



MINUTES

**PUBLIC HEARING (Request for Zoning Amendment Doyle Property 360 Church Street & Duck Property 676 Church Street)
February 15, 2022, 6:15 PM**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 2022, 6:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING:

Call to Order: The February 15, 2022, Public Hearing Meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 6:15 PM.

Attendance: Mayor Keith Turman, Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Strickland, Jason Phillips, David Pressley, Kenneth Roach, Wayne Braswell, Matt Fields, City Attorney Andrea Grant, City Clerk Sharleen Ayers, and Deputy Clerk Tonya Allen.

Zoning Amendment Requests:

A. Request for Zoning Change from R-1 Residential to Highway Business District 360 Church Street: James Doyle. James Doyle addressed council with a slide show presentation of his plans for the property. Current address is 485 Oakdale Rd, Atlanta GA.
No public comment.

B. Request for Zoning Change from Neighborhood Shopping District to R-1 Residential: Crystal Duck: Applicant was not present at the meeting. Michael asked if it can be tabled as applicant may not need the amendment. Tabled until March Meeting.

Invitation of Public Comment: No comment from Public regarding zoning.

Response by Council: None made.

Close Public Hearing: Mayor Turman closed the Public Hearing at 6:44 PM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: Mayor Keith Turman opened the regular meeting at 6:44 PM

NOTE: PLEASE EITHER TURN-OFF CELL PHONES OR PLACE THEM ON SILENT

Invocation and Pledge:

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve the January 11, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Jason Phillips; motion passed 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Kenneth Roach to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields; motion passed 6-0.

Main Street Update — Michael Crump: DDA/Mainstreet has submitted documents to DCA for annual assessments and submitted yearly report for opportunity zone. Kelley Tamplin plans to re-open in the next two weeks, M-F Lunch and Monday evenings for dinner. Kelley Tamplin will also have studio unit and Air B&B on the second floor. She will also be doing a re-opening/ribbon cutting. Mr. Crump will send out info as soon as he finds out the date. April 24-30 is GA Cities week. Royston event planning is underway. Kathy Papa from DCA will host another community in-pat planning Tuesday, April 26 at 7pm. Plans are underway for a community event Saturday, April 30th with touch a truck, hotdogs, and other activities at the Wellness Park. Love Him/ Love Them, which is a non-profit that funds some programs in Africa has relocated from Lavonia to Royston at the Jo Adams Building. Open House will be April 28th, from 5-7pm. Michael has gone through and updated the historic preservation ordinance that DCA requires. Made the changes to the HPC ordinance to meet state requirements and will be giving a copy to the city attorney to review.

Public Comment: Robert Woody: Excess Tax Proceeds Robert Woody addressed council. Current address #10 Paul Brown Rd. Mr. Woody is requesting the excess tax proceeds from the home he purchased at a tax sale be refunded to him. City Attorney Andrea Grant stated that it be discussed in executive session under litigation. Mayor Turman thanked Mr. Woody for his comment.

Arbor Day Proclamation: Mayor Turman: Mayor Turman read the proclamation. February 19, 2022, Arbor Day in the City of Royston. Sharleen Ayers stated that there will be an event in March at the Wellness Park to plant two trees, date will be provided at next meeting.

New Business:

A. Recommendation from Planning & Zoning Commission: Church Street Properties: Zoning Administrator Michael Crump:

1. When the planning and zoning met on December 13, they recommended approving the zoning change from R1 Residential to Highway Business District 360 Church Street. David Pressley made motion to approve the zoning at 360 Church Street to Highway Business District. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell; motion passed 6-0.
2. Second property discussed was at 676 Church Street, which the applicant was not present. The planning and zoning met on January 24 and made recommendation to allow, to let her get the mortgage she need to maintain historic preservation. Lee Strickland made recommendation to postpone to next meeting. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields; motion passed 6-0.
3. City attorney Andrea Grant stated that the council need to designate someone to send follow up letters after a decision was made on zoning, she asked the council to appoint someone. Jason Phillips made motion that Michael Crump as Zoning Administrator send out follow up letters. Motion was seconded by Lee Strickland; motion passed 6-0.

B. Ratify Code Enforcement Officer/City Marshal Jared Hightower's approval of plat for Parcel R009 001 and Appoint Code Enforcement Officer/City Marshal to approve all future plats: City Attorney Andrea Grant: City Attorney Andrea Grant stated that the city needed to appoint the Code Enforcement Officer to approve plats before they are submitted to the county. She asked council to ratify the plats already approved. Lee Strickland asked if it was on a permanent basis or only in absence of the city manager. City Attorney Grant stated that is council's discretion. Mayor Turman said it makes sense that in the absence of a city manager, Code Enforcement would approve. Lee Strickland made a

motion to appoint the Code Enforcement Officer to approve plat changes on permanent basis. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Franklin County Service Delivery Strategy Extension: Update from Mayor Turman: Just an update that the service & delivery strategy had been signed and completed.

