

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor  
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner  
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner  
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney  
Helen Menefee, Admin Asst.  
Lori Leland, Permit Coordinator  
Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects Mgr.  
Anthony Cappuccio, Deputy Police Chief  
Brittany Marmol, Finance Director

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Commissioner Laratte moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Discussion of Greenspace Advisory Committee**  
The BOMC is exploring the potential mission and role of a newly created Greenspace Advisory Committee.

City Manager Bryant said that this discussion continues. He asked Commissioner Shortell to continue. She had compiled suggestions from the last discussion on this topic about the scope of this new committee. It brought up further questions for Ms. Shortell about the scope and she listed them.

- What is considered greenspace?
- What does city staff need from this committee?
- Who will this board report to?
- Who can request that they review or act on something?
- Do we want them to be part of official processes, like the PAZB?
- Or used on an as needed basis?

The BOMC discussed these questions and weighed in. Commissioner Merriam wanted greenspace to be treated as more of an integrated system. There was consensus to initially keep the scope simple, narrow and focused. The desire to have the group report regularly to the BOMC was also mentioned. Commissioner Shortell wants a committee that will take into consideration all the policies, guidelines and documents that have been put into place before them. Mr. Bryant said he felt staff could come up with a draft ordinance after hearing this feedback and then the BOMC could go from there.

Item #4

**Variance Request at 49 Wiltshire Drive**

Applicant requests a side yard setback reduction from 10 feet to six feet for a front porch addition on the northwest front corner of the single family residence, zoned R-12.

Permitting and planning coordinator Lori Leland explained the situation to the group. She did not feel this situation was compatible with current zoning. Since the current home encroaches on the setback, adding a porch would be prohibited. The BOMC discussed the pros and cons of approving this and also asked questions of Ms. Leland. There was discussion about setting a precedent if this variance is approved, thus weakening the zoning. City Attorney Quinn noted this would not be a legal precedent. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher believed no zoning code is an absolute otherwise variances wouldn't exist. Commissioner Laratte felt there would be no negative impact on neighbors. Commissioner Merriam wanted to adhere to zoning but is also a big proponent of front porches. Mayor Elmore was conflicted as well. Next steps were then discussed. This will be voted on at the next regular meeting in two weeks.

Item #5

**Georgia Department of Transportation Speed Study Acceptance**

GDOT has given preliminary approval to reduce the speed limit on Kensington Road and Clarendon Avenue from 30 mph to 25 mph. Once the study recommendation to reduce the posted speed limit is agreed to and signed by the Mayor, the Department of Public Safety will review and consider the recommendation for final approval.

City Manager Bryant explained that GDOT was asked to review the speeds on two residential streets mentioned above. He recapped the results of the study. Everyone was in favor of reducing the speed limit. Commissioner Shortell requested reviews of other residential streets as well. This will be voted on at the next regular meeting in two weeks.

Item #6

**Public Comment**

Bill Hover commented on the Berkeley Road speed limit. He also offered an interpretation of the zoning code in regards to the variance request. Jan Hover wished that homebuyers would be made aware of building limitations before they purchase a home. Barbara Seal wanted to make sure that current projects and issues – like the lake dam, dredging, the rain gardens – don't get lost during the formation of the greenspace committee.

Item #7

**Executive Session – Real Estate**

Commissioner Laratte moved to enter executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

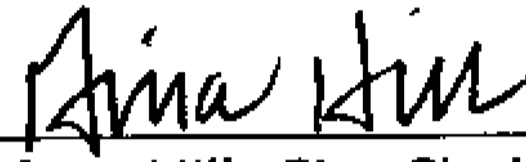
Commissioner Laratte motioned to exit executive session. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #8

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



---

Gina Hill, City Clerk

