

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 7, 2022**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire opened the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Tim Turner
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson
Fire Chief Kelvin Chute
Chief of Police Craig Cooper

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the following minutes as circulated.

February 7, 2022	Regular Council Meeting
February 10, 2022	Special Called Meeting
February 28, 2022	Special Called Meeting

Mayor Banks recognized Mr. Soheli Batliwala, the owner of Hot Shot Convenience Store located at 202 Veterans Parkway. Mr. Batliwala said his desire to discontinue using a septic tank and tap into the City's sewer line in order to build a Steak and Shake and other things started in December 2019 when he discussed it with the late City Manager David Rose. He said he had a survey done that cost him \$20,000. Mr. Batliwala said City Manager Turner has now told him the lift station is not big enough to take his sewer. He reported he has documents with approval from former Building and Zoning Administrator Brutz English and he had gotten approval from both Mr. Rose and Mr. English that it was big enough, but now everything has changed after he's spent a lot of money on it. Mayor Banks told Mr. Batliwala the sewer isn't big enough where he wants it to go. Mr. Batliwala responded it was big enough.

Mayor Banks called on City Manager Turner. Mr. Turner reported he didn't know what the previous manager had told Mr. Batliwala and there are no files at City Hall with this information. He reported he sent Mr. Batliwala's drawing to the City's engineer for review. City Manager Turner said the first drawing had a lot of 90 degree angles and the engineers said it couldn't be done and they denied it. City Manager Turner said upon review of a second drawing, they asked Ms. Laura Geiger for permission to cross her property and she denied the request. He said he also sent the plans to the Department of Transportation for them to review and they denied it. City Manager Turner said there is nothing we can do and we can't take it because our lift station isn't equipped to handle his load and it adds the risk of potential spillage. City Manager Turner added the only other option is to speak with the person across the street and get permission to bore under 341 and tap into their lift station or come up Atlanta Street.

Councilmember Sims asked about the cost to go up Atlanta Street and to upgrade the City's system. Mr. Batliwala said it will cost him \$300,000 on Atlanta Street and \$40,000 at Highway 341. City Manager Turner said he hadn't looked into the cost to upgrade the system.

Councilmember Hightower asked if the letter referenced granting him approval was it an official letter on City letterhead. Mr. Batliwala stated it was not on City letterhead, but it was sent by email from Mr. English after his employment with the City.

Mr. Batliwala told the Council the lift station is running on a temporary pump now and it's the current lift station that won't work so the City will have to upgrade. He provided copies of Mr. English's letter and email to the Council. He said his other option is to deannex out of the City because he doesn't want to spend \$300,000. Mr. Batliwala said if the City is willing to work with him, he didn't mind spending another \$30,000.

Councilmember Claxton stated he would like to see it go forward because it seems like a good project, but he didn't think it was feasible for the City to spend \$300,000 to do it.

Councilmember Sims stated he would like to know the number to upgrade our system and City Manager Turner said he'd get it. Mr. Turner noted this would be discussed further at the Council Retreat on March 21st.

REPORTS

Councilmember Sims complained about littering and stated he'd like the signs to fine at the maximum.

Councilmember Hightower acknowledged the passing of one of his former students Corey Jackson whom was in the Class of 1997 and the first class he taught at Lamar County. He asked that Jackson's family be kept in everyone's prayers. He reported he has shared with City Manager Turner his ideas and issues that will be discussed at the retreat. Councilmember Hightower thanked Mr. Turner for his response to Ward 2 concerns.

Councilmember Claxton congratulated Tim Turner on being appointed City Manager.

Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire also congratulated City Manager Turner and stated he feels he's the man for the job and his appointment was unanimous. He wished him well and commended him for wanting to do it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Dorothy Carter congratulated Mr. Turner. She discussed the streets with litter problems needing to be identified and stated she would like to keep Barnesville beautiful.

Mr. Michael Rogers still complained about littering, abandoned cars, and garbage problems city wide. Councilmember Hightower inquired about the abandoned cars process and he stated the City needs to clarify what we can do and be proactive to our residents. City Manager Turner responded the car has to be drivable to not be considered abandoned, Building and Zoning makes the determination, the information will be put on the website and utility bills, and the City has a junk car ordinance. Councilmember Sims asked Chief Cooper about the law on abandoned cars. Chief Cooper reported all abandoned cars that had been tagged have been removed from the city now. Mr. Rogers stated he will provide a list by tomorrow. Councilmember Hightower also asked if residents had been notified about moving garbage bins back after they're emptied. City Manager Turner said they have been, but he will confirm.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire and seconded by Councilmember Claxton, Council unanimously voted to enter into executive session to discuss real estate and personnel at 6:14 p.m.

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously voted to reconvene into regular session at 7:24 p.m.

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Councilmember Hightower, Council unanimously gave permission to accept the bid on 14 acres on Industrial Drive.

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire, Council unanimously gave the Mayor the opportunity to request a contract on 67 acres on Roberta Drive in order for the City to review and make a decision at a later date.

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire, Council accepted the contract for 126 acres on the Wadsworth Cemetery property. The vote was 4 to 1. Councilmembers McDaniel, Hightower, Claxton, and Shropshire voted in favor of the motion and Councilmember Sims voted against it.

City Manager Turner read Resolution No. R2022-0005. On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire, 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 real estate and personnel.

After no further business and on motion by Councilmember Hightower and seconded by the Councilmember Claxton, Council adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folson, City Clerk