made a motion to remove his motion. Mayor Pro tem Jeanell Bridges seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by those present.

MOTION AND VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges moved to postpone the item for a future date yet to be determined. Councilman Larry Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Clerk Evyonne Browning read the following new business item:

1. Approval to submit application to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for grant funds to develop Highway Safety Programs to save lives in Morrow.

Police Chief Leighty presented the item.

Mayor Burke called for a motion and second.

MOTION AND SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges moved to approve the item. Councilman Larry Ferguson seconded the motion.

Mayor Burke asked if there was any discussion. After hearing none, he called for a vote.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Burke read the following statement:

Comment is a time for the citizens to make comments to the Mayor and Council and for them to listen to the concerns of the citizens. Citizens are to come to the podium if they wish to speak, stating your name and whether you are a citizen or business owner in the City. Comment cards will be provided by the City Clerk so the Mayor and Council will have a way to follow up with any citizen concerns during tonight's comment period. As another way for you to communicate your needs or suggestions to us, we have placed suggestion/comments sheets at the back of the council chambers for you to fill out and place in a suggestion box. We thank you for your input on how we can better serve our citizens.

Mayor Burke made the call to citizens for comments.

Francine L. White (1775 Stratford Arms Drive) wanted to know what the purpose of the speed boxes on various roads.

It was determined that a staff member would be in touch with her to explain in detail.

Ms. Warren (1916 Cornell Way) stated concerns about the intersection of N. Lee Street and Oxford Drive across from Walmart.

It was determined that a staff member would be in touch with her to explain in detail.

Mayor Burke asked if the City Manager had any comments.

Jeff Eady congratulated Matthew Rawlins.

Mayor Burke asked if the Council had any comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges also congratulated Matthew Rawlins for his 10 years of service to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (To discuss legal and personnel issues)

Mayor Pro Tem Bridges asked for a motion and vote to adjourn into Executive Session.

MOTION AND VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges moved adjourn into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues. Councilman Larry Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 9:10 pm.

Mayor Burke asked for a motion and vote to adjourn the Executive Session.

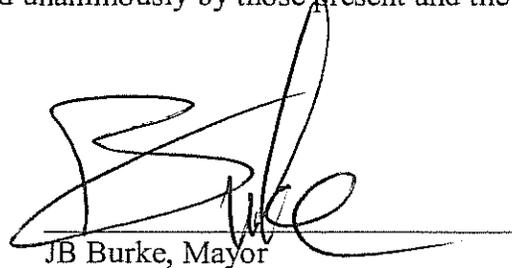
MOTION AND VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Jeanell Bridges moved adjourn the Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues. Councilman Virlyn Slaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the Executive Session was adjourned at 10:55 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Burke asked for a motion and vote to adjourn the Meeting.

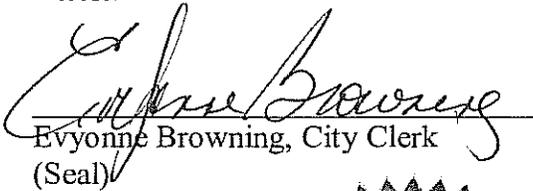
MOTION AND VOTE: Councilman Virlyn Slaton moved adjourn the meeting. Councilman Larry Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 pm.

Approved this 24th day of April, 2012.



JB Burke, Mayor

Attest:



Evyonne Browning, City Clerk
(Seal)

