



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021  
5:30 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM**

**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  
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Rebecca Long, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney  
Ken Morris, Permit Coordinator  
Sara Hепен, Event Coordinator

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Commissioner Laratte moves to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconds. All ayes.

Item #3 **Commissioner Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher wished everyone a happy spring. Commissioner Shortell recognized the garden clubs and residents who work hard to keep their yards looking nice. Commissioner Laratte commented on the work being done on the public works building as well as the spring season. Commissioner Merriam said she is concerned about the trees in the neighborhood and hopes they can discuss that in the future. Mayor Elmore encouraged everyone to get the covid vaccine. City Manager Bryant announced that city hall would reopen to the public on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He added that all administrative employees will be vaccinated by then but masks would still be required for visitors. Mr. Bryant also said that backdoor garbage pickup would resume at the same time and staff was working towards having municipal court once again. The city won the title of Best Small Town Beer Scene from USA Today recently, he announced.

Item #4 **Resolution to Set Stormwater Fees**

The Board of Mayor and Commissioners will set stormwater fees at a level appropriate to support necessary operating and capital expenditures for the next five years.

Commissioner Shortell motioned to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant explained that this has been discussed in several meetings lately and he gave some background information. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher supported raising the fee to \$180 per year and explained why. He said the system is old and will continue to need repair and maintenance. He thought the rate increase was fair. Commissioner Laratte had trouble tripling a fee on residents but felt it was necessary. Commissioner Shortell felt stormwater issues were going to worsen and she felt the fee was fair. Commissioner Merriam was also supportive. Mayor Elmore liked the idea of an enterprise fund and said the projects they are fixing have to be done.

Item #5

**Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Public Works Equipment**

Staff recommends purchasing knuckle boom truck for moving piles of limbs or other large items to increase the efficiency of yard waste collection. The purchase would be through a Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) leasing program. That agreement is attached.

Commissioner Laratte moved to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant gave more detail about this purchase. He added that this truck will improve efficiency and allow staff to spend time on other tasks. Mr. Bryant also mentioned the lease being used to purchase the item. Finance Director Hanebuth provided more explanation about the lease. Commissioner Laratte asked about any training needed. Mr. Bryant responded that the director of public works has a lot of experience with this equipment. Mr. Hanebuth added that the company will provide some training as well.

Item #6

**Resolution to Contract for Tree Inventory**

A tree inventory will help city staff prioritize tree maintenance and estimate budgets, for example. The inventory will include an inspection of each tree, planting site, and stump in the city's right of way.

Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant said the inventory will help staff better maintain the trees and allow members of the community to share tree information through software. Commissioner Shortell thanked staff for making this a priority and being proactive. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher was supportive. Commissioner Laratte asked about a timeline. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth wasn't sure and said this was an addition to a current contract with Davey Resource Group. Mr. Laratte also asked about other information the city would receive from the

inventory. Commissioner Merriam felt this was a good first step in the right direction.

Item #7 **Garden Week Proclamation**

Mayor Elmore read the proclamation and thanked all the city's gardening groups.

Item #8 Public Comment

Peggy Burgess thanked the BOMC for recognizing gardening as important to the city. She also thanked Assistant City Manager Hanebuth for having some plants delivered for planting by the group.

Item #9 Adjournment

Commissioner Merriam moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All eyes.