

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on December 11, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., with the following members present: Mayor Tim Varnadore; Mayor Pro Tem Mickey Bass; Councilmembers: Betty Livingston, Adam Thomas, and Santina Fryer.

Pat Williams was excused due to illness.

Other city officials present were: Reid Lovett, City Manager; Reba Cash, City Clerk; Alex Johnson, City Attorney; David Gore, Special Projects Manager; Dale Sapp, Public Works Director and Chief of Police, James Godfrey.

Noah Gardner representing the Baxley News Banner was present.

Ora Hall and Jacquez Smith were present.

Mayor Pro Tem Bass gave the invocation

Councilwoman Fryer made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 13, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 27, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Bass made a motion to adopt the Resolution recognizing the late Mayor Pro Tem Esco Hall, Jr. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Mayor Varnadore then expressed his condolences to the family of Mayor Pro Tem Esco Hall, Jr. and read the Resolution as follows:

- WHEREAS: Dr. Esco Hall Jr. was born February 3, 1948 in Wheeler County Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Hall attended Wheeler County Training School graduating as Valedictorian in the Class of 1966. After graduation, Dr. Hall attended Fort Valley College to study Agriculture Science; and
- WHEREAS: In 1968 Dr. Hall was admitted into the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hall graduated as the First African American in 1973; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Hall relocated to Baxley, Georgia, as owner and operator of Appling Animal Hospital serving Appling and surrounding Counties for over 46 years; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Hall also owned Baxley Funeral Home which sat next to Appling Animal Hospital; and
- WHEREAS: In 1983, Dr. Hall took office serving the City of Baxley as City Councilman for District 2 continuously until 2019. In 1998, Dr. Hall was elected by his colleagues as Mayor Pro Tem; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Hall served many boards and committees including: 100 Black Men of Southeast Georgia, Lambda Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Action Pact, Appling County NAACP, Appling County Development Authority, Appling County Board of Education System Stakeholder Committee, and many other organizations.
- THEREFORE: By the Mayor and Council of the City of Baxley, at a regular meeting duly assembled, that the Mayor and Council wish to recognize the lifetime of service and legacy of Dr. Esco Hall Jr.
DULY AND UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Baxley held on the 11th day of December, 2019

Mayor Pro Tem Bass made a motion nominating Councilwoman Santina Fryer as the replacement for Vicky Escalante to the Library Board which expires on 12/31/2019. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and was passed by two to one votes. Those voting in favor: Livingston, Thomas. Santina Fryer abstain from voting.

Councilman Thomas made a motion approving the First Reading of an Ordinance on a petition filed by Nariel Roblero Berduo, located at 100 Bell Drive, be annexed and establishing a Business Residential (BR-1) Zone in voting district #2. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fryer and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Bass made a motion to cancel the Regular Council Meeting of Wednesday, December 25, 2019 due to Christmas holiday. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fryer and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Varnadore thanked the City Hall staff for the beautiful decorations in the Council chambers.

City Manager's Report

1. City Manager Lovett announced that he and Keri Orvin will be travelling to WTOC in Savannah for a live interview referencing our Winter Wonderland celebration.
2. City Manager Lovett informed the Mayor and Council that at the Wastewater Treatment plant there was an unusually high biological oxygen demand in the effluent discharged to the River. Due to EPD permit requirements samples are being taken throughout the sanitary sewer system to determine the cause of this incident. Operations have been stepped up to alleviate the problem and all precautions are being taken to mitigate or reduce any adverse effect to the river. At this time there appears to be no impact to the river.

There being no further business, Mayor Varnadore declared the meeting adjourned.

City Clerk

Duly adopted in a Regular Council Meeting held on the 8th day of January 2020.

Mayor: _____

Councilmembers:
