

City of Live Oak
City Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024

The Live Oak City Council met Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064 for a regular monthly meeting. The following officials were present: Mayor Frank Davis, Councilmember Tommie Jefferson, Council President David Burch, Councilmember Lynda Brown-Owens, Councilmember Matt Campbell, Councilmember Tesie Allen, City Clerk John Gill, City Manager Larry Sessions, & City Attorney Todd Kennon.

Council President Burch called the meeting to order.

Mayor Davis led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President Burch presented the agenda for any additions, deletions, or changes. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, which Councilmember Allen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Burch then proceeded to the next agenda item, approval of the February 13th regular monthly city council meeting minutes, and the February 27th special called council meeting minutes. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, which Councilmember Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Burch opened the floor for public comments to those who wished to speak now or wait until the item is presented on the agenda. The following spoke at this time:

Jeff Bradford spoke giving appreciation to the city for all the hard work.

Keith Broaders spoke regarding the history class he is holding March 23, 2024.

Bruce Lawson spoke in support of the annexation into the city.

Kat Bass spoke regarding updates on grants for the city.

Council President Burch closed public comments.

Council President Burch turned the floor over to Mayor Frank Davis to discuss matters of the city. Mayor Davis stated that he will speak just before the final reading of Ordinance 1507.

Council President Burch then proceeded to Councilmember Owens item, discussion and updates on pavement projects, street signs, city clock, & technology upgrades. City Manager Larry Sessions advised that Councilmember Owens updates will come from him. Mr. Sessions stated that the pavement projects are still moving forward, street signs are an issue because of theft, the city is still waiting on bids to repair the clock, and as for technology upgrades the city is disposing of outdated computers and replacing them.

Council President Burch moved on to City Manager Larry Sessions agenda item. Mr. Sessions informed the council and residents that there would be a notice going out in the month of April along with the water bill stating that there will be a spring cleaning of trash debris done in the city. It will include dates as well as what certain trash will be picked up and the dates.

Council President Burch proceeded to the next item on the agenda, department reports. Mr. Sessions asked council if they had any questions at this time. None heard.

Council President Burch moved to the discussion item regarding Anna Ave sewer tap and impact fees for Mr. Tim Wiggins. Development Manager George Curtis approached council and gave a report on when the tap and impact fees started. Council President Burch opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Tim Wiggins spoke against the tap and impact fees, stating that a prior civil rights law suit exempted him from having to pay. It was decided that the city attorney will opine on the matter.

Council President Burch moved to the agenda item on discussion with possible council action on Resolution 2024-04, a resolution declaring certain personal property owned by the city to be either surplus to its needs and sold at a publicly noticed sale or determined to be obsolete, non-serviceable, or beyond economic repair and appropriately discarded, providing for the authorization to remove such surplus property when sold or disposed of from the fixed assets of the city. City Attorney Todd Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04, which Councilmember Allen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Burch then moved to discussion with possible council action on the final reading of Ordinance 1507. An Ordinance voluntarily annexing certain real property into the city limits and redefining the boundary lines of the municipality to include said property (subject property is 139.85 acres bounded on the north side by current city limits, east side by US highway 129, south side by Bass Road, and west side by 121st Road). City Attorney Todd Kennon read the title into the record. Development Manager George Curtis gave a presentation and then recommended approval of Ordinance 1507. City Attorney Kennon swore in those who possibly will give testimony at any time during the proceedings to follow.

The following individuals spoke:

Marvin Puryear of Saunders Ralston Dantzler gave a brief overview of the proposed project should Ordinance 1507 be approved.

Lance Jones of Jones Engineering also gave an overview of what's expected for the development.

Public Director Jerald Lee spoke regarding sewer and trash fees.

With no more questions for those who were sworn in, Council President Burch opened the floor for public comment.

Melissa Mapp Fransisco spoke against the approval of Ordinance 1507.

Marion Gross spoke against the approval of Ordinance 1507.

Martin Freed spoke against the approval Ordinance 1507.

Bruce Lawson spoke in approval of Ordinance 1507.

Adam Collins spoke against the approval of Ordinance 1507.

With no other comments Council President Burch closed public comment.

City Attorney Todd Kennon offered Mr. Puryear the opportunity to speak his rebuttal in response to the public comments.

At the conclusion of testimony, Councilmember Jefferson made the motion to approve Ordinance 1507 on its final reading which Councilmember Allen seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Councilmember Allen, Burch, and Jefferson voting for approval and Councilmember Owens and Campbell voting against. The motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote.

Mayor Davis stated that before signing and having this Ordinance 1507 take effect, he believes it is in the best interest of the city to seek answers to important questions and he further wants assurances that the city would not be left to pick up the cost that should be borne by others. In order to ensure the city has the best information possible, he proposes that a workshop be held to include Florida Department of Transportation, Suwannee Water River Management District, Suwannee County Commission, Suwannee School District, and Suwannee Valley Electric.

Council President Burch proceeded to discussion with possible council action on the first reading of Ordinance 1510, an ordinance relating to public right-of-way as follows a portion of Horne Avenue (by plat), 293 feet by

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38 feet- bounded on the east by block 4 of Fruitland Addition, and bounded on the West by block 5 of Fruitland Addition.

Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1510, which Councilmember Allen seconded. Council President Burch opened the floor for public comment. With none heard, Council President Burch closed public comments. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Council President Burch proceeded to discussion with possible council action on the first reading of Ordinance 1511, an ordinance amending Article V. fences within chapter 14 Building and Building Regulations of the City of Live Oak Code of Ordinances. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1511, which Councilmember Jefferson seconded. Council President Burch opened the for public comment. With none heard, Council President Burch closed public comments. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Councilmember David Burch
City Council President

Attest:
Mr. John Gill
City Clerk