CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 21, 2023

Council Meeting Room	**Regular Meeting**	**7:00 PM**

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Norton called the meeting to order.

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Rufus Bright led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Present	
Thomas Barbee	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
ArtLise Alston-Cone	Council Member	Present	
Gabrielle Nelson	Council Member	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Rufus Bright	Council Member	Present	
Glenn Jones	Council Member	Present	

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Bright made a motion to approve the agenda with the following addition:

11.C Flock Contract Renewal

it was second by Councilwoman Cone.

A. Motion

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
SECONDER:	ArtLise Alston-Cone, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Gary Norton recognized Councilman Glenn Jones for his 16 years of service.

Mayor Norton also congratulated Councilwoman Nelson on being chosen for the Leadership Savannah Program.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

A. LaRay Benton

Discussed the following topic(s):

- Warehouse Development

B. Georgia Benton

Discussed the following topic(s):

- Parking Ordinance
- Ghost Pirates

7. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes -November 30, 2023

B.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

9. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

11. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Rufus Bright, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

A. City Council 2024 Meeting Dates

B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application submitted by Samir Patel for a Malt Beverage / Wine Package Retail License for SHRI DWADASH RK Inc., DBA Sunny's Flashmart (7308 Highway 21) located in a P-C-1 (Planned Neighborhood Business)

C. Flock Contract Renewal

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Street Parking Ordinance- 2nd Reading

The City Attorney Scott Robichaux explained that there was a change made to the ordinance, to add that a copy of a list of roads will be kept by the police department, so if any resident would like more information on which roads this will apply to.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

B. Amending Chapter 17.1 Human Resources Policy - 2nd Reading

Councilman Bright made a motion to table, and it was second by Councilwoman Cone. The motion failed with the following votes:
Councilman Bright: Yes
Councilman Stephens: No
Councilwoman Nelson: No
Councilman Barbee: Yes
Councilman Jones: No
Councilwoman Cone: Yes
Mayor Norton(Tie Breaker): No

Councilman Mark made another motion to approve, and it was second by Councilwoman Nelson. The motion passed with the votes that are recorded below:
Councilman Bright: No
Councilman Stephens: Yes
Councilwoman Nelson: Yes
Councilman Barbee: No
Councilman Jones: Yes
Councilwoman Cone: No
Mayor Norton(Tie Breaker): Yes

RESULT:	**APPROVED [3 TO 3]**
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
AYES:	Nelson, Stephens, Jones
NAYS:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Bright

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Development Agreement SPH 21

City Manager Steve Davis explained that this was a piece of property that the city rezoned to industrial back in August 2021, and the city has been in contact with the developers for the last several months to make sure that the infrastructure that is needed for such a development and the goals and needs of the City are met through this development agreement.

Some of the areas discussed were:

- Intersection on Highway 21(improvement and light)
- Saussy Canal drainage improvements
- 2 acre sight for a future fire station site
- Installation of Fiber Optic Line that will extend from the City
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Water and Sewer ERU's

Councilman Barbee asked the City Attorney if the agreement was good to go, and the City Attorney said yes.
Councilwoman Nelson explained that she is not a proponent for warehouses, but this area was already rezoned for this and after looking over the agreement its important to take observation of how much we are getting ready to receive as a City.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [5 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Jones
NAYS:	Bright

B. Fee Schedule Amendment

City Manager Davis explained that the fees that the City has been charging have been commingled in the General Fund and have now been separated so that you can see how much the City is paying for service and how much it is costing to service. He also explained that we are paying more to the vendors than what we are charging our residents. The fees have not been changed in the last six years and cost within the last two years have dynamically gone up. He also explained that the increases that are being ask for will help the City match the cost of the services and create a sustainable funding source to continue to provide the services needed.

Councilman Jones explained that he would advise that the Council table this and have a workshop to discuss raising any fees.

Councilwoman Cone stated that we move the date back for when the new fees should start so that we can give the residents enough notice and time to adjust their budgets.

RESULT:	**DELAYED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

C. Port Wentworth Recreational Complex – Change Order 2

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

D. RFP- New Fire Station

City Manager Davis also recognized JE Dunn and the team who won the bid for the fire station.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

E. Landfill Permit Consistency Determination

Nick Webber the environmental engineering manager for republic services stated that they are in application to make a modification to the already existing solid waste permit for this landfill. He also explained that part of the application process prior to submitting to Georgia EPD is to obtain a letter from the governing authority confirming that the landfill operations is consistent and compliant with the solid waste management plan, which they have done. The proposed modification to the permit is to increase the capacity of the landfill by 1.5%.

Councilman Barbee asked if someone wanted to go look at the information from any of the test or inspections that are done could they? Mr. Webber said that they have the right to the FOIA and can request any of that information, and the state also has websites with that information as well.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Glenn Jones, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Barbee, Alston-Cone, Nelson, Stephens, Bright, Jones

14. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation

B. Personnel

C. Real Estate

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilwoman Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Jones. Vote was Approved Unanimously.

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Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this ________ day of ____________________________________, 2023.

ATTEST:

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Zahnay Smoak, Clerk of Council