

# FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**March 13, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher  
Council Member Donnie Smith  
Council Member David Edwards  
Council Member Gail Evans  
Council Member Rene Harwell

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Attorney Craig Stafford  
Deputy Sergeant Eric Allen  
City Clerk Lori Taylor

**ABSENT:** Council Member Keith Moran

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall in Flemington, GA. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Invocation by Mayor Hawkins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. *Councilman Palmer Dasher motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the February meeting and accept them as presented. Councilwoman Rene Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.*
4. Deputy Eric Allen provided council with a law enforcement report for the month of February.
5. Council reviewed the City Expense Report for February.
6. LCPC – Abe Nadji – Mr. Nadji presented a request by RTS Homes for final plat approval of Flemington Oaks. He stated that the final plat reflects 32 single family units. All of the primary improvements have been constructed and all secondary improvements are guaranteed. He stated that LCPC recommended approval, and that all standard and special conditions have been met. He also stated that the drainage/detention pond located on the east side is located on private property with a 10 foot easement around the pond for maintenance by the city. It is completely fenced and will be accessible by the city for maintenance. Jody Smiley, resident living off of Old Savannah Road, stated that he had been in contact with all of the residents in the area and that they would like council to consider not installing the sidewalks on Old Savannah Road. Marcus Sack stated that the developer is prepared to install the sidewalks, but it is up to council if they want to reconsider. There was discussion regarding the current residents' desires and future residents' wants, and whether or not council should grant a variance. *Councilman David Edwards motioned to accept the final plat of Flemington Oaks as presented with the possibility of looking at a variance for the sidewalks if the residents decide to pursue it. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Gail Evans. All approved. Motion passed.*
7. New Business
  - a. Donation Request – Iron Butt Ride – Gary Eason addressed council and requested a donation in support of the Iron Butt Ride that is to benefit Children's Shriners Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Last year's ride raised over \$35,000.00. This year's ride is to raise funds for a motion analysis lab that costs over one million dollars. He stated that 100% of the proceeds go directly to the hospital, and that the hospital services children across the country, including some local children as well. Attorney Craig Stafford clarified the laws

## FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

for using city funds for donations and stated that as long as the hospital serves local children, then the donation is permissible. *Councilman David Edwards motioned to donate \$500.00 to the Iron Butt Ride to benefit the Shiner's Children's Hospital in Tampa, FL, which provides services and benefits local area children. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher. All approved. Motion passed.*

- b. Law Enforcement Review – Mayor Paul Hawkins informed council that the last law enforcement contract with Liberty County was dated 2005. He stated that he has asked Councilman Moran to assist in contacting Liberty County and research updating the contract. Updates will be brought back to council for approval.
  - c. Impact Fees Proposals – Mayor Hawkins stated that prior to the city charging Impact fees of any kind, there has to be a study performed. Jeff Ricketson informed council that he acquired two estimates from professional companies that specialize in Impact Fee Studies. The two companies were Tischler-Bise and Ross+Associates. He stated that Ross+ Associates is based in Georgia and has extensive work in Georgia. He recommended utilizing Ross+Associates based on their experience and estimate. Mr. Ricketson explained that the impact fees would be assessed only on new developments upon the issuance of a building permit, and that the fee schedules would be created by the specialized firm who does the study and it would be based on certain formulas based on the impact to the city. He also stated that Mr. Ross said that the fees would be ready for implementation on September 1, 2018. *Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher motioned to approve entering a contract with Ross + Associates for the impact fee study, pending a specific quote of cost. Motion seconded by Councilman David Edwards. All approved. Motion passed.* Council discussed the areas in which they would like to be considered. Areas included were: roads, sidewalks, fire protection, police protection, street-lighting, and possible others if deemed needed.
  - d. City Attorney Fees – Mayor Paul Hawkins shared a letter with council from Attorney Craig Stafford requesting an increase in the hourly rate for attorney fees. He stated that Mr. Stafford has represented the city since 2005, at an hourly rate of \$200.00. He is requesting a rate increase to \$300.00 per hour. *Councilman David Edwards motioned to approve the salary increase of City Attorney Craig Stafford from \$200.00 per hour to \$300.00 per hour. Motioned seconded by Councilwoman Gail Evans. All approved. Motion passed.*
  - e. City-wide Cleanup – Councilwoman Rene Harwell stated that the City-wide Cleanup will be on March 24 from 8:30-12:00. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. T-shirts are available for everyone that pre-registers.
8. Old Business
- a. Charter Planning Workshops – Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher stated that he was using the Model Charter from GMA almost exclusively for revising the charter. He shared that the clerk had gotten a quote from CVIOG for their charter revision service, but that he thinks council can go through the process without assistance. Councilman David Edwards stated that he thinks it is a good investment for our city government to get professional assistance with the revision. Mr. Stafford shared that the charter is the most important document in the city. He stated that the \$4500.00 is not too much to invest in our living document, but it is not a bad idea to go ahead and start the process with the Model Charter. He also stated that he did not want to be the only legal expert to approve the final draft. Mayor Pro Tem Dasher stated that he would like to start with the Model Charter and have a workshop to review what he has done thus far. He asked that council bring their planning binders when the workshop is scheduled.
  - b. Heritage Bank CD – Mayor Hawkins informed council that he and Councilwoman Gail Evans cashed out the CD from The Heritage Bank, and that the check had been deposited into the city's account at Ameris Bank. Councilwoman Evans stated the bank rates were the highest at South GA Bank at 1.3% for a 12 month term. She also stated council needs to appoint and vote on signers for the city bank accounts as well. *Councilwoman Gail Evans motioned to appoint Mayor Paul Hawkins, Mayor Pro Tem Palmer Dasher, and Councilman David Edwards as signers on all city banking accounts,*

## FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

*with two signers required on all checks or withdrawal transactions. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Rene Harwell. All approved. Motion passed. Councilwoman Gail Evans made another motion to invest the funds from the Heritage Bank CD at South GA Bank for twelve months at 1.30% rate. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Rene Harwell. All approved. Motion passed.*

9. *Mayor Pro Tem Dasher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman David Edwards. All agreed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.*