

"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

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Flemington City Hall – 156 Old Sunbury Rd. 31313  
Public Participation in Person or Watch on Facebook

Present at City Hall:

Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Councilman Hasit Patel (exited at 6:26 pm.)  
Councilwoman Gail Evans  
Councilman Larry Logan  
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley  
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell  
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk  
Craig Stafford, City Attorney  
SGT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Telephone:  
(OR ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING)

Mayor Pro Tem David Edwards (exited at 6:28 pm.)

Absent:

None

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:32 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 Councilwoman Evans.
4. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting minutes as written. Councilwoman Evans 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 May 2022 and an update regarding the new law enforcement truck that was purchased using ARPA funds. He also expressed that he foresaw a need for an additional deputy in the near future.
6. Council reviewed the Expense Report for the month of May.
7. Ms. Mardee Sanchez with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission ("LCPC") came before Council with two items of business.

First, she presented data collected from the project engineer (Mr. Joey Goodall from Long Engineering – not TR Long Engineering) and arborist regarding the live oak trees that were greater than 24" in diameter, as well as the findings of the city engineer, Mr. Marcus Sack. The consensus of all determined that exceptional trees that could be saved were

being saved. There was concern about the remaining trees' health being monitored during the construction and after the completion of the project, to which the project engineer confirmed that there would be as well as a landscape establishment bond to be issued. Mr. Sack stated that the plat shows the most compact footprint possible. Ms. Sanchez stated that the builders would be planting lacebark elm, live oak and crepe myrtles on the property. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the removal of the exceptional trees from the property to be known as Hunter's Haven on Patriots Trail and to approve the preliminary plat. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The second item of business was a presentation showing the County's planned water extension to service many parts of Liberty County. While the extension construction did not have any impact on Flemington directly, it was necessary to amend the service delivery strategy ("SDS") and therefore all municipalities needed to be notified and adopt the amended resolution. *Councilman Patel made a motion to adopt the amended SDS resolution. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

8. Mr. Joey Brown, County Manager for Liberty County came before Council to brief them regarding the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax ("SPLOST") #7 which will be placed on the November 2022 ballot. Mr. Brown stated that SPLOST 7 has a six-year cycle and projected to be \$69,000,000.<sup>00</sup>. He explained that there was a heavy debt load that needed to be repaid and investments were needed in community growth items. After allotting for those items, the \$18,549,300.<sup>00</sup> remaining balance was divided up between the municipalities and the County based on Census population. Flemington's percentage is 1.37% for the cycle, which equals \$254,125.<sup>00</sup>. This is \$209,933.<sup>00</sup> less than with SPLOST 6. Mr. Brown and Ms. Kim McGlothlin will return to Council in July with the intergovernmental agreement for adopting and execution.
9. Mr. Robert Dodd and Mr. Trip Duke from the Liberty County Emergency Management Agency ("LCEMA") gave a presentation on hurricane season 2022. According to historical data, every 61 years there is a category 4 hurricane in Georgia. Using that data, Georgia was due another in 2020 – which didn't happen. In the case of an evacuation, Liberty County residents should meet at the Shuman Center in James Brown Park.
10. NEW BUSINESS
  - The discussion of clearing the land owned by the City across from City Hall was tabled.
  - Mayor Hawkins shared with the Council that impact fees could fund an addition to City Hall with two offices for law enforcement. He had contacted Mr. Judson Bryant to get some architectural sketches drawn up. While many Council members expressed the need for a second officer before constructing a second office, they were reminded that impact fees are for capital improvements and cannot be used for operational costs or salaries.
11. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS – Status Update(s)
  - The Mr. Marcus Sack reported that there was a bid opening for a contractor for the Highway 84 sidewalk project. One bid was a bit over budget and the other was very high. Mr. Sack said that he would contact them and make sure they were understood the scope of work fully.
  - Mayor Hawkins presented two bids that were received to repair the drainage issues at Masters Ct. and Tremain Dr. The low bidder was Jody Smiley Landscaping. *Councilman Logan made a motion to award the work to Jody Smiley Landscaping. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. \*\*Councilwoman Smiley recused herself from discussion and voting due to conflict of interest.*
  - The City Clerk prepared a review of FY22 and shared the FY23 budget for adoption. The only change necessary was to reduce the amount of SPLOST dollars per the earlier presentation from Mr. Brown. *Councilman Patel made a motion to adopt the FY23 budget resolution with the correction. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
  - Now that the increase of hotel-motel excise tax from 5% to 8% had been approved through the General Assembly, *Councilman Logan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. \*\*Councilman Patel recused himself from discussion and voting due to*

conflict of interest.

- *Councilman Patel made a motion to have a pole light installed 1/8 mile in on Tremain Dr. near the former Liza Dr. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

12. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS – No Update(s)

- Old Sunbury Rd. to a State Rd. *(next update expected in 2023)*
- Signalization at McLarry's Curve
- Full Depth Reclamation of Wallace Martin Dr. *(on hold for funding)*

13. COMPLETED BUSINESS

- LEO Truck Purchased

14. Mr. Larry Golden and Ms. Lisa Lee with Golden & Associates, CPA's went over the FY21 audit with Council. To summarize, the City was experiencing consistent upward growth. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the draft FY21 audit. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilwoman Evans made a motion to balance the FY21 budget. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

15. ON THE HORIZON

a. June 2022

- 19<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> – City Hall Closed in Observance of Juneteenth
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Summer Solstice
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Personal Financial Disclosures Due

b. July 2022

- 4<sup>th</sup> – City Hall Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting
- Date TBD – Community Outreach

16. Executive Session (if needed)

17. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.*

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by:



Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk

Approved by City Council: .....July 12..... 2022 as written/~~corrected~~.