

"Preserving  
Our Heritage,  
Shaping Our  
Future"



Paul Hawkins, MAYOR

City of  
**FLEMINGTON**  
★  
GEORGIA



City  
Hall

156 Old Sunbury Rd.  
Flemington, GA 31313

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Flemington City Hall • Public Participation in Person or via Facebook Live

Present at City Hall: Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Councilman Hasit Patel  
Councilwoman Gail Evans  
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell  
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley  
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk  
Craig Stafford, City Attorney  
SGT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Telephone: Craig Stafford, City Attorney  
(NO VIDEO CONFERENCING)

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher  
Councilman David Edwards

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:31 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Mayor Hawkins welcomed all attendees, both in person and virtually.
3. The invocation was given by Mayor Hawkins and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Patel.
4. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting minutes as written. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. SGT Anthony Gallob was in attendance and presented Council with a list of law enforcement statistics for the month of November.
6. Council reviewed the Expense Report for the month of November.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Ms. Gabriele Hartage with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission ("LCPC") came before Council with three items of business.

First, she reported to Council that that Ms. Rogers had made contact with her and she requested to have her at-home business license application for Shiloh: A New Beginning Apostolic Ministry Church be deferred to the January 2022 meeting.

The next presentation was a request for 23 ft. variance (#2021-059-FL) by VIP Liberty, LLC (Hampton Inn) located at 1148 E. Oglethorpe Hwy. to allow for the hotel to construct a three-story hotel suite of 24 rooms at the rear of the existing hotel on the other side of the swimming pool. Written permission was granted to abut the new extension to the Red Roof Inn. Mr. Dennis Patel, owner of VIP Liberty, LLC, purchased additional land for parking.

*Mayor Hawkins opened the Public Hearing regarding the rezoning at 4:38 p.m. and asked for public comments. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 4:38 p.m.*

*Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the variance for LCTM-Parcel 069C-035. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The final matter of business was sign permits for Good to Go Restaurant located at 1050 E. Oglethorpe Hwy. The sign on the front of business met all ordinance requirements and the arial sign stanchion was grandfathered in, as they were seeking a face change out using the existing sign cabinet. *Councilman Patel made a motion to grant a sign permit for Good to Go Restaurant's building front. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilwoman Smiley then made a motion approve the arial sign face change. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. That motion passed.*

- b. Mayor Hawkins informed Council that the City's yearly audit was delayed due to health reasons at our CPA's firm. He was told that reporting extensions were applied for by Golden & Associates with the necessary agencies.
- c. Mayor Hawkins stated that as the City has grown, its reached the point that part-time personnel were needed and possibly include discussion of City Hall cleaning as well. It was agreed amongst all that the discussion should be held in executive session.
- d. The final matter of new business was the request for the City to take over Georgia Power billing for the street lights located within Tranquil South – Phase 3 from RTS Homes. Mayor Hawkins said that he would table this and reintroduce it at the January 2022 meeting.

## 8. BUSINESS IN PROCESS

### *Status Update(s)*

- a. Mr. Marcus Sack, the City Engineer, gave Council two updates. The first was that the TSPLOST project of sidewalks down Hwy 84 to Liberty High School was progressing and the design had been completed. The second was that the damage to Wallace Martin Dr. was extensive and would take full-depth reclamation, not just an overlay. He approximated the cost for the reclamation at \$500,000.<sup>00</sup>. When discussing revenue sources to fund the reclamation, LMIG was brought up as one source. Mr. Sack stated that Wallace Martin reclamation was on the LMIG application for 2022. Although a Council vote was not necessary, *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to make Wallace Martin on the LMIG application. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- b. Street Lights - It had been brought to the Councils attention via email in December that there were some residents requesting street lights in residential areas.
  - Old Savannah Rd. at Flemington Oaks Dr. – Mayor Hawkins reported that he had driven there at night and that a light was needed there for safety reasons. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to have a light installed at that location. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
  - OC Martin Dr. at Old Hines Rd. – Mayor Hawkins stated that he was informed by SGT Gallob that there was not a street light at OC Martin and Old Hines, as required by City ordinance at street

intersections and cul-de-sacs. Mayor Hawkins said that pursuant to that, he would ensure a light got installed there. It was then said that the resident requesting it wanted a light installed at their home, not at the intersection. After some discussion, *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to delay the installation at the residents' address until all of Council had the opportunity to ride down the street at night to determine a need. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

- c. Mayor Hawkins shared that GDOT's new timeline was to begin construction in April 2022. The delayed project start date was reported as a contractual addendum of night work.

***No Update(s) Available***

- Old Sunbury Rd. to State Road (next update expected in 2023)
- Impact Fee Aging
- Fire Committee Report
- Millage Rate
- American Rescue Plan Funds
- Apartment Complex on Patriots Trail

9. COMPLETED BUSINESS

- n/a

10. ON THE HORIZON

a. December 2021

- December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 – City Hall Closed

b. January 2022

- 11<sup>th</sup> - Swearing In at City Hall @ 4 pm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> – City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday


c. February 2022

- 6-8<sup>th</sup> – Clerk to Masters Education Management Development Program at Jekyll Island
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – Newly Elected Officials Training in Athens

11. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the reason of personnel. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and Executive Session began at 5:17 pm. Mayor Hawkins gaveled to resume open session at 5:49 pm. The Council approved an \$800 holiday bonus for the Clerk and the Deputy. Additionally, they requested a cover letter, resume, a list of job duties and expectations and who would be the supervising party for a part-time employee.*

12. Adjourn – *Councilman Patel made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.*

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by:

  
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk

Approved by City Council: \_\_\_\_\_ as written/corrected.