



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 26TH, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

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
Harry Hess, Police Chief
Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects Mgr.
Lori Leland, Permitting Coordinator
Adrian Langston, Greenspace Mgr.
Don Huff, Public Works Supervisor
Marcel Jackson, Public Works Director
Helen Menefee, Admin Coordinator

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

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

Item #3 **Commissioner Comments**
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher praised the Earth Day event at the Town Green. Commissioner Shortell agreed and praised Communications Manager Ellen Powell. City Manager Bryant announced that residents' water may be temporarily affected by the road paving currently underway.

Item #4 **Approval of Minutes**
April 12th regular meeting
April 12th work session
Commissioner Shortell moved to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #5 **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.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to approve. Commissioner Merriam seconded. Four ayes, one nay (Shortell).

City Manager Bryant gave background on this item. Commissioner Shortell asked a question about the application and then explained why she voted no on this item. She felt the application did not fit the criteria for a variance. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher explained his support of the application. He felt the variance process existed for situations like this one. Commissioner Merriam said she believes front porches are an important part of the community fabric. Commissioner Laratte didn't feel it would impact neighbors. Mayor Elmore believed zoning codes are not perfect, especially in a neighborhood with older homes. Also, it will not set a precedent from a legal standpoint.

Bill Hover remarked did not support approve of the application as presented. He believed it set a bad precedent. Jan Hover felt approval of this weakens the zoning ordinance. Commissioner Shortell suggested they could look at changing the zoning code as it relates to front porches.

Item #6

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adopt. Commissioner Shortell seconded. Four ayes, one nay (Laratte).

City Manager Bryant reminded the group about this discussion from the previous work session. Commissioner Laratte felt the data did not support a change in speed limit and questioned what problem were they trying to solve.

Commissioner Merriam cited statistics on speed and pedestrian deaths.

Commissioner Shortell said most of the complaints she gets from residents are about speeding. She gave other reasons she supported the change. Discussion continued.

Bill Hover wondered if a traffic study would need to be done for every street in order to lower speed limits. Mr. Bryant explained the process of being able to lower a speed limit. Discussion continued among the group.

Item #7

Public Comment: None

Item #8

Adjournment

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

APPROVED MAY 10TH, 2023



Gina Hill, City Clerk