



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 26, 2020

Via Teleconference GoToMeeting

Regular Meeting

6:30 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

Mayor Gary Norton led in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Remote	
Linda Smith	Council Member	Remote	6:45 PM
Donald Hodges	Council Member	Remote	6:56 PM
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Remote	
Lynwood Griner	Council Member	Remote	
Glenn Jones	Council Member	Remote	6:53 PM
Thomas Barbee	Council Member	Remote	
James L. Courson	City Attorney	Remote	
Phil Jones	City Administrator	Remote	
Shanta Scarborough	Clerk of Council	Remote	
Brian Harvey	Director of Development Services	Remote	
Lance Moore	Chief of Fire Operations	Remote	
Yolanda Irizarry	Director of Human Resources	Remote	
Tiffany Lancaster	Director of Leisure Services	Remote	
Matt Libby	Chief of Police	Remote	
Chris Lee	Project Manager	Remote	

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Thomas Barbee made the motion for the **Approval of Agenda**. Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:45 PM
Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM
Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye
Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

There were none to report.

6. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment of Bill Herrin to the Port Wentworth Planning Commission

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the appointment of Bill Herrin to the City of Port Wentworth Planning Commission under **Elections & Appointments**.
Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye
Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM
Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye
Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council - Regular Meeting - Feb 27, 2020 6:30 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the **Adoption of Minutes**.
Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye
Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM
Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye
Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

B. City Council - Special Called Meeting - Mar 6, 2020 6:30 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the **Adoption of Minutes**.
Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye
Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM
Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye
Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

C. City Council - Special Called Meeting - Mar 12, 2020 6:30 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the **Adoption of Minutes**. Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye

Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

8. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Mayor Gary Norton stated to those on the call to be mindful of their goings and comings during this time of the COVID-19 outbreak. Mayor Norton also stated that all Emergency Services (Fire and Police) for the City of Port Wentworth are fully operational, but that all administrative offices are closed to the public; also all youth sports/activities have been postponed until further notice and that the Senior Center is closed at this time. However City Hall is providing all services via the drive thru window and persons are able to contact City Hall to schedule a meeting with the City Clerk if need be. Mayor Norton urged everyone to be safe and to take the necessary precautions to stay healthy.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Council Member Mark Stephens made a motion to approve the **Committee Reports** and make them part of the minutes. Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye

Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

10. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

- A. Pay Request No. 7 for the Mobley Park Drainage Improvements Phase 2

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda**.
Seconded by Council Member Lynwood Griner.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye

Council Member Ben Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

Motion Passes

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none to report.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) Zoning Ordinance Review Presentation

Eric Landon with the Coastal Regional Planning Commission (CRC) was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Mark Stephens stated to Mr. Landon that he mentioned a "kick-off" meeting for the City Ordinances review and asked when would such kick-off take place?

Mr. Landon responded by stating that tonight's meeting serves as the kick off by way of a Zoning Ordinance Updates Notice that was published in the Savannah Morning News paper on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 alerting locals that such review would take place on March 26, 2020 during the City of Port Wentworth Regular City Council Meeting.

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve Item # 12A. under **New Business**. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
 Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
 Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

B. FEMA Buy Out Program

Phil Jones, City Administrator, was present to answer questions of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Thomas Barbee asked Mr. Jones if the three (3) residents looking to participate in the FEMA Buy Out Program would receive Fair Market Value (FMV) for their homes and if the City would own the property after the sell?

Mr. Jones responded by stating, yes all three (3) property owners would receive Fair Market Value of twenty-five percent (25%), plus buy out and disposal and the properties would divert back to the City of Port Wentworth.

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to approve Item # 12B. under **New Business**. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye
 Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM
 Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye
 Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye
 Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM
 Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

C. Telecommuting Program Policy

Yolanda Irizarry, Director of Human Resources, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Thomas Barbee asked Mrs. Irizarry if the Telecommuting Policy presented before Council was an original document that she created or more of a cookie-cutter, generic policy?

Mrs. Irizarry stated that the policy is a generic policy that has been implemented by other cities and municipalities across the state to allow employees the opportunity to work from home, if it becomes necessary in a time of crisis.

Council Member Mark Stephens made a motion to approve Item # 12C. under **New Business**. Seconded by Council Member Thomas Barbee.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye

Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

D. City of Port Wentworth Pandemic Preparedness Plan

Phil Jones, City Administrator, was present to answer questions of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Mark Stephens inquired of Mr. Jones if the Port Wentworth Gymnasium has been considered as a field hospital due to the rising numbers related to the COVID-19 outbreak?

Mr. Jones replied by stating that at this time, no one has contacted him to make such request.

Council Member Mark Stephens made a motion to approve Item # 12D. under **New Business**. Seconded by Council Member Thomas Barbee.

Vote Results:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith - Yes/Aye

Council Member Donald Hodges - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:56 PM

Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye

Council Member Lynwood Griner - Yes/Aye

Council Member Glenn Jones - Absent from call at the time of this vote; arrival time 6:53 PM

Council Member Thomas Barbee - Yes/Aye

[Motion Passes](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Stephens, Griner, Barbee
ABSENT:	Hodges, Jones

E. Wastewater Plant Cleaning and Painting

Chris Lee, Project Manager for ClearWater Solutions, LLC was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Discussion 1

Council Member Thomas Barbee asked Mr. Lee if the painting of the WasteWater Plant includes the bay area, interior and/or entire plant and how long would the paint job be good for?

