

**AUGUST 20, 2012
PUBLIC HEARINGS (3)
MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
505 HOWARD ROAD
7:00 PM**

VISITORS: Joe Cannin, Ken Etzell, Bill Wood, Mary Provost, Don Rehman, Alex McRae, Mrs. Arthur Martin, Betty Sulley, Joe Cannin, Chief Edens, Rick & Ryan Adams and Mark Stephens

FULL COUNCIL PRESENT

1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS

Mayor Belisle declared this to be an open meeting duly convened under the Open Meetings Law after receiving confirmation from the City Clerk that all legal requirements have been met. The meeting was then called to order, Mayor Belisle welcomed those present and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

• **Variance-519 Christian Circle/Single Family Residence**

Representing the property owner, Mark Stephens is asking to move the building line 15 feet due to a drainage ditch that was constructed improperly and also moving the building line will allow the home to line up with others. Mayor Belisle stated that he, C. Owens and Mr. Ferry visited the lot and the drainage is supposed to be centered and the easement was not put in the right location. Mayor Belisle suggests having the easement resurveyed as right now the property owner is responsible for maintaining the property as is. Mr. Stephens asks if this will take any property from the owner & was told no. Mr. Ferry added that in its current state the property owner is better served to have it redrawn.

• **Millage Rate**

Mr. Ferry presented the 5-Year Digest, pointing out that the City has held a mill rate of 6.11 since 2007, adding that this year is the first time ever that real property suffered contraction. Mayor Belisle is recommending a mill rate of 5.990 as franchise fees are up, revenues from downtown businesses are up and this can offset the difference in property taxes. Mayor Belisle says this clearly shows our efforts in revitalizing downtown and will give our residents a tax break. Don Rehman of Heritage Pointe wonders if it is wise to decrease the millage with lowered land values and the uncertainty of collecting all that is due. Mayor Belisle informed all that we assume a 92% collection. Mary Provost of Teal Court thanked Mayor and Council for the decrease. Joe Cannin stated he too is glad to see the decrease. Ken Hazelton stated that Mayor and Council are doing “something great here” and asked what would be the reduction in dollars on an assessed value of \$100,000. Mayor Belisle indicated that it would not be a huge reduction but a reduction of \$12.00 per \$100,000.

- **Short Term Work Program/Capital Improvement Element**

Mr. Ferry called attention to the additions to include the Warning System which cost will be shared by the County and the removal of the Municipal Complex, City Hall and the Library as these projects have been completed. In the category of Parks & Rec., the years will be left as is and reviewed the 3 planned trails. Mr. Ferry then reviewed Planning Commission recommendations that included decreasing the amount towards the covered bridge of \$95,000 and increasing the amount toward the work needed on Turin Street and Willow Dell Drive to \$95,000. Ken Hazelton thinks it would be wrong to change the nature of the current bridge and spend the taxpayer's money in this way, suggesting the burden falling on the businesses. Joe Cannin agrees with Mr. Hazelton and asked if the project has to be funded by taxpayers. Mayor Belisle asked Mr. Cannin if he is interested in heading up a fundraiser and was told no. The Mayor then suggested leaving these projects on the list for now until we have the criteria for making a sound decision.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

C. Grover made motion to approve the August 6, 2012 Council minutes as presented & was 2nd by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

A. L.O.S.T. Distribution

Mayor Belisle made motion to approve the L.O.S.T. distribution agreement as presented & was 2nd by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Set Millage Rate

Mayor Belisle made motion to set the gross millage at 9.87 with the rollback left at 3.88 and adopt the 2012 Millage Rate of 5.990. Motion was 2nd by C. Graham and carried unanimously.

C. STWP/CIE

Mayor Belisle made motion to approve the STWP/CIE as presented with the addition of the GIS System, HPC guidelines for residential, gateway signage and the City achieving government certification in historic preservation. Motion was 2nd by C. Fisher and carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Action-Variance @ 519 Christian Circle

Mayor Belisle made motion to approve the Variance at 519 Christian Circle providing there is a vegetation buffer placed in the SW corner to block the visual line and a surveyor redraw the easement. Motion was 2nd by C. Grover and carried unanimously.

B. Certificate of Appropriateness

- **125 Seavy Street-Fence**

Mayor Belisle made motion to deny the COA for a fence at 125 Seavy Street & was 2nd by C. Fisher. Motion carried unanimously.

- **175 Bridge Street-Windows & Doors**

C. Grover made motion to approve the COA for windows & doors at 175 Bridge Street. Motion was 2nd by C. Owens and carried unanimously.

- **308 Main Street-Fence**

Mayor Belisle made motion to approve the COA for a fence at 308 Main Street & was 2nd by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Ryan Adams-Eagle Scout Project @ Marimac Lake

Mayor Belisle made motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project at Marimac Lake Park (trash receptacles) with their locations coordinated with the City Administrator. Motion was 2nd by C. Graham and carried unanimously.

D. Downtown Development Authority Update-None

6. APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR

Don Rehman of Heritage Pointe asked for specifics regarding the listed Executive Session matters and was told by Mayor Belisle that under Real Estate the purpose is *acquisition* and the Personnel matter will not be disclosed.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **8th Annual Car Show September 29th-Volunteers are needed.**
- **Opening on the Planning Commission. All interested are asked to contact Mr. Ferry or Mayor Belisle in writing.**

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4) Real Estate
EXECUTIVE SESSION O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(6) Personnel**

Mayor Belisle made motion to enter Executive Session for Real Estate Acquisition & Personnel Matters. Motion was 2nd by C. Fisher. To approve motion: Belisle, Fisher, Graham, Grover and Owens.

Mayor Belisle made motion to return to regular session & was 2nd by C. Grover. To approve motion: Belisle, Fisher, Graham, Grover and Owens.

9. ADJOURN

Mayor Belisle made motion to adjourn the August 20, 2012 Council meeting & was 2nd by C. Fisher. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Belisle, Mayor

Debra J. Volk, City Clerk