

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Newnan, Georgia was held on Tuesday September 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Richard A. Bolin Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Keith Brady presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Keith Brady: Council members present: Rhodes Shell, George Alexander; Ray DuBose, Cynthia Jenkins, Paul Guillaume and Dustin Koritko. Also present: City Manager, Cleatus Phillips; Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver; City Clerk, Megan Shea; and City Attorney, Brad Sears.

**MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Koritko to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on September 14, 2021 and adopt them as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

**SWEARING IN OF NEWNAN YOUTH COUNCIL STUDENTS**

Councilwoman Jenkins called out the names of the new sophomore students joining the Newnan Youth Council and then they were sworn in by the City Attorney.

Stella Weaver (Newnan), Susan Grayton Pass (Heritage), Belinda Ramirez Ocampo (East Coweta), Keaton McNutt (East Coweta), Rico Lane (East Coweta), Sam Knight (Heritage), Macy Horne (Newnan), Sara Hays Grote (Newnan), Miles Fabre (Heritage), Sonny Durham (Heritage), Davis Chapman (Heritage), Madeline Butler (Newnan) and Adele Bulford (Newnan)

Councilwoman Jenkins then asked the Youth Council students who were attending the meeting, as they are required to attend one meeting per year, to introduce themselves. Mekayla Franklin (East Coweta Rep, East Coweta), Lacey Daniell (Historian, Newnan), Jaidyn Hammett (Northgate) and Jabrea Fowler (East Coweta).

**ANNUAL REPORT- KEEP NEWNAN BEAUTIFUL**

Shalonda Vassar-West presented the report. She stated that Keep Newnan Beautiful's mission is to educate, motivate and empower individuals in Newnan to take greater responsibility for improving our local community environment. Keep Newnan Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep American Beautiful and Keep Georgia Beautiful.

In 2021 Keep Newnan Beautiful focused on improving recycling, community greening and litter reduction. Their events helped recycle 53 tons of tires, 33,000lbs of paper, 43,966lbs of electronics and 2,503 gallons of paint. They helped assist with tornado relief and worked with Public Works to identify residents with Household Hazardous Waste and helped to ensure proper disposal of the waste.

Volunteers are the heart of the program. Many volunteers participate year-round and several companies and businesses provide volunteer support. The focus for 2021-2022 is to find ways to stay relevant. They are connecting with schools and community groups to provide education. They are using technology to create real world lessons and improving the website for signups for events.

**APPOINTMENT- DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Motion by Councilman DuBose, seconded by Councilman Alexander to nominate Kirby Arnall Jr. to the Development Authority.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

**CITY MANAGER**

City Manager wanted to introduce the new Long-Term Recovery Director that was hired after the City signed an agreement with Coweta County and the Community Foundation. He explained there was a recruiting process and interview selection and that Mr. Rich DeWees was chosen for this large job. Mr. DeWees is very active in the community and has experience working in non-profit and leadership roles.

Rich DeWees said he knows he is stepping into a huge role but that it is so important. He sees that the County and the City have come together along with the residents to meet a challenge. He stated that ARPA funds being discussed tonight are also on their radar. He stated that renting and housing especially for the demographic most severely hit by the tornado is a real issue. We need to work together to fix problems that were here but were revealed by the tornado.

City Manager then wanted to recognize an employee for job performance. Cyndi Hoffman has been the Animal Control Officer for the City for over 14 years. Many of those years she's been the sole person in that role. She has received numerous letters of commendation, several awards from the Southeast Animal Control and was recently named the Georgia Animal Control Officer of the Year. She is very active in her profession, serving on the Georgia Animal Control Association board and loves her job.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE ORDER TO LMIG 2021 MILLING & RESURFACING CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL WORK**

Assistant City Manager explained that this was brought to our attention while doing work on the LINC on Field St. The concrete section of Field St is in terrible disrepair and this would repair that section with asphalt.

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shell to approve the change order as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

**CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH PR BROWN RIDGE I, LLC**

Assistant City Manager explained that this is an agreement that will allow the development to take place and allow the City to acquire permanent easement to construct trail facilities, allow temporary access easement and to allow portions of the property to be gifted to the City. He stated this has been done before as part of the LINC project. This property is adjacent to property the City already owns where one of the Fire Stations is located. On the other side is vacant open space.

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shell to approve the agreement as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

**CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, CHAPTER 4, ANIMALS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY DELETING ARTICLE VII, DANGEROUS DOG CONTROL AND ADOPTING A NEW ARTICLE VII**

Assistant City Manager stated that this is to change terms in the ordinance. The current ordinance uses the term “potentially dangerous” and now requesting to remove and use the term “vicious”. The County owns and maintains the animal shelter and they use certain terms, they do not use “potentially dangerous” so the treatment protocol is non-existent. This would allow the City’s Animal Control Officer to bring an animal there and have it treated appropriately.

