

CITY OF DACULA

442 Harbins Rd
P. O. Box 400
Dacula, GA, 30019

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mayor Trey King called the January 4, 2024 Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and a roll call of the members was taken. A quorum was present. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Trey King
Councilmember Sean Williams
Councilmember Daniel Spain

Councilmembers Absent:

Councilmember Ann Mitchell
Councilmember Denis W. Haynes, Jr.

City Staff Present:

Jack Wilson, City Attorney
Brittini Nix, City Administrator
Courtney Mahady, Administrative Clerk
Stephen Mayer, Director of Finance
Hayes Taylor, City Planner
Dana Stump, Administrative Assistant for Planning & Zoning
Amy White, Interim Chief Marshal
Chris Parks, Public Works Director
Alethia Hyman, City Tax Clerk

II. INVOCATION:

Pastor Mark Chandler gave invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OATHS OF OFFICE:

1. Council Member Ann Mitchell

Councilmember Mitchell absent – oath will be administered at a later date.

2. Council Member Sean Williams

City Attorney, Jack Wilson, administered a Ceremonial Oath to Council Member Sean Williams.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 7, 2023
4. Approval of the Minutes from the Budget Public Hearing of December 7, 2023
5. Appointment of Mr. Jack Wilson (175.00/hr.) for legal services
6. Appointment of Mr. Jack Wilson (175.00/hr.) as City Prosecutor
7. Appointment of Judge Bill Brogdon and Judge Jammie Taire (200.00/hr.) as City Magistrate(s)
8. Ordinance to Amend Article XVII of the Code of Ordinances
9. Proposal for engineering services
10. Bid results for Brookton Place subdivision improvements
11. Authorization to purchase pole mounted snowflake decorations
12. Resolution regarding the abandonment and sale of certain vehicles, equipment, and other personal property

Councilmember Spain motioned to approve consent agenda items as listed. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- 13. Rezoning Application: 2023-CD-RZ-03;** Applicant: Archon Homes, Owner: Dacula Real Estate requests rezoning from MH Mobile Home Park District to R-TH Single Family Residence Townhouse District. The property is located in Land Lot 275 of the 5th District and contains 4.04 acres more or less. *(Public hearing was held on December 7, 2023)*

Councilmember Williams motioned to table rezoning application 2023-CD-RZ-03 to the March 7, 2024 meeting. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Ordinance to amend Article III of the Zoning Resolution *(Public hearing was held on December 7, 2023)*

Councilmember Spain motioned to approve the ordinance amendment to Article III. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

15. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor King called for a motion to nominate Mayor Pro Tem for 2024.

Councilmember Williams motioned to nominate Ann Mitchell as Mayor Pro Tem for 2024. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Appointment of Planning Commission Members

Mayor King called for each councilmember's appointments for the Planning Commission for 2024.

Councilmember Williams appointed Myra Montalbano
Councilmember Spain appointed Lisa Bradberry
Mayor King appointed Monica Francis

Councilmember Haynes, Jr. and Councilmember Mitchell will make their appointments on February 1, 2024.

Mayor King then requested a motion to ratify the appointments.

Councilmember Williams motioned to ratify the appointments for Planning Commission. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

17. City Council oversight appointments

Mayor King called for a motion to appoint the Mayor and Council as a whole to oversee all the departments in the City for 2024.

Councilmember Spain motioned to appoint the oversight of all departments by Mayor and Council. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

18. Appointment of City Chaplain

Mayor King requested a nomination for the City Chaplin for 2024.

Councilmember Williams motioned to nominate Pastor Mark Chandler as City Chaplin for 2024. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

19. Storm water awareness presentation

City Planner, Hayes Taylor, directed all attendees to the pamphlets offered to the public regarding storm water awareness entitled "When it Rains." Mr. Taylor asked that everyone be aware of this information and encouraged all attendees to help prevent storm water pollution.

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS:

None

IX. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Mayor King thanked all the attendees for coming out to the meeting and thanked staff for their continued hard work through the holidays.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Scott Smethers, 725 Flintlock Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, expressed his concern regarding the speeding in his subdivision.

David Stone, 3460 Meadow Grass Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, stated there was a light out in front of his store along Second Avenue and for security reasons would like the light replaced as soon as possible.

Ms. Nix responded that Georgia Power is currently conducting a citywide survey of the condition of all street lights and determining which lights need to be replaced to LED. Ms. Nix added the street lights along Second Avenue have been reported to Georgia Power and would be happy to re-report the lights in hopes of expediting the lights being repaired sooner.

James Clinkscales, 491 Harbins Road, Dacula, Georgia 30019, owner of CircaSpaces, voiced his concern for the ordinance amendment to Article III that was passed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Clinkscale expressed that the amendment would adversely affect small businesses and that it would create a lack of competition. He added that it would also impact the community.

Phillip Saxton, 3355 Fairway Bend Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, expressed his concern with the Article III amendment that was passed. Mr. Saxton explained that small social gatherings should be allowed at CircaSpaces.

Charmaine Augustin, 1818 Autumn Sage Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, stated as a wedding officiant, she would like to have access to a space like CircaSpaces where she can conduct small ceremonies for couples and a few of their guests.

Curtis Clemons, 2043 Crosswaters Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, stated that CircaSpaces is a space that allows residents and business owners to have a small-town feel. Mr. Clemons urged the Mayor and Council to take a second look at the amendment to Article III.

Janna Rookis, 1338 Ewing Creek Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, stated that the amendment to Article III would impact her CPR business as well as other small businesses in the area.

David Stone, 3460 Meadow Grass Drive, Dacula, Georgia 30019, stated he was in support of CircaSpaces and their business model.

Arlene Clinkscales, 491 Harbins Road, Dacula, Georgia 30019, owner of CircaSpaces, expressed her concern with the amendment Article III and felt that it would impact the community and small business owners. Ms. Clinkscale stated that the community needs a space where they can have small, intimate gatherings.

City Attorney, Jack Wilson, clarified that the ordinance that was adopted added definitions to the Zoning Resolution to clarify certain terms and does not restrict or affect the Clinkscales business and the use of their property. Mr. Wilson added the zoning conditions that were passed in 2019 are what impose limitations to their business from being able to hold special events. He added that the Clinkscales can file an application at any time to request changing the zoning conditions.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel and real estate matters

Councilmember Williams motioned to exit regular session and enter into executive session. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Regular session adjourned and executive session began for the purposes of personnel and real estate matters at 7:48 p.m.

Councilmember Spain motioned to exit executive session and reconvene regular session. Councilmember Williams seconded. Regular session reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

City Attorney, Jack Wilson, reported no votes were taken in executive session. The Council met to discuss personnel and real estate matters as allowed by the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Wilson stated the agenda needed to be amended to approve hiring a new employee.

Mayor King called for a motion to amend the agenda as stated by Mr. Wilson.

Councilmember Spain motioned to amend the agenda. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. APPROVAL TO HIRE NEW EMPLOYEES:

Mayor King called for a motion to promote Amy White to Chief Marshal at \$77,000/annual with benefits effective immediately.

Councilmember Williams motioned to approve promoting Amy White to Chief Marshal. Councilmember Spain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Spain motioned to adjourn. Councilmember Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Minutes approved

_____ *Date*

_____ *Signature*