



**COUNCIL MEETING  
4040 SOUTH BERKELEY LAKE ROAD  
BERKELEY LAKE, GEORGIA 30096  
FULL MINUTES  
MAY 19, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

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Mayor: Lois Salter

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

City Officials: Leigh Threadgill - City Administrator

Richard Carothers – City Attorney

Members of the Public: 2

Members of the Press: 0

**WORK SESSION**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AGENDA**

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Salter solicited motions regarding the agenda.

**Spitler made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. McDaniel seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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- a) O-2-242, Amendment to Section 78-366 and 78-367 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding variance expiration

There were no public comments.

- b) O-22-243, Proposed 2021 Budget Amendment

There were no public comments.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Minutes of March 15, 2022 Council Meeting
- b) Financial Statements of January 2022 – Unaudited
- c) Financial Statements of February 2022 – Unaudited
- d) Financial Statements of March 2022 – Unaudited
- e) Public Works: Ratification of Survey Expense – Mansions Parkway Cul-de-sac
- f) Public Works: Ratification of Survey Expense – Lakeshore Drive at Paradise Cove

**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

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- a) O-22-242, Amendment to Section 78-366 and 78-367 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding variance expiration

*Threadgill: This is a request from the Planning & Zoning Commission who considered it and recommended approval of it at their February 8, 2022, meeting. The intent of the revision is to create a new administrative variance category for the Planning and Zoning Commission chair to be authorized to grant a one-time, one-year extension for an expiring or expired variance provided the application is made within 24 months of original variance approval. Additionally, the extension can be no longer than 12 months from the original expiration date. I am requesting the item be placed on second read and adopted.*

**Smith made a motion to place O-22-242, an ordinance to amend Chapter 78-366 and 78-367, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes, on second read and adopt it. Spittler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- b) O-22-243, Proposed 2021 Budget Amendment

*Threadgill: O-22-243 is a housekeeping measure to identify a final status of expenses and revenues for 2021. I am requesting that council place the item on second read.*

**McDaniel made a motion to place O-22-243, an ordinance to amend the budget for the year 2021, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes, on second read. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- c) Public Works: 0 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Erosion Investigation Report

Threadgill: *The City Engineer provided a letter of findings and recommendations pursuant to the investigation he was contracted to perform at our March meeting.*

Salter expressed that it seemed the engineer did a thorough job and noted that the council has had the opportunity to review the report, as well as our citizens. It is available on the website.

Salter solicited suggestions from the council regarding any further action.

McDaniel stated that he thought council should follow the professional engineer's opinion that repairs should begin at the upstream end of the system. Temporary erosion control measures in the wetlands or below would be of little benefit. Wetland plantings were considered at the request of the city, but plantings would do little to control sediment that originates offsite.

Salter noted that there are plans to ameliorate the situation upstream and directed staff to continue to monitor that process.

Hammond stated that the engineer has done a thorough job of documenting the situation.

Salter thanked members of council who have visited the site and upstream sites to study the situation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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There was no new business.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Susan Hanson, 3755 North Berkeley Lake Road, resident of 34 years and chairman of the Berkeley Lake Conservancy, spoke about invasive, non-native plants in the city and distributed a brochure to the council regarding this issue. There are several homes that are completely covered with invasive, non-native plants. She asked that the city take responsibility on the city's property. The reason you don't want invasive, non-native plants is because you want native plants, but invasives will take them over and you lose the native plants. Berkeley Lake has changed in the last 34 years. Many areas that were woods, such as Miramont, Berkeley Walk and much of the City Hall property, have been developed and re-planted with some native but some non-native species. When the elementary school did an addition and disturbed close to an acre, everything re-planted was non-native. Hanson asked council to turn to page 26 in the brochure she had disseminated. This plant, miscanthus, or Chinese silver grass, is planted on city hall property. It is non-native and its seeds can blow to other sites. She proposed to remove this plant from city hall property. It shouldn't be too costly to do this. She then asked council to look at page 30 at the glossy privet that was planted next to the spillway as a screen. They have nice white flowers that produce berries that the birds eat

and then spread the berries. Hanson asked for this plant to be changed. For this year, she asked for those flowers to be cut back so that the birds can't disseminate the seeds to other places. There are funds for Tree City USA, around \$500, which could be used to do the privet pruning. Hanson has spoken to the Kitchens who are next to the spillway privet, who don't want it removed. She asked that the landscape contractor be asked to cut it back this summer. And in the fall start planting new plants at the lower end to help provide the buffer. Hanson has not spoken to the owners on the other side of the spillway.

Salter thanked Hanson for her advice and noted that we could prune the grass outside of city hall and at the spillway. She asked Hanson to provide recommendations about what to plant in its place. Salter noted that Spitler is the liaison to the Berkeley Lake Conservancy and asked for her to be included.

McDaniel thanked Hanson for the pamphlet and providing such helpful information.

Hanson noted that not all of the plants in the brochure are in Berkeley Lake, but many of them are. She hopes that if citizens see the city taking action, they may realize that they could get rid of some of the things in their yards.

Hammond stated that he recognizes some of these invasive, non-native plants on his property.

Salter noted that she has included information on this topic in the Mayor's Message. She asked Hanson if it would be alright to direct citizens to her for more information and thanked her again for all that she does.

Marilyn Childress, 4363 South Berkeley Lake Road, thanked everyone in attendance and all the citizens of Berkeley Lake. She has lived here for almost 25 years and it's one of the best if not the best communities in which to live. She noted how helpful members of the community have been through the years and she will miss it.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Salter adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Submitted by:



Leigh Threadgill  
City Clerk