Councilman Alexander pointed out that in the exceptions section, potentially dangerous is used twice, should also be changed? City Attorney agreed that needs to change. There were a couple other definitions that were not included pertaining to “serious” injury. There is a definition of that set by the State and that should be included in the ordinance.

There was a question regarding the Animal Control Board and the City Attorney verified that the State sets that board and it is a County board, the City uses the County Board. It was also pointed out that the end of the ordinance cut off and was missing a few words.

Mayor Brady proposed that the additional changes needed be made and that the ordinance amendment be brought back to Council.

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO STATE THE PRIMARY INTENDED USES OF FIRST TRANCHE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS**

Assistant City Manager explained that after Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act, the City of Newnan received \$7.7 million in funds. Surveys were sent out to Council to figure out how to allocate these funds. The resolution is for Council to accept the funds and to allocate under 5 funding categories. The 5 categories are Administrative/Indirect Costs, Revenue Replacement, Public Health, Negative Economic Impact and Infrastructure Improvement.

It was proposed that the first two categories be given 2% of the funds in the first load, \$155,000. Revenue replacement to put \$1 million for 2020 and potentially more for 2021. The remaining 3 categories divide evenly, 1/3 to each.

Council had no objections to the Admin/Indirect Costs or Revenue Replacement categories. Councilman Guillaume discussed his concerns around incentivizing the vaccine and concerns of his constituents. He acknowledged that this is a controversial topic.

City Manager clarified that no public incentive program has been initiated. There is a program but it is internal for City employees only. The resolution would potentially authorize a public program, if that option was wanted by council under Public Health but there are other options as well. Councilman Guillaume stated he is opposed to a public incentive program. Mayor Pro Tem Shell expressed that he thinks the incentive programs are a good option.

Mayor Brady asked for a motion to support the decision made by the City Manager to internally put a vaccine incentive program in place. Councilman Alexander asked why Council was not asked to vote on the incentive program sooner since it is Council that sets policy and oversees the budget.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Shell, seconded by Councilwoman Jenkins to support the internal vaccine incentive program for City employees. Opposed: Guillaume, Koritko, Alexander.

**MOTION CARRIED. (4-3)**

Councilwoman Jenkins expressed concern over the 1/3 approach for the last 3 categories given that some uses for the funds are more urgent than others. She recommended adding more money to the Negative Economic Impact category due to tornado issues that have escalating costs. She proposed moving \$1 million from Infrastructure Improvement

to the Negative Economic Impact category, specifically the non-profit portion. Then during the second tranche we can look to balance things out.

Mayor Pro Tem Shell asked if things can change as the process goes along and the answer was yes. He wondered if they should wait to move money around until they have a better idea of what things cost.

Councilman Koritko brought up the subject of the stormwater system and the repair that is needed on that. He also mentioned that there is a department of public health and so the City should let them do their job.

Councilman Alexander suggested a work session to discuss this topic further. Mayor Brady agreed and asked City Manager to find a date for this.

**REQUEST TO CLOSE MADISON ST BETWEEN JEFFERSON ST AND JACKSON ST  
FOR ART EVENT ON OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Koritko to approve the request as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

**VISITORS**

Clarence Bohannon (aka C-Bo) expressed concern that the city gave the University of Georgia \$30,000. City Manager clarified that he was speaking about the project with the Fanning Institute for the Race, Equity and Inclusion committee. Mr. Bohannon is concerned about the voices of people in areas such as Rocky Hill, Chalk Level, East Newnan and Westgate. Mr. Bohannon said they asked him for recommendations of people to participate and he is upset that no one he suggested is on the committee. He wanted to request to be on the race, equity and inclusion committee or someone from those other areas. Councilwoman Jenkins said she attended the last meeting and there was a discussion that they are lacking some representation.

Mayor Brady asked City Manager to follow up on this and contact the group.

**VISITOR**

Spencer Lewis stated that he wanted to discuss civic engagement and disengagement. He commented on voter turnout in an election year and participation in the city council meetings. He stated that Newnan is the only municipality in Coweta County that holds meetings on Tuesdays. Sometimes the County Commissioners and School Board meet at the same time on Tuesdays. He asked that it be considered to move the meetings so they don't conflict with other county meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Shell, seconded by Councilman Koritko to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:40pm.

**MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)**

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Megan Shea, City Clerk

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Keith Brady, Mayor