

CITY OF BREMEN
Council Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2016

Meeting Location: Public Safety Complex • 191 Georgia Avenue North • Bremen, GA 30110

Officials Present: Mayor Sharon Sewell
Council Member Dobby Harris
Council Member Salli Thomason
Council Member Terry Crawford
Council Member Jai Otwell

6:00 P.M.
Work Session
Mayor & City Council
Informal Discussions Session

The Work Session is an informal discussion among Mayor Sewell, City Council Members, City Manager, Department Heads and the City Attorney. There is no action taken during the work session. The following items were discussed.

Agenda Items
Department Head Updates

Mayor Sewell adjourned the work session at 6:55 p.m. to begin the regular council meeting.

7:00 P.M.
City Council Meeting
Mayor & Council Members
Regular Scheduled Session

Agenda

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Invocation*
4. *Review and Modification of the Agenda*
5. *Approval of the March 21, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes*
6. *Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement*
7. *Resolution - RKR Construction Day*
8. *Rezoning Request made by Jack Witcher, Thomas Witcher & Nakeesha Stroud*
 - a.) *617 Pacific Avenue from R20 to C2*
 - b.) *619 Pacific Avenue from R20 to C2*
9. *Open to the Public*
10. *Adjourn*

Call to Order

Mayor Sewell called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Review & Modification of the Agenda

Mayor Sewell stated that we will add item #6a to the agenda to abandon an ally and we will add item #9a for executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Sewell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2016 council meeting.

Council Member Crawford made a motion seconded by Council Member Otwell to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2016 council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement

Chief Jay Hurley told Council this agreement is a continuance of an agreement that has been in place since 2012. It allows us to receive assistance in the event a disaster occurred.

Council Member Harris seconded by Council Member Thomason made a motion to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Abandonment of Street/Ally - Between Florida Ave. and Dixie Ave.

Mayor Sewell opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or in opposition of the abandonment of the alley that runs between Florida Avenue and Dixie Avenue.

Jack Witcher spoke in favor of the ally closure and there was no one to speak in opposition of the abandonment.

Council Member Crawford made a motion seconded by Council Member Otwell to abandon the alley between Florida Avenue and Dixie Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

RKR Construction Day - Resolution

In recognition of RKR Construction celebrating it's 25th year of continuous operations in Bremen, Mayor Sewell read a resolution designating April 21, 2016 as RKR Construction Day and she asked the council for acceptance.

Council Member Harris seconded by Council Member Otwell motioned to accept the resolution as read by Mayor Sewell. The motion carried unanimously.

Rezoning Request for 617 and 619 Pacific Avenue from R20 to C2

Mayor Sewell stated that a request to rezone 617 and 619 Pacific Avenue was made by Jack Witcher, Thomas Witcher, and Nakeesha Stroud. She said the request is to rezone both properties from R20, residential to C2, commercial. She then opened the floor for a public hearing and asked if anyone was present to speak in favor or in opposition of the rezoning request for 617 and 619 Pacific Avenue.

Jack Witcher was present and stated that this request is being made for the purposes of using the property for office buildings.

Rick Pollard, who is a resident of Dixie Avenue, which borders the properties at 617 and 619 Pacific Avenue, was present and stated concerns about the rezoning due to it being in the back yard of a residential neighborhood. He stated that has no problems with Mr. Witcher wanting to use the property for office space but he is concerned with what someone may do with the property later in the future. If it is zoned commercial, that would allow someone in ten years to come in and build a gas station or an auto mechanic shop.

Mr. Witcher stated that he does not intend to use the property for anything other than office buildings.

Council discussed the zoning request at lengths and stated that they know Mr. Witcher does not intend to build any type of service stations on the property but should he ever sale the property, the new owner(s) would have the right to build anything if it were zoned to C2.

Council Member Harris stated that OI zoning would allow Mr. Wither to use the properties for office space but would not allow for service stations. It would protect the neighboring residents from having auto shops or gas stations in their back yards should the property ever change ownership.

Mayor Sewell asked if there is a motion to rezone 617 and 619 to C2.

Council Member Crawford made a motion to rezone the properties to C2. There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Witcher stated that he would like to change his request to change both, 617 and 619 Pacific Avenue from R20 to OI.

Council Member Harris seconded by Council Member Thomason made a motion to rezone 617 Pacific Avenue from R20 to OI. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Harris seconded by Council Member Otwell made a motion to rezone 619 Pacific Avenue from R20 to OI. The motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Public

There was no further business to come before the mayor and council.

Executive Session

Mayor Sewell asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

A motion made by Council Member Crawford seconded by Council Member Otwell to enter into executive session at 7:40 pm.

Council Member Crawford seconded by Council Member Thomason made a motion to reconvene the regular council meeting at 8:25 pm.

Council Member Otwell made a motion seconded by Council Member Harris to authorize Mayor Sewell to sign the Executive Session Affidavit for the purposes of discussing personnel issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Council Member Otwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**AFFIDAVIT
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE THE UNDERSIGNED ATTESTING OFFICER, DULY AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS, SHARON SEWELL, WHO, AFTER BEING DULY SWORN, DEPOSES AND UNDER OATH STATES THE FOLLOWING:

I WAS THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF A MEETING OF THE BREMEN CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 18, 2016.

THAT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(B) PROVIDES AS FOLLOWS: WHEN ANY MEETING OF ANY AGENCY IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS CODE SECTION, THE CHAIRPERSON OR OTHER PERSON PRESIDING OVER SUCH MEETING SHALL EXECUTE AND FILE WITH THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING, A NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT STATING UNDER OATH THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING OR THE CLOSED PORTION HEREOF WAS DEVOTED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE EXCEPTIONS PROVIDING BY LAW AND IDENTIFYING THE SPECIFIC RELEVANT EXCEPTION.

THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CLOSED MEETING OR CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING WHICH WAS HELD ON APRIL 18, 2016, BY THE BREMEN CITY COUNCIL AND WAS CLOSED FOR THE PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES AS ALLOWED BY O.C.G.A. TITLE 50, CHAPTER 14, WAS DEVOTED TO THE MATTERS WITHIN THOSE EXCEPTIONS AND AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

THIS AFFIDAVIT IS BEING EXECUTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH THE MANDATE OF O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(B) AND IS TO BE FILED WITH THE OFFICIAL MINUTES FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED MEETING.

THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20____

SHARON SEWELL, MAYOR/PRESIDING OFFICER

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20____

NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: _____