

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Brandie Owens called to order the regular meeting of the Rutledge City Council on the above date. Council member Brenda Thompson and council member Adam Beckstine were present as were members of the public. Mayor Bruce Altnauer and council member Tony Sells were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Brandie Owens called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brenda Thompson made motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting as submitted. Adam Beckstine seconded, all voted in favor and motion carried with a constitutional majority.

BUSINESS LICENSE APPROVAL – VETERAN’S ARMORY / ALAN SWITZER

Mayor Pro-Tem Brandie Owens stated a business license application was submitted for Veteran’s Armory at 148 Atlanta Hwy. Both applicants Alan Switzer and Jake Coggins were present. Mayor Owens advised the applicants that the City Attorney advised the Council to continue the request for the next council meeting until they submit a completed application, background checks with fingerprints and Federal approval. The applicants informed the council that before Federal approval could be granted, they must have a brick and mortar store.

They said the business must have a base location.

Debbie Kilgore advised the applicants that there would be a work session soon and could possibly plan a special called meeting on that date so they can get back before the council in less than a month.

Jake Coggins asked who the City Attorney was and said he would reach out to him for some clarity.

GARDEN CLUB DONATION / PROJECTS

Pam Stapp addressed the Council and said they planned to purchase two benches in memory of two members that had passed on. Mayor Owens said she did not think the City needed to approve the benches because City funds were not involved.

Pam Stapp said the Garden Club would like to do a mural on the old City Hall building but would come back with a drawing.

Garden Club member Betsy Wynn addressed the council and said they would like to paint the wooden doors on the public restroom building with something that would mirror the metal sculpture. She said they would pay for all the paint and showed the council a picture of painted flowers. The council said they thought the flowers would look nice but did not vote on it because it did not involve city funds.

Pam Stapp asked the Council to consider changing downtown parking to parallel parking due to the parking lot being built.

TREE PLANTING AND UPCOMING PROJECTS – JUSTIN KENNEDY

Justin Kennedy, Chairman of the Rutledge Tree Board advised the council the tree board members had planted 11 trees on the upper part of Newborn Road all the way to the gas station.

He said the trees are Chinese Pistache. He stated that a friend let him borrow the equipment to do the planting so they only had to spend money on the trees. He said the Forestry

recommended they remove all the Bradford Pear trees on the lower end of Newborn Road. He stated that needs to be considered in the new budget.

He said he asked Jennifer Buzbee to help with the Arbor Day plans and now it is going to be massive.

There will be music, a BBQ truck and free seedlings.

It will be March 19

th

at Veteran's Park from 9 to 2.

Council member Adam Beckstine asked how much he thinks it will cost to remove the trees.

Justin Kennedy stated probably between ten to twelve thousand dollars.

SCHEDULE BUDGET WORK SESSION

Debbie Kilgore advised the Council that she had selected two dates for a work session, March 28th or April 5th. The Council agreed upon a special called meeting on April 5th at 6:00 pm to address the business license issue and a budget work session to immediately follow the meeting.

Adam Beckstine made motion to adjourn at 6:17. Brenda Thompson seconded, all voted for and motion carried with a constitutional majority.

ADJOURN

Debbie Kilgore City Clerk Brandie Owens Mayor Pro-Tem