



# CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

## CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 10, 2023

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21  
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Barbee called the meeting to order

**2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Rufus Bright and Councilwoman Nelson led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilman Stephens made a motion to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- 13A. MOU between the City of Port Wentworth and Chatham County Tax Commissioners Office
- 13B. Bulk Day discussion for the residents

A.

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

**5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

A. Dedication of the Debbie Johnson Government Center

Mayor Pro- Tem Barbee stated that we would be dedicating the city council chambers to the late Debbie Johnson, and it will now be named the Debbie Johnson Government Center.

Mayor Pro-Tem also recognized the following Special Guest:

- Debbie Johnson's Family
- County Commissioner Chairman, Chester A. Ellis
- County Commissioner, Bobby Lockett

- County Commissioner, Kenneth Adams
- Mayor of Savannah, Van Johnson
- Councilwoman, Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

### A. James Brunson

He talked about the following topic(s):

- Speed bump in black creek
- Apartment complex construction issues

## 7. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

## 8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes - July 27, 2023

### B.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rufus Bright, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

## 12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

### A. City of Port Wentworth and Chatham County Tax Commissioner MOU

#### 1.

Mayor Pro- Tem Barbee explained that by approving this MOU, it will provide another location or access point for individuals to get items such as tags, titles, licenses, and more here at City Hall.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

### B. Bulk Trash Day

Councilman Bright explained that the turnout for the bulk trash day was great, and would like to have another one in September.

Councilman Stephens asked the City Manager Steve Davis how long would it take for this to happen, since there was a great deal of planning that went into the last one? Mr. Davis stated that we reached out to our partners on the previous bulk day and the services were donated by Republic and Atlantic waste, so there wasn't any costs associated with the last one. He also stated that he was planning on doing an annual bulk day, as all individuals can take bulk trash to the Chatham County landfill. Mr. Davis explained that there will be a cost factor with this bulk day, and he would need to see what the cost would be.

Councilman Bright made a motion that moving forward that bulk day be held twice a year, and to approve a second bulk day for September or sometime in the winter if it conflicts with anything during that time. It was second by Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee. Approved Unanimous.

#### 14. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

##### A. Fee Schedule Amendment-1st Reading

Mr. Davis explained that there were fees scattered throughout the ordinances that would require an ordinance to pass every time. This is just a clean up to take all of the fees out of the ordinances and create a fee schedule that the council will be able to adopt by resolution on an annual basis, or if there is necessary and changes need to be made it can be done by resolution. The City's CFO is a huge proponent for this because it pushes all of our departments to identify proper fee structures, and adds clarity.

City Attorney Robichaux explained how the fee schedule was created, and how doing it this way will make it easier for the residents to understand what is going on, and any changes that are made.

##### B. FDA Support Resolution

Mayor Pro- Tem explained that the FDA has come down hard on vaping products and standards that are being used for individuals and businesses that want to sell them. This resolution just states that City supports the FDA efforts.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gabrielle Nelson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

##### C. Budget Amendment for The Year Ending 6/30/2024- 2nd Reading

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Stephens, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbee, Nelson, Stephens, Bright
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jones

#### 15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Stephens made a motion to retire to executive session, and it was second by Councilman Bright. Approved Unanimous.

Mayor Pro-Tem Barbee made a motion to reconvene regular session, and it was second by Councilwoman Nelson. Approved Unanimous.

Mayor Pro Tem Barbee made a motion to reconsider and amend the purchase and sell agreement for the land behind City Hall to transfer back at the same rate the unused property pending legal approval of all the paperwork. It was second by Councilman Bright. Approved Unanimous.

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel
- C. Real Estate

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilwoman Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Bright. Approved Unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Gary Norton

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zahnay Smoak, Clerk of Council