

**CITY OF BERKELEY LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING
4040 SOUTH BERKELEY LAKE ROAD
BERKELEY LAKE, GEORGIA 30096
DRAFT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Lois Salter

Council Members: Rodney Hammond, Scott Lee, Chip McDaniel, Bob Smith, Rebecca Spitler

City Officials: Tom Rozier - City Administrator, Leigh Threadgill - Deputy City Administrator,

Constance Hughes – Deputy City Clerk, Richard Carothers – Attorney

County Officials: Ben Ku – Gwinnett County Commissioner, Rebecca Shelton – Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources – Assistant Director

Members of the Public: 15

Members of the Press: 0

WORK SESSION

The mayor and council reviewed the meeting agenda and materials with staff and asked questions of county officials and citizens regarding agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

Salter called the meeting to order at 8:02PM via conference call. A quorum of council members was in attendance.

Salter: Our meeting is being held tonight by public conference call due to COVID-19 virus social distancing requirements. The council members and I are participating in the call with video capabilities in case anyone wonders how I am interpreting their voting tonight. In order to ensure that members of the public have access to this meeting, a notice was placed at the front door of city hall and a link was placed on the city website regarding the meeting. All of which included instructions for dialing into the meeting via telephone.

AGENDA

Salter solicited motions regarding the agenda.

Smith made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Spitler 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 July 16, 2020 Council Meeting
- b) Financial Reports: June 2020
- c) Financial Reports: July 2020
- d) Proposed Amendment to Schedule of Fees: Section IX – Rezoning Fees
- e) Public Works: Proposed Letter of Agreement with Nelson Architecture, Inc.: to provide services for COVID19-related and other alterations to city hall

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Consideration of Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources Request for City Management of Privately-Owned aspects of Proposed Low-Pressure Sewer Equipment

Salter solicited questions, comments and motions from council members. There were none.

Salter noted that Shelton had clarified that the county is several years out before being prepared to act on the matter and that she had clarified some numbers.

It was the consensus of council members that they wished to wait to hear further regarding the topic.

- b) Citizen Request to Speak: Steve Seitz – Low Pressure Sewer

Steve Seitz, 34 Lakeshore Drive: What I wanted to do tonight *on behalf of the homeowners that are on the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and South Berkeley Lake Road and along Lakeshore Drive up to around 41 Lakeshore Drive is that to make you aware that we are attempting to work with the county through a sewer petition process for about 17 homes. We're working to refine the complete scope, but it's going to be in 20 or less homes to do a project that would bring sewer along to the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and South Berkeley Lake Road and along several homes up Lakeshore Drive. Part of that is introducing a low-pressure sewer system which has been around since the late 1960s, but it has not been yet introduced within the county. There is a willingness on the county's part as well as on our part as a subset of the residents here to participate in that with a provision that we can get 12 of the 17 signatures to meet the 70% to move forward. I've documented in the information that I put forth to be included in the Minutes summarizing some concerns around the existing septic systems, the age and the growing failure*

that we're seeing. In some cases, the extreme cost of getting those repairs. And then relating to the fact that the lake is a key attribute for the community and we wanted to look at putting a plan in place initially starting with this pilot, but something to be able to build on that would allow us to undertake a project that would allow a transition from septic systems around the lake to a sewer facility in a cost-effective and low-impact manner. From the things I've read, a low-pressure system meets those requirements. I believe from Rebecca's point through the things we've talked about, it seems to be a sound strategy that the county is looking to adopt along with what other communities, municipalities and subdivisions around the country has. There are obviously some challenges that I've outlined in the initial statement that I provided. There are some things that we need to kind of work through initially, certainly post-pilot that is going to allow us to be successful in implementing this on a city-wide basis if we so choose to do that. There are some other areas that I think would be beneficial if the council would be supportive of setting up a committee that could work with this off-line to work through these things in partnership with the county and residents in conjunction with the city to help formulate a plan and flesh things out for the benefit of the city council to review and to see how we could collectively work a plan to move forward with this on a long-term basis once the pilot has been complete. I will pause there to see if there are any questions.

Salter thanked Seitz and solicited questions from council members. There were no questions.

Salter noted that council members did not want to take any action at the time and thanked representatives from the county as well as Seitz for their efforts. She further noted that council would consider what had been presented and will decide whether to move forward in the future.

c) O-20-236 Consideration of Amendment to Chapter 26, Article III, Noise Control

Salter: We have had the benefit of hearing from Jordan Colletta and I think Mike Thorpe is here with us tonight. Both have contributed some written comments to spell their concerns out for council as they were asked to do and that was very helpful.

Salter solicited questions from council members. There were no questions. She then solicited comments from Thorpe.

Mike Thorpe, 574 Lakeshore Drive: *I don't have a lot to add and I was not in on the work session, but I would just add that everybody gives some consideration to what Jordan and I have been expressing concerns about. We have a lot of folks around here that enjoy doing within reasonable limits some kind of music thing. We would just like to have some parameters that we could work with so that we know what's workable, what's permitted and what's not. I still think a permitting process is a viable option, but I'm just putting it out there. I think we need to get some thing so we will know what we can do that's not going to be a problem.*

Salter solicited a motion regarding an amendment to Chapter 26, Article III.

Lee made a motion to place O-20-236, an ordinance to amend Chapter 26 – Article III, Noise Control, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes, on first read. Spitler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Salter solicited comments from members of the public.

Thorpe: *Thanks, folks, for all that you do. We really appreciate you.*

Salter: *That's nice to hear, Mike, and thank you for your time in putting something together for us. We will continue to work on that for you.*

Colletta: *I know every one of the council members do this as well and take input from the community, but Lois, Mike and I really appreciate you taking the time with us the other day to help us to run through some of this detail up front so tonight could be very concise. I know we've had conversations with a number of the other council members, Scott and Chip and all. I appreciate everyone's making yourself available to us. That's awesome.*

Salter: *Thank you, Jordan. I appreciate that. We have an unusually good council and a great staff. All of them have done some work on this up to this point. We'll continue to work at this until we get something that everybody's comfortable with.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

Salter adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Submitted by:

Tom Rozier
City Clerk