

**CITY OF BERKELEY LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING
4040 SOUTH BERKELEY LAKE ROAD
BERKELEY LAKE, GEORGIA 30096
FULL MINUTES
MAY 16, 2019**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Lois Salter

Council Members: Rodney Hammond, Chip McDaniel, Bob Smith

City Officials: Tom Rozier - City Administrator, Pat Chapman - Deputy City Administrator, Amy Cowan – Deputy City Attorney

Members of the Public: 6

Members of the Press: 0

WORK SESSION

The mayor and council reviewed the meeting agenda and materials with staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Salter called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM at 4040 South Berkeley Lake Road. A quorum of council members was in attendance.

AGENDA

Salter solicited motions regarding the agenda.

Smith made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Hammond seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Salter noted the following as items on the consent agenda and solicited a motion:

- a) Minutes of April 18, 2019 Council Meeting
- b) Financial Reports: March 2019, Unaudited
- c) Operations Activity Reports: April 2019
- d) Intergovernmental Agreement with Gwinnett County: Title Ad Valorem Tax
- e) Renewal of Certificate of Deposit with Fidelity Bank: \$500,000 at 2.3% APY, 12 Months

McDaniel made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Hammond seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) O-19-222 Budget Amendment for 2018

Rozier: *O-19-222 is a housekeeping measure to identify a final status of expenses and revenues for 2018. I am requesting that council adopt the amendment.*

Hammond made a motion to adopt O-19-222, an ordinance to amend the budget for the year 2018, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes. McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) O-19-223 Solid Waste Commercial Collection Hours and Dumpster Labeling

Chapman: *Due to past issues with violations of the noise ordinance, the current solid waste vendor was ordered by Judge Barrett to label dumpsters located within 900 feet of R-100 property with language reminding their employees of the hours during which the dumpsters could be emptied. O-19-223 is an amendment that will add a similar requirement to the Solid Waste ordinance, regardless of vendor. The amendment is available for first-read consideration.*

Hammond made a motion to place O-19-223, an ordinance to amend the Solid Waste Commercial Collection Hours and Dumpster Labeling, to repeal conflicting ordinances, provide an effective date and for other purposes, on first read. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b) O-19-224 Repeal Restrictions on “Happy Hour” Promotions and Sales

Rozier: *O-19-224 is a measure which if approved will allow Berkeley Lake restaurants to compete on a more level playing field with restaurants in nearby jurisdictions where similar code changes have recently been approved. The amendment is available for first-read consideration.*

McDaniel made a motion to place O-19-224, an ordinance to repeal restrictions on “Happy Hour” Promotion and Sales, to repeal conflicting ordinances, provide an effective date and for other purposes, on first read. Hammond seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment: Rand Kirkus

Salter: *Tonight, I propose the appointment of Rand Kirkus to the Planning & Zoning Commission. If approved, he will replace Neil Schaap who recently resigned to become a member of the Gwinnett County Zoning Board of Appeals.*

Hammond made a motion to table the matter. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Tornado Warning Siren Discussion

Salter: *The tornado siren installed back in 1999 at the old city hall and relocated in 2009 to its current location next to the children's playground at city hall has had technical difficulties over the last several years and now is consistently no longer working. That siren is owned by the City of Berkeley Lake and is one of several on a network of sirens manually controlled by the City of Duluth's Police Department by an over-the-air signal. The City of Berkeley Lake is responsible for maintaining its own siren equipment and must do so using a contracted service which can be costly. The City of Duluth replaced all their sirens and associated equipment some time back and if we wish to have a working siren, then we will likely need to replace ours as well. The replacement cost is estimated to be between \$17,000 and \$21,000. It's important to note that there are sirens in jurisdictions across the river as well as at the Atlanta Athletic Club that do not necessarily mean the same thing as when the siren in Berkeley Lake would go off. That circumstance often causes confusion and results in complacency about how or whether to act. There are also homes where the occupants cannot hear the sirens.*

Gwinnett County, which is the agency responsible for emergency management services in Berkeley Lake, has implemented wireless emergency alerts which are free messages sent directly to mobile devices to warn people about severe weather, AMBER alerts, and threats to safety in the area based on the GPS coordinates of the receiving device. These notifications are designed to get attention and alert people with a loud unique sound and vibration, which is helpful to people with hearing or vision-related disabilities. Additionally, the warnings contain basic instructions to keep people safe. Recent discussions on social media included statements where wireless emergency alerts were received well ahead of the sounding of local sirens in nearby jurisdictions.

In addition to these two methods for receiving emergency alerts, other sources include NOAA Weather Radios, news broadcasts, the Emergency Alert System on radio and TV programs, and internet services.

Based on this information as well as your own knowledge about the matter, I'm looking for instruction on how council wishes to proceed regarding replacing the siren in Berkeley Lake.

Hammond made a motion to decommission the tornado warning siren and remove the associated equipment in view of wide availability to the community of superior, more accurate and less confusing warning methods. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Anders of Explore Gwinnett, a unit of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce and Wes Hagen, the supervising location manager for Blue Cat Productions, the production house that is producing Season 3 of the television series, Ozark, for Netflix made a request for council to adjust media production permit rates. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Hammond moved to adjourn. McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Salter adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by:

Tom Rozier
City Clerk