

**APRIL 3, 2006  
CITY OF SENOIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**VISITORS: VISITORS: VISITORS: Sam and Suzanne Helfman, Suzan McArthur, Travis Hargrove, Claudia Wood, Gary Miller, Gail Downs, Bill Roy, John Thompson, Sarah Campbell, Donna Black, Bob Rolader, Ollita Bennett and Mary Provost.**

**COUNCIL PRESENT: Belisle, Harrison, Owens and Wood  
COUNCIL ABSENT: Benson**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS**

Mayor Belisle called the City Council meeting to order and welcomed all.

**2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2006 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

C. Wood made motion to approve the March 20, 2006 Public Hearing minutes as presented & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2006 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

C. Harrison made motion to approve the March 20, 2006 City Council minutes as presented & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Belisle then made motion to amend the agenda for the addition of Executive Session after Announcements under O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (6) for Personnel. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens and carried unanimously.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Read on State Mandated Water Ordinances**

C. Owens asked if the 2<sup>nd</sup> read are adopted and changes are made will Council have to revisit each and was told yes, that changes will need to be adopted as well. After short discussion, C. Harrison made motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> read on the 5 State Mandated Water Ordinances as presented & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Read on Water and Sewer Capital Recovery Fees**

C. Harrison made motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> read of the new Capital Recovery Fees as presented (\$1,304.24 water/\$2,520.33 sewer). This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens and carried unanimously.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Read on Historic Neighborhood Overlay Ordinance-Postponed**

**D. Appointment of Downtown Development Authority Member**

Mr. Ferry informed all that at the last Council meeting a request was made for any persons interested in serving on the DDA to submit a letter of request and to date only one has been received from Mr. Gary Miller. Mr. Miller then addressed Council and informed all that he is new to the area and has a strong background in

both the public and private sector. If selected, Mr. Miller promises to bring energy, tools and enthusiasm. DDA Chair Suzanne Helfman stated that she is very pleased with the submission and feels Mr. Miller will definitely be an asset to the DDA. After short discussion, C. Owens made motion to appoint Gary Miller as the newest member of the DDA & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Harrison. Motion carried unanimously.

**E. Discussion of Ethics Ordinances**

Mayor Belisle reminded all that previously, Council passed a Resolution to begin the process of becoming a City of Ethics and would like to discuss this evening what it should consist of. C. Owens stated that he would like to see an Ethics Commission appointed to deal with any complaints and investigate so Council would not have to “police themselves”. The commission would ultimately bring findings back to Council for action. C. Harrison agrees and suggests a commission of 12 with no affiliation to Council members, choosing 3 different each time to hear the complaint. C. Harrison then suggested using the Voter Registration list to choose the commission. Mayor Belisle indicated that there are many different versions of ordinances and Council will need to review and come to a consensus as to its contents. C. Wood stated that there will be pros and cons to having a separate commission and he is in favor of the model ordinance Mr. Whalen submitted to each from GMA which does not require a separate commission and is compatible with the City Charter. Mr. Whalen stated that with the GMA model ordinance, Council sits as judge of it members. C. Owens says he feels a separate commission could look objectively and take the “burden off of us”. Mayor Belisle would like to see 3 issues incorporated into the ordinance; that any citizen making a complaint be required to publicly follow through; have a separate ethics commission and finally, must specify as to concrete evidence. Mayor Belisle then stated that he is in favor of a separate commission. C. Wood reminded all of the other side of this issue, the reputation you as an employee or Council member bring to your position and you should stand on that and that a commission could become “a tool to do very unethical things”. C. Wood then asked if there would be accountability for false accusations and was told by Mayor Belisle that 2 administrators he had spoken with stressed proof in ordinance. Mayor Belisle then took a straw poll as to Council present in favor of a separate commission and of the four, only C. Wood was opposed. Suzanne Helfman asked if the City attorney would sit on the commission & was told that separate legal council would have to be appointed. Suzan McArthur stated she feels the general public would be capable to serve and serve well. Mayor Belisle informed all that there seems to be a small consensus on what is wanted and he will go through and get something together. C. Harrison suggested emailing within Council, suggestions and ideas for the ordinance.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Recommendations on Preliminary Plat for Heritage Pointe**

Mr. Ferry informed all that the Planning Commission has reviewed the preliminary plat and requested a few minor revisions. The question then came up about Emmett Freeman Road as to the ownership of the road at the crossing and who has jurisdiction regarding its closing. Mr. Ferry has forwarded the materials to the County engineer for clarification of ownership but to date has not received a response. It could either belong to the City, County or be a private road. Mr. Ferry is concerned with the agreement of 2004, and allowing egress through to Heritage Pointe without clarification. Mayor Belisle asked if there were any deadline restrictions that we are under and was told no, as long as response is within a reasonable time. C. Harrison asked if we anticipated hearing back from the County before the next Council meeting & was told that we should. After short discussion, C. Harrison made motion to table any action on the preliminary plat for Heritage Pointe Phase 2 until the requested information is received from the County. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Owens and carried unanimously.

**5. OLD BUSINESS-None**

**6. APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR-None**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS-None**

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Belisle made motion to close regular session and move into Executive Session under O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (6) for Personnel matter & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Harrison. To approve motion: Belisle, Harrison, Owens and Wood

C. Owens made motion to return to regular session & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Wood. To approve motion: Belisle, Harrison, Owens and Wood

**8. ADJOURN**

C. Owens made motion to adjourn the April 3, 2006 City Council meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Harrison. Motion carried unanimously.