

The Clermont Town Council met on April 5, 2016. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present: Mayor, James Nix, Council Members, Seth Weaver, Kristi Crumpton, Doug Myers and Margaret Merritt. Deputy Clerk, Amy Lomax and Town Clerk, Sandra Helton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kristi Crumpton made a motion to approve the agenda. Seth Weaver seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Seth Weaver gave the invocation and Mayor Nix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Seth Weaver made a motion to approve the March 2016 Minutes. Margaret Merritt seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Seth Weaver made a motion to approve the February 2016 Financial Statement. Kristi Crumpton seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

REPORT: ORDINANCE 97-01 PLANNING AND ZONING: The Mayor and Council reviewed this report.

REVISE CHECK SIGNATURE CARD: Seth Weaver made a motion to remove John Brady and Lynn Adams from the check signature cards and add Doug Myers and Margaret Merritt. Kristi Crumpton seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE: 82-2016-02 REZONING PROPERTY BELONGING TO DONALD SIMMONS AND JAMES SIMMONS. Council member Seth Weaver asked Leigh Corley if she had checked with the state about the driveway. She replied she had and decided on a wide driveway with an entrance and exit instead of the circular driveway as previously stated. After no further comments or questions from the Mayor and Council, Seth Weaver made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 82-2016-02. Doug Myers seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE: 82-2016-03-01 AN ORDINANCE DE-ANNEXING PROPERTY BELONGING TO MARK AND VALERIE KIRVES SITUATED ALONG 6415 CLEVELAND HIGHWAY. After reading the ordinance, Mayor James Nix stated he would like to respond to an email that Mark Kirves sent to the Mayor and Council.

You state that you were told the locals would shop at and support our business.

I don't know whom may have said this, but in 2001 when you were annexing your property I guess that most people did not have any idea as to what your merchandise would be. The store did not open until about 3 years later.

You state that you were told you could annex back into the County.

I cannot find any written statements to this effect.

As to both of these statements, locals supporting your business and annexing back into the County-No council can bind future councils by such verbal statements, even if they were made.

All real estate brokers have said opportunities would be greater in Hall County. You then state:

Hall County provides water services.

Hall County does not provide you with water services. Water is provided by the City of Gainesville for you just as it is for all residents and business in Clermont and surrounding areas in Hall County.

Fire Department.

Your business is provided with the same fire services while being in Clermont as if you were in unincorporated Hall County. The Town has an intergovernmental agreement with Hall County to provide the same fire services for residents and businesses in the Town as for those outside the Town of Clermont. We own the property where Station 2 is located and we lease this property to them. This was done to make sure a station was located near the Town and better serve us.

Police Department.

Your business is provided with the same police protection while being in Clermont as if you were located in unincorporated Hall County. The Town has an intergovernmental agreement with Hall County to provide the same police protection for residents and businesses in the Town as for those outside the Town. The North precinct of the Hall County Sheriff's office is located in a building owned by the Town.

Road Maintenance.

Hall County does not provide any road maintenance for the roads adjoining your property. The main highway, US129 State Route 11, is maintained by the State of Georgia and Hall County does not maintain this road. Oxford Road, to which your driveways are connected, belongs to the Town of Clermont. We maintain this road and Hall County does no maintenance on it.

Our services.

We try to be a friendly and safe place for our residents and businesses. We provide parks and recreational services, library, street lighting, and property value protection and regulation through zoning. As you have experienced in the past, it is very convenient to obtain building permits. Also, the fee for our business is considerably less than those for Hall County and the process of renewal is very easy and convenient.

Mark Kirves said he ask for de-annexation because he has been told the property is at an economic disadvantage and the reason is because of the zoning restrictions the Town of Clermont can put on the new owner. He said he does not have a contract or a buyer. He said real estate companies and appraisers have told him the property values would not be the same if it were in Hall County. He said he was trying to keep his business surviving and does not have another business to put on the property. He said most of the surrounding property was in Hall County and being in the Town of Clermont puts him at a disadvantage. When purchasing the

property he thought it would be supported by the growing community, but since the community has not grown as expected.

Comments from Sandra Cantrell, Sherry Lawson, and Warren Weaver were not in favor of the de-annexation.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE RIGHT OF WAY 82-2016-04-01: AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 100 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF CLERMONT, GEORGIA TO BE KNOWN AS STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. Mayor Nix gave the first reading of Ordinance 82-2016-01-01. The second reading will April 7, 2016 at 7:00pm.

RESOLUTION 2016-01-10: TEMPORARY MORATORIUM

The Georgia Assembly has passed new laws regarding signage and therefore our town attorney, David Syfan has recommended a temporary moratorium for the next 120 days to update the sign ordinance. Mayor Nix read the resolution. Seth Weaver made a motion to accept the moratorium. Margaret Merritt seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

ADJOURN: Seth Weaver made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Margaret Merritt seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Sandra Helton
Sandra Helton, Town Clerk

James T. Nix

Seth Weaver

Margaret Merritt

Kevin Crump

Doug Myers