

Town of Clermont
Town Council Meeting
January 7, 2025

The Clermont Town Council met on January 7, 2025. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mayor James Nix, Council Members James Castleberry, Marcia Kesler, and Amanda Nix. Town Clerk Amy Lomax also attended.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: James Castleberry motioned to approve the agenda. Amanda Nix seconded, and all Council members present voted in favor. The motion passed.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: James Castleberry led the invocation, and Mayor Nix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINT 2025 OFFICERS: James Castleberry motioned to appoint the following Town Officers for 2025. First Administrator- James Nix, Second Administrator- Seth Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem- Seth Weaver, Town Clerk- Amy Lomax, Town Attorney- David Syfan, Town Auditor-Walker, Pierce & Tuck CPA's, Building Inspector- Ronald Couch, Legal Organ- The Gainesville Times. Marcia Kesler seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion Passed.

MINUTES- DECEMBER 2024: Amanda Nix motioned to approve the December 2024 Minutes. Marcia Kesler seconded the motion, and all Council members present voted in favor. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Mayor and Council reviewed the November 2024 Financial Report.

REPORT: PLANNING AND ZONING: The Mayor and Council reviewed this report.

SECOND READING HARRISON AND JOAN KINNEY ANNEXATION-6351 CLERMONT HIGHWAY: The Mayor gave the second reading of Ordinance 82-2024-10-01. This is an ordinance to annex and bring within the corporate limits of the Town of Clermont, Georgia, all that tract or parcel of land owned by Harrison and Joan Kinney, and being in land lot 33 of the 12th land district, Hall County, Georgia and being Hall County tax parcel number 12033 000014, and being more particularly described by a plat of survey or deed and attached to the annexation ordinance and incorporated herein by reference thereto, and made a part of this description for this annexation ordinance; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes. James Castleberry motioned to approve Ordinance 82-2024-10-01. Amanda Nix seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 82-2024-10-02- HARRISON AND JOAN KINNEY REZONING-6351 CLERMONT HIGHWAY: The Mayor gave the second reading of

Ordinance 82-2024-10-02. This is an ordinance amending the zoning map of the Town of Clermont, Georgia, by rezoning all that tract or parcel of land owned by Harrison and Joan Kinney, and being all those lots or parcels of land located in land lot 33 of the 12th land district of Hall County, Georgia and being Hall County tax parcel number 12033 000014, and being more particularly described on a deed or plat which is attached hereto and, which is incorporated by reference into this ordinance, at the time of annexation as Agricultural Residential IV District (AR-IV) under the Clermont Zoning Ordinance [and currently zoned prior to annexation as Agricultural Residential District IV (AR-IV) under the Hall County Zoning Ordinance], without conditions; repealing conflicting ordinances; to provide for severability; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes. Marcia Kesler motioned to approve Ordinance 82-2024-10-02. Amanda Nix seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion Passed.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 82-2024-10-03: ANNEXATION REQUEST- JIMMY MCDONALD-6359 CLERMONT HIGHWAY. The Mayor gave the second reading of Ordinance 82-2024-10-03. This is an ordinance to annex and bring within the corporate limits of the Town of Clermont, Georgia, all that tract or parcel of land owned by Jimmy McDonald, and being in land lots 33 and 34 of the 12th land district, Hall County, Georgia and being Hall county tax parcel number 12033 000002a, and being more particularly described by a plat of survey or deed and attached to the annexation ordinance and incorporated herein by reference thereto, and made a part of this description for this annexation ordinance; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes. Amanda Nix motioned to approve Ordinance 82-2024-10-03, Marcia Kesler seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion Passed.

SECOND READING 82-2024-10-04: REZONING REQUEST- JIMMY MCDONALD - 6359 CLERMONT HIGHWAY: The Mayor gave the second reading of Ordinance 82-2024-10-04. This is an ordinance amending the zoning map of the Town of Clermont, Georgia, by rezoning all that tract or parcel of land owned by Jimmy McDonald, and being all those lots or parcels of land located in land lots 33 and 34 of the 12th land district of Hall County, Georgia and being Hall County tax parcel number 12033 000002a, and being more particularly described on a deed or plat which is attached hereto and, which is incorporated by reference into this ordinance, at the time of annexation as Agricultural Residential IV District (AR-IV) under the Clermont Zoning Ordinance [and currently zoned prior to annexation as Agricultural Residential District IV (AR-IV) under the Hall County Zoning Ordinance], without conditions; repealing conflicting ordinances; to provide for severability; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes. James Castleberry made a motion to approve Ordinance 82-2024-10-04. Amanda Nix seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

SECOND READING ELECTION ORDINANCE- 82-2024-12-01: The Mayor gave the second reading of Ordinance 82-2024-12-01. This is an ordinance providing for the 2025 General Election for the Town of Clermont, Georgia; to provide for a title for said ordinance; to establish and set the date and time of the 2025 General Election for the seat of Mayor and two Council seats upon the Town Council of the Town of Clermont, Georgia; to provide for the qualifying fees for said positions; to provide for the opening and closing of the qualifying period for said positions; to provide for the appointment of election officials, including the Election Superintendent, the Chief Registrar, the Absentee Ballot Clerk, the Custodian of voting machines, the Chief Poll Manager,

the Assistant Poll Managers, and the Deputy Registrar; to provide for the last date of voter registration; and for other purposes. James Castleberry made a motion to approve Ordinance 82-2024-12-01. Marcia Kesler seconded the motion, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

HB 581: The Council discussed House Bill 581, which established the Floating Homestead Exemption to ad valorem taxes and limits the assessed value of property from going up above the percentage amount of inflation every year. The Mayor said that he had spoken with Hall County, and from what he understands, the County will opt out of the Homestead Exemption and several other municipalities in the County. Although the Town does not collect property tax, it could still affect us in the future. If the Town chooses to opt out, we must finalize the process by March 1, 2025. We must have three public hearings, which will need to be advertised in the paper, and then pass a resolution opting out. After more discussion, the Council decided they would like to begin the process of opting out of the Floating Homestead Exemption. The public hearings will be scheduled for January 21st, January 28th, and February 4th.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Mayor Nix presented to the Council a quote of \$3690.00 from Stripe-It-Right, Inc. to seal and restripe the parking lot at the Grover and Lucille Hood Community Center. Marcia Kesler motioned to accept the quote of \$3690.00 from Stripe-It-Right, Inc. James Castleberry seconded the motion, and all Council Members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Nix informed the Council that he and Amy met with EMC Security this morning to discuss installing a security system and Cameras at the New Town Hall. We have tentatively scheduled the start of the wiring installation for the security system for January 29th.

Marcia Kesler asked the Council if they were still interested in establishing a Nature Park/Walking Trail in the wooded area near the Community Center and Fire Station on Hulsey Road. The Council agreed that they would like Marcia to continue to look into different options to establish the Nature Park/Walking Trail.

Mayor Nix informed the Council that Amy has been looking into the Transportation Alternative Grant. She has met with representatives of the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission (GMRC) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to discuss pursuing the grant for a sidewalk on Oxford Road. We will meet with GMRC again on Thursday morning to discuss it further.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rob Hicks said that he would like to thank the Mayor and Council for their support while he was out of work for his surgery. Rob also introduced Don Boye, who has been volunteering for the Town, to the Council. He has done many metal, welding, and other projects for the Town this year. Rob said he wanted to express to Don how much he appreciates everything he has done for the Town. The Town Council also expressed their appreciation to Don for all that he has done for the Town.

ADJOURN: James Castleberry motioned to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Marcia Kesler seconded the motion, and all Council members present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Amy Lomax, Town Clerk

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