



## *Town council meeting April 7, 2025*

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Tommy Buchanan, Sharon Johnson, Doug Koestel and Sally Brown, Clerk, Kathy Bridges, Attorney, Jack Samuels

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Scott Morgan, Phillip Jones with NE GA Regional Development Center, Sarah McQuade and Walter Osario, both with CPL, Josh Jachles, an event planner and Jared Callaway, with the Barrow County School System

The meeting opened at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan amendment opened with Phillip Jones of the NE Ga. Development Center presiding. He explained the changes in the future land use map and explained how the map is a guide for future land usage and zoning. He said this was the final public hearing before the plan is submitted to the Regional office, then on to the state Department of Community Affairs for approval.

The regular meeting opened with the Mayor asking for approval of the March minutes. Tommy Buchanan said the March 3 minutes were approved and changes needed to be made to the March 31 minutes- [Buchanan made a motion to amend the agenda to add discussing sending out the minutes a week **after** meetings]. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the March 31 minutes with the changes, Tommy Buchanan seconded, and the motion passed with Doug Koestel and Sharon Johnson abstaining from voting since they were absent from the March 31 meeting.

First on the agenda was the comp plan submittal letter to be signed by the Mayor. Sally Brown made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the motion passed with a yes vote by Doug Koestel and a no vote by Tommy Buchanan.

Event planner, Josh Jachles was next on the agenda. His company plans events for towns with a primary focus on engaging the community. He said the shows are driven by sponsorships. He was to send references for the council.

Third on the agenda was the CPL estimate for updating the UDC. Sarah McQuade spoke explaining the updates were to align zoning with the character areas identified in the comp plan. She said it could be a 10–20-hour job (\$1,000-\$2,000) and any code amendments would need a 30-day notice. She recommended a 2-month review and having the public hearing and adoption at the June meeting. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the work, Sally Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Fourth on the agenda was the CPL estimate for road work bid preparation. The design and survey work for the Shepherd Street project, McElhannon repaving and pothole repair on Harrison Mill was a total of \$152,132.50 (design-\$126,900; survey-\$25,232.50). The second part is installing the stormwater pipe on King Avenue and West Star. The design work would be \$83,375 and the survey, \$11,060 for a total of \$94,435. The council discussed the issue and decided to table it for further discussion.

Doug Koestel made a motion to add a financials discussion to the agenda and with a second by Sally Brown the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda was the swearing in of the new code enforcement officer, Walter Osorio, an employee of CPL. Attorney Jack Samuels read the oath of office for Osorio to repeat.

The sixth item on the agenda was the purchase of a laptop computer for the Mayor. He said the price would be under \$2,000. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the purchase, Sharon Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The road striping bid was next up with a quote amount of \$15,325 for a daily fee. The Highway markings LLC company estimated the work would take 2 days. The roads would include Harrison Mill, Star Street East and West and Joseph Street. Doug Koestel made the motion to approve the 2-day work bid, Sharon Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The council discussed an intergovernmental agreement with the Magistrate Court of Barrow County to handle code enforcement citations. Attorney Samuels had spoken with the county attorney about the issue and the county attorney was to bring it before the Barrow County Board of Commissioners. Samuels expects an update soon. Doug Koestel made the motion to allow the Mayor to sign an agreement with Barrow County Magistrate Court and with a second by Sharon Johnson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Doug Koestel pointed out that the recent cashing of a CD was not investment proceeds-only the interest was a proceed from the investment.

The Mayor asked to add a property update to the agenda. Sally Brown made the motion to amend the agenda to add the item, Sharon Johnson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The Mayor said he had a contractor assess the brick house- 742 Manger Ave. and was anticipating \$35 a square foot for repairs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.