

Regular Council Meeting

October 1, 2024

Meeting called order by Mayor Harley at 6pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Harley.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Mayor Harley stated that there will be a revision to the agenda items. Move agenda item under public comments- item 1-Forest Glen Neighborhood Concerns: Angela “Missy” Ayers, 101 Cedar Glen Ct, to item #7.

Public Comments

Forest Glen Neighborhood Concerns: Angela “Missy” Ayers, 101 Cedar Glen Ct: Mayor Harley

Adoption of Minutes: Blanket motion made by Councilman Bird to adopt minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- September 3, 2024
- September 17, 2024 Council Work Session

Old Business

None

New Business

Karymyle’s Klassy Collectionz-online boutique (owner) Yolanda Basilio, 126 Rock Run Trail, Warner Robins, Ga.: Councilman Armijo made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Introduction New Firefighters: Councilman Bird recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones introduced (4) new firefighters who have successfully completed Rookie School Firefighter 1 training: Jacob Stockholm, Larry Lightning, Mikayla Smith and Kyle Bennett. Currently on staff there are 13 full time and 10 part time full fighters. Chief Jones informed all there are 2 more positions to be filled.

Fire Prevention Week Mayor’s Proclamation: Mayor Harley recognized Councilman Bird. Councilman Bird read proclamation. Mayor Harley presented proclamation to Chief Jones and firefighters.

Forest Glen Neighborhood Concerns: Angela “Missy” Ayers, 101 Cedar Glen Ct: Congratulated the new Firefighters. Thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak. The 1st issue is about homelessness in the area. we are still dealing with the homeless, have had them camping

in our back yard. We continue to request that they are cleared out, however, they continue to come back.

The 2nd issue is we do not want it to be political.

Continue to hear gunshots in the woods in the area, distance is close. The police have been out to investigate and instructed residents to call 911. When 911 is called we inform operator for a follow up from officer, however do not receive. Trying to do things the correct way. Have started a neighborhood watch, want a real true investigation, boots on the ground, looking for evidence of shooting. Neighbors have children and I have a mentally disabled sister. Recommending Police Department work with Sheriff's Office and do a joint investigation. Have lived in the area for 3 years, tired of excuses, want action, tangible action. There is evidence of drugs in the area, do not want them there. Mentioned disabled sister and scared for her to walk to the mailbox because of gunshots. Requesting more information on what's going on with the process. Do not want this to be political, do not want to be a trophy piece. We will not go away, we will be here every meeting, requesting to be on every agenda. Will be meeting with Chief Duncan later, just want to help resolve, want boots on the ground, if you have to park on every end of our block, need to work with Houston, County law enforcement and help get this problem solved. Hoping Mayor and Council step up and get this done.

Appreciate all of Mayor and Council for what they have done, has to be handled. Neighbors are scared, families with young children. How many of you are willing to work with us to help get this problem solved. Serious problem, requesting to be on all agendas this time forward.

Logan Cowperthwaite, 105 Willow Glen, have (4) young children, asked what would you do if you heard shots every night. I go back and sit on property; my neighbor's husband also goes back there. We will try and catch the individual, whether or not we get arrested "cool" as long as our neighborhood is safe. Addressed Chief Duncan stating he has not seen police cars patrol as told, hold him accountable.

Jessica Kutay, 123 Willow Glen, you tell us to call 911, but it takes 9-10 minutes for someone to show up. Don't know if officers are going back on the property or scanning the wood line. Understand that the officers are under staffed. Whenever we call and by the time the "cops" get there the shots have stopped. It only takes one bullet to go through a house, don't want this on your conscience; 10 minutes is way too long.

Melissa Randall, 123 Willow Glen, played video of gunshots that are heard at night in the neighborhood. A bullet went into my house, a few years ago. Have been told different things, possible shooting range nearby. When will the tents be taken down, 10 days to get started once letter is received. Councilman Wright

Stephanie Kutay, 119 Willow Glen, is it common to hear gun shots in a neighborhood. When is it going to be fixed, don't care about the homeless, concerned about the gun shots.

Paschal Humphrey, 112 Willow Glen, taxes are going up, sidewalks are not nice, leaders are supposed to take care of us. Need leadership.

John Snyder, 107 Willow Glen, hit the ground when we heard shots fired, very close, went to door-to-door Brown drive, overhead aerial video, a good place for someone. I am afraid that some of our neighbors will take matters into their own hands, take it seriously.

Sandra Snyder, 107 Willow Glen, a problem is that we talk to different people and hear different things, no one ever knows what is going on. Does anyone know what is truth. Dusty G should have been arrested; dog tried to attack officers. Fearful that someone will get shot and killed. Sit on the couch and wait for gunshots, this affects us. Feel like we are being terrorized out there and something needs to be done.

Mayor Harley, confirmed he has heard gun shots, tries to determine area they are coming from. Sounds like they are coming off Brown Drive. The city is getting so big and we try to cover area, short on Police staff. We have been trying to catch them.

Chief Duncan addressed the concerns about 911 call backs. The dispatcher asks caller if they request contact and if the individual says no then there is none. Confirmed he will be meeting with neighborhood residents as part of the neighborhood watch.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thanked everyone for coming out, does not have specific detail on the situation. Glad they have come out to communicate and show concerns. Want this issue resolved as well. Thanked everyone once again for coming out to the meeting. Cannot do anything unless we know what is going on.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, have spoken with a lot of you about these situations. Have to keep in mind, problems we are dealing with are not always a part of the initial problem. Will continue taking steps and working with Chief Duncan and get answers. Have posted on watch page, spoke with officers. A lot of information that hasn't gone out is trying to find the most teeth to do something and move forward with code enforcement or police. Spoke with Lt White, homeless hanging around access roads, police may not be super visible so might be why you are not seeing them. Have an additional officer in mainly Willow Glen area, trying to catch this person. It might be a number of different people, there is communication among homeless people. We are working with other agencies, will continue to pursue this and get a resolution for this community. Please be patient we are trying; it isn't a simple thing. We will have more details when we meeting with Chief Duncan in the next couple of days.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, we are working together with all resources. Would not want to be in that situation, working to get this resolved.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, thanked all for coming, glad that you have started a neighborhood watch, you will see once we sit down and start strategizing, will get information, not multiple stories or conversations. Neighborhood Watch is a national program we will make some grounds. None of us want anything to happen to your community, understand we do care, will be communicating often and get on track. The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will have cover 5 concerns. There will be 911 dispatch representative at the meeting and you can address concerns re: callbacks. Please stick with us and we can get this problem resolved.

Mayor Harley, appreciate you all coming tonight, recognize the different type of guns being used, we need to get them. Support neighborhood watch group. People come from all over in the city.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Harley at 7:09pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Lee L. Siefert

Date