D. Ratify Department Purchase Orders: Water & Gas pre-approved by Committees:

a. **Water Dept: Material for move of Water Line Hwy 29 Bridge**

Sharleen Ayers stated that the supply total was \$12,937, above \$10,000 threshold. Purchase Order needs to be ratified by the council. David Pressley made motion to ratify the approval of the Purchase Order for \$12,937.00. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields; motion passed 6-0.

b. **Gas Dept: Devtech purchase Meters, and related equipment to replace stock**

Gas department needs to purchase meters for stock. All current stock has been used, this is an urgent replacement to avoid any emergencies. Total cost \$14,773.12. David Pressley said it may be a little less than that because they didn't have all the meters they got quoted on. David Pressley made motion to ratify the approval of the Purchase Order for \$14,773.12. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields; motion passed 6-0.

E. Amend Police Department Pay Scale for Part Time Patrol Officers: Mayor Turman: increased from \$15 to \$16: Mayor had the opportunity to talk with Chief Bolemon, Assistant Chief, lieutenant and the two committee members Pressley and Roach. After meeting with the committee, Mayor Turman recommends that we change part time pay from \$15 to \$16 hour. A city wide PayScale change is under discussion. The city acknowledges the biggest investments are our employees, and we need to make sure we are taking care of them. Lee Strickland made motion to amend police department pay scale for part time patrol officers from \$15 to \$16. Wayne Braswell asked Chief Bolemon if he felt comfortable with just the \$16. Chief Donnie Bolemon said yes. Motion was seconded by Jason Phillips. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Discuss Move of Elections to Franklin County: Mayor Turman: Mayor Turman said he wanted to discuss the possibility of moving our elections to the county. For the past 8-9 years we have done our elections here within the city and he would like to see if we could go back and let the county do our elections. The county handles all other cities except for the City of Royston. Mayor Turman met with the elections board, and they will be willing, with the positive vote of the council tonight, to run our elections. The cost would not likely be more than we are already spending. Mayor expressed concern that Royston, based on the population, was the largest city in the county, and had least participation. The mayor stated "If it's going to benefit the county in some way it's going to benefit us, we are a part of Franklin County and would like to see us going forward and being a part of that. I would like to see the county take over our elections as they do the rest of the county. Royston is looking to have a good working relationship going forward and they would like to do the same." Jason Phillips made a motion to move elections back to Franklin County. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields. City Attorney Grant expressed concern of a good intergovernmental agreement that covers the city and the county because she's seen more disputes about that. Mayor Turman said that was part of the conversation he had with the Board of Elections and we will have to have an intergovernmental agreement that covers the city and the county. Lee Strickland asked if early voting would be done in Carnesville, Mayor Turman said yes, all early voting will be done in Carnesville. Matt Fields asked about the city election. Mayor Turman said he believed the county would handle all our elections. Wayne Braswell clarified there would be no elections here. Mayor Turman said the city elections will still be done in Royston. The council and mayor race will still happen within our city, but the early voting will have to go to Carnesville. It will all be in the intergovernmental agreement. No further discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

G. Resignation of Water Superintendent: Water Committee: Mayor said Water Superintendent Jammie Cawthon gave his notice of resignation. The city has a plan with all our licensed operators, wastewater, and the water plant operator going forward.

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Update on City Retirement Cost Study: Sharleen Ayers:** We have not received notification of the new study completion date. This would be for the increased benefit multiplier citywide from 1.5% to 1.75% with full retirement age being 62 and it is currently at 65. An increase for the elected official's benefit multiplier from \$22 to \$50 and then the alternative retirement eligibility for the public safety employees at age 55 with 20 years of service. The city requested a price for a single study or each one separately so we can have an idea of what effect each has on the cost. Lee Strickland said he think the figures we got back before satisfied the council, and did not think the changes would make enough difference to resubmit them. Lee Strickland requested a vote tonight pending that it's not outrageous, so we don't have to keep bringing it back to the table. Lee Strickland made a motion that we vote on what's already been surveyed and researched at 65 and go ahead and accept those changes from 1.5% to 1.75%, council at \$50, Public Safety age 55 with 20 years. Motion seconded by Matt Fields. David Pressley said his only comment was what are the employees going to do about insurance until they turn 65 and can get Medicare. Lee Strickland said that's the option if they want to continue to work or they can retire. Matt Fields said that's the benefit of the deal. David Pressley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6.0.

- b. Employee Handbook update moved to March Meeting. Sharleen Ayers said that we are still not finished with the negotiation with the city attorney, so we are going to make a few more adjustments and table to March meeting.

Executive Session: Personnel: Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to go into executive session at 7:32pm. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields; motion passed 6-0. Motion was made by Kenneth Roach to close Executive Session at 8:46pm. Motion was seconded by Lee Strickland; motion passed 6-0.

Adjourn: Lee Strickland made a motion to adjourn; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Tonya Allen, Deputy Clerk

Mayor Keith Turman

(SEAL)

City of Royston 684 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, GA 30662.
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