

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 9, 2024

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Vice-Mayor
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Charles Boyce	Council Member
	Julie Sams	Council Member
	Adriane Brown	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Greg Thompson	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Beverly Harrison	Interim City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Donnie Wright	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Chris Croy, Mike McGuire, Chris Bailey, Kaitlyn Stubbs, Les Russell, Sandy Daniels, Amylee Hammond

Visitors: Lauren Gregory, Miller Gregory, Nathan Boyd, Tamila Burt, Tim Burt, Molly Masselli, Jim Bruner, Steve Wede, Tishia McRae, Jennifer Daniel, Ivy Corder, Gloria Reese, Adrienne Vines

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Nathan Boyd, with Church at the Grove, gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Sams.

Add Section VI – Executive Session – Personnel Issues for discussion of Item 1 (a) Appointment of City Attorney.

To approve the agenda as amended.

*Motion by Thompson, seconded by Sams.
Passed Unanimously*

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. March 12, 2024 Council Minutes
- b. March 12, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- c. February 20, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes
- d. February 8, 2024 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- e. February 8, 2024 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Motion by Thompson, seconded by Brown.
Passed Unanimously*

II. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public Presentations

- a. Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor John Howard presented the Proclamation.

Ms. Lauren Gregory, with A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, stated they celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month every April. They are a nonprofit located in Social Circle. They serve Newton and Walton County to make sure kids are heard, supported, and protected after instances of abuse.

No Action.

b. Proclamation – Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
Mayor John Howard presented the Proclamation.

No Action.

c. Proclamation – Autism Awareness Month
Mayor John Howard presented the Proclamation.

No Action.

d. The Bridge School Presentation
Ms. Tamila Burt, with The Bridge School, explained their school is particularly for kids on the autism spectrum. She discussed the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program and trying to make it affordable for the families. They teach kids to communicate in the world. Currently, they have 75 students and 20 therapists.

Ms. Molly Masselli stated she is the Clinical Director at The Bridge School. She and her team provide therapy for the students. She discussed partnering with various organizations and their programs.

No Action.

2. Public Comments

Ms. Adrienne Vines, of 113 North Broad Street, stated she is the owner of The Loft. They sell wine-based products and two of their products are not conducive to using the Monroe Cups. She is seeking an equitable alternative for the cups.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes introduced Mr. Brian Wilson, the new Economic Development Manager. The grand opening of the Town Green will be on April 18 at 4:00 pm. Early voting starts on April 29 and election day is May 21. He explained that the SPLOST is not a new tax.

2. Assistant City Administrator Update

Assistant City Administrator Chris Bailey discussed the 19th Annual Car Show, which had approximately 575 registered vehicles. The Farmers Market opened last Saturday, and the First Friday Concerts will be starting on May 3. The Flower Festival will be on June 15.

3. Department Reports

- a.** Monthly Central Services Report
- b.** Monthly Code Report
- c.** Monthly Economic Development Report
- d.** Monthly Finance Report
- e.** Monthly Fire Report
- f.** Monthly Police Report
- g.** Monthly Solid Waste Report
- h.** Monthly Streets & Transportation Report
- i.** Monthly Telecom Report
- j.** Monthly Water, Sewer, Gas & Electric Report

There was a general discussion on the above items. There was no action taken.

4. Department Requests**a. Airport: Land Lease / Hangar Construction Agreement**

Mr. Chris Bailey recommended approval of the ground lease agreement with JRM Enterprises of Georgia, LLC for the construction of a 10-unit and 12-unit T-Hangar. The site is adjacent to Towler Street on the west side of the Airport. This construction will add an additional 22 T-Hangar units. They are a private entity and it will be a 50-year lease.

To approve the Ground Lease Agreement for building T-Hangars.

*Motion by Sams, seconded by Brown.
Passed Unanimously.*

b. Public Works: Great American Cleanup Week, April 22 – 26, 2024

Mr. Danny Smith requested approval to participate in the Great American Cleanup effort, which will allow City residents to bring trash, garbage, scrap metal, and/or tires (limit 10) (no mattress or box springs) to the transfer station for free during the week of April 22-26, 2024. The City has been offering this event since 2002, aiding citizens in spring cleaning and is a way to help keep the City clean. The City Cleanup Day will be on Saturday, April 20 starting at 9:00.

To approve participation in the Great American Cleanup.

*Motion by Thompson, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

IV. NEW BUSINESS**1. New Business****a. Appointment of City Attorney**

Item moved to Executive Session.

b. Approval – Right of Way Mowing, Maintenance, and Sidewalk Agreement for State Route 11 between Highland Avenue and Marable Street

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation is standard with Streetscape Enhancement Projects. The agreement basically states that the City will be responsible for all of the maintenance and upkeep of the right-of-way along State Route 11 between Highland Avenue and Marable Street.

To approve the resolution and contract as presented.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. Resolution – Georgia Cities Week, April 21 – 27, 2024

To approve the Resolution.

*Motion by Sams, seconded by Brown.
Passed Unanimously.*

V. DISTRICT ITEMS**1. District Items**

Council Member Julie Sams discussed Habitat for Humanity building two houses on South Madison Avenue. They are looking for volunteers to help this weekend from 8:00 to 2:00, and lunch will be provided.

Council Member Adriane Brown discussed being excited about the Cleanup Day. Community Impact Day will be April 27 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Boys & Girls Club.

2. Mayoral Update

Mayor John Howard stated there will be a Butterfly Garden Grand Opening at the Library prior to the Town Green Grand Opening on April 18. He discussed the SPLOST Note email that Mr.

Propes sent out that details where the money comes from. There will be a four mill increase on the County tax bills, if the SPLOST does not pass.

VI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Sams, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.


RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

To retain the services of Rosenthal & Wright as City Attorney.

Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Thompson.
Passed Unanimously

VII. ADJOURN

Motion by Boyce, seconded by Sams.
Passed Unanimously.


MAYOR


INTERIM CITY CLERK

The Mayor and Council met for an Executive Session.

Those Present:

- John Howard
- Lee Malcom
- Myoshia Crawford
- Charles Boyce
- Julie Sams
- Adriane Brown
- Tyler Gregory
- Greg Thompson
- David Dickinson
- Logan Propes

- Mayor
- Vice-Mayor
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- Council Member
- City Administrator

Staff Present:

I. Call to Order – John Howard

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

II. Personnel Issue (s)

1. Personnel Matter

Personnel matters were discussed, including attorney-client discussions.

III. Adjourn to Regular Session

Motion by Boyce, seconded by Sams.
Passed Unanimously.


MAYOR


INTERIM CITY CLERK