Mr. Lee responded to Councilman Barbee's questions by stating that the paint job includes the entire exterior of the building but would not include anything under water due to the gases that move upward. The paint job will typically last for five (5) to seven (7) years with the use of double coat epoxy paint.

Discussion 2

Due to Council Member Glenn Jones entering the teleconference after the discussion and vote on agenda Item #B, FEMA Buy Out Program, Councilman Jones asked if Council would be willing to go back to allow him to ask some questions.

Council Member Thomas Barbee stated to Councilman Jones that due to Council having already voted on this item unanimously, they could not go back to re-vote.

Councilman Jones stated that he understood that a second vote could not be held, but that he simply had a few questions.

Phil Jones, City Administrator, responded to Councilman Jones by stating that "you can contact me offline to discuss further".

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Donald Hodges, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

F. Sewerage System Improvements / Modifications to the WPCP

Chris Lee, Project Manager for ClearWater Solutions, LLC was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Mayor Gary Norton asked Mr. Lee what type of system would be used to make the improvements to the WasteWater Plant?

Mr. Lee stated that a venturi scrubber is one tool that will help better protect the deterioration of the paint job over time. It is also the most efficient way to remove particles and gas pollutants without causing major damage.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
SECONDER:	Donald Hodges, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

G. Alcoholic Beverage License Application Beer / Wine & Sunday Sales Flash Market #4551

Kahlah Dine, Manager of the Flash Market #4551, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Mayor Gary Norton and Council Member Mark Stephens inquired if this is a new or existing location?

Mrs. Dine responded by stating that this location currently exists at 7308 Highway 21 just behind the new Burger King off Highway 21.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER:	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

- H. Site Plan Review Application 7-0010-13-021, 022, 023, 024 Dollar General Store (General)

Phillip McCorkle on behalf of Teramore Development, LLC, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Discussion 1

Council Member Thomas Barbee asked Mr. McCorkle if there will be a barrier such as a wood or chain link fence to help conceal the detention pond?

Mr. McCorkle stated that there was not a fence included in the original plans, but it is something that can be included. Mr. McCorkle went on to further state that the detention pond does not hold water it is in place to release all captured runoff over time.

Discussion 2

Council Member Linda Smith asked Mr. McCorkle if there was anyway to make one of the exits from the Dollar General come off on Highway 25?

Mr. McCorkle stated that unfortunately there is no way to make this feasible.

Discussion 3

Council Member Lynwood Griner asked if Teramore Development, LLC acquired the property outright or if it was acquired through eminent domain?

Mr. McCorkle replied to Councilman Griner stating that the property was purchased outright.

During the Public Hearing for this agenda item, a few residents spoke in favor of and others spoke against the construction of a Dollar General store on the corner of Crossgate Road and South Coastal Highway.

Those In Favor Of

Bill Herrin, 220 Turnberry Street
Emily Shuman, 404 Bonnybridge Road,
Roy Livingston, 122 1/2 Cantyre Street

Those Against

Carol Litzinger, 104 Gordon Street
James Scheller, 106 Cantyre Street
Valarie Zamora, 111 Cantyre Street
Alvin Riley, 115 Cantyre Street

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lynwood Griner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Donald Hodges, Council Member
AYES:	Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

- I. Zoning Board of Appeals VARIANCE APPLICATION Dollar General Crossgate

Phillip McCorkle on behalf of Teramore Development, LLC, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Donald Hodges, Council Member
SECONDER: Lynwood Griner, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

- J. Zoning Map Amendment PIN #'s 7-0010-13-021, 022, 024

Phillip McCorkle on behalf of Teramore Development, LLC, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Linda Smith, Council Member
SECONDER: Donald Hodges, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

- K. Zoning Map Amendment PIN# 7-1017-01-014 HWY 30

Phillip McCorkle on behalf of Daniel W. Fischer, EMC Engineering Services, Inc., was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Lynwood Griner stated that he was informed that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was considering placing a round about near the Swamp Fox convenience store off Highway 30 and wanted to know if this was true?

Phil Jones, City Administrator, stated that to his knowledge this was not the case. However, a round about is being planned for construction at Beaton Boulevard where it crosses Highway 30.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Mark Stephens, Council Member
SECONDER: Linda Smith, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

- L. Subdivision Application Final Plat Newport Square Townhomes

Ray Pittman, Pittman Engineering Co., LLC, was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

During the Public Hearing for this agenda item Jill Litten, 8 Tiller Way, inquired whether this plan is pertaining to a new project or the existing construction of townhomes at Newport Subdivision?

Mr. Pittman stated that this project relates to the thirteen (13) townhomes that are in the final phases currently being completed at Newport Subdivision.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Donald Hodges, Council Member
SECONDER: Linda Smith, Council Member
AYES: Smith, Hodges, Stephens, Griner, Jones, Barbee

13. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS

There were none to report.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were none to report.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a suggestion that on future teleconference calls if a Council Member makes the motion or second to the motion, it is not necessary for them to state their name and respond with a Yes/Aye or No/Nay. Their simple act of making the motion or second to the motion will count as being in favor of (Yes/Aye) the agenda item.

Brenda Boulware, 1 Horne Place, stated that she felt adding the speed bumps on Cantyre Street would be an excellent idea. Ms. Boulware also inquired as to the reason why the vacant location of where the old China House sits wasn't considered for the location of the Dollar General?

Phillip McCorkle responded to Ms. Boulware's inquiry by stating that the China House lot isn't large enough to accommodate the Dollar General.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council Member Donald Hodges made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

Shanta M. Scarboro, Clerk of Council

DRAFT