

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 6, 2023**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

Mayor Peter L. Banks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr. opened the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Peter L. Banks
Mayor Pro Tem Bill Claxton
Councilmember Christopher Hightower
Councilmember Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.
Councilmember Joseph Sims
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Timothy T. Turner
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson
Chief of Police Belinda Penamon

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

Mayor Banks took the second reading of Ordinance No. 595 to annex and rezone property on Johnstonville and Roberts Road from the agenda at the request of the applicant HFG Development.

On motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton, Council unanimously approved the agenda.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the February 9, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as circulated.

Mayor Banks presented a proclamation recognizing and commending the Gordon State College Club Football Team for winning the national championship two consecutive years to Gordon State College President Dr. Nooks, Head Coach Kevin Baker, Player Devin Baker, and other staff.

City Manager Turner gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 596 to rezone 24.97 acres at the National Guard Armory located at 408 Hwy 41 South for HFG Development. Councilmember Shropshire made a motion to approve the rezoning and it was seconded by Councilmember Hightower. Councilmember Shropshire and Councilmember Hightower voted in favor of the rezoning and Mayor Pro Tem Claxton, Councilmember Sims, and Councilmember McDaniel voted against it. The vote was 2 to 3. Council did not approve the rezoning.

Mayor Banks noted the variance request for the National Guard Armory, Resolution No. R2023-0004, is mute due to the rezoning not being approved.

City Manager Turner gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 601 to approve the Job Description for the Chief Finance Officer.

On motion by Councilmember Hightower and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously accepted the City Manager's recommendation to appoint Interim Chief of Police Belinda Penamon as the new Police Chief of the City of Barnesville.

REPORTS

Councilmember McDaniel reported he was pleased to learn the limb truck has been cleaned up and everything is going well in Ward 5.

Councilmember Sims reported everything is going pretty good and the garbage is being picked up.

Councilmember Hightower welcomed everybody and recognized Reverend Doctor Eddie F. Collier being present. He reported he's apart of the Georgia Municipal Association Inaugural Class of municipal leaders that's working on a diversity, equity, and inclusion project and the City will be holding several focus groups later this month. Councilmember Hightower expressed his appreciation of City staff Community Development Director Niki Sappington and E.P. Roberts Supervisor Yasheka Buckner who will be assisting with the focus groups. He asked the public to reach out to them if they wished to participate.

Mayor Pro Claxton reported he would like for the City to monitor the rat problem that's developed since the sewer project in the alleys on Main Street. City Manager Turner said he would stay on top of it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Juanita Fletcher reported there is a pothole at the end of Atlanta Street and Annie M. Harris Drive.

Ms. Sylvia Bush spoke in support of food trucks. Mayor Banks reported the City is preparing now a Food Truck Ordinance.

Mr. Michael Rogers reported he first brought it to the Council's attention in 2019 the problem with abandoned cars. He said it is still a problem and there is trash still all over the City. Councilmember Shropshire suggested getting volunteers to help clean the City and he would have taken care of the pothole on Annie M. Harris Drive if he'd known about it.

Ms. Dorothy Carter reported Keep Barnesville Beautiful has been revived under Mayor Bank's leadership. She said it needs community participation. Ms. Carter asked the Councilmembers to identify two people in each ward to come and help get the program started again and to encourage residents to keep it clean in their wards.

Mayor Banks announced he was not going to be a candidate for reelection. He said he's served the City for 16 years and it's been a pleasure and he's loved mostly every minute. Mayor Banks said he appreciated everyone supporting him without opposition.

Councilmember Hightower thanked Mayor Banks for his service.

On motion by Councilmember Shropshire and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously voted to enter into executive session to discuss personnel at 6:08 p.m.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously voted to reconvene into regular session at 6:59 p.m.

City Manager Turner read Resolution No. R2023-0005. On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the resolution and executive session documents that showed compliance with the Open Meetings Law and confirmed Council entered in executive session for the discussion of personnel.

After no further business, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember Shropshire, Council adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folson, City Clerk