



## ROBINS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 MEETING

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Dick Pilcher, Marilyn Cook, Roger Overbeck, Brad Sevcik and Don Norton present, along with Building Official Vince Bading, Officer Gary Manhart, City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Pickart, and 3 guests. Norton moved to approve the agenda, Cook seconded and all voted aye.

There were no Citizen Comments. Sevcik moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting; Resolution No. 1217-4, approving a Class "C" Liquor License including Outdoor Service and Including Sunday Sales for Lebowski's Bar and Grill; Resolution No. 1217-5 approving an application for a Class "E" Liquor License; Class "B" Wine Permit; Class "C" Beer Permit (carry out beer), including Sunday Sales for Casey's General Stores; and Resolution No. 1217-6, approving application for Class "C" Beer Permit; Class "B" Native Wine Permit, and Class "E" Liquor License including Sunday Sales for Otter Creek Country Stores, Pilcher seconded and all voted aye.

Robins Economic Development Initiative Chairperson Dean Helander reviewed the 2017 Annual Report with the City Council, explaining there have been several inquiries during 2017 with several relating to 55+ multi-story buildings; assisted living complexes; inventory storage facilities for small business lease; personal storage facilities up to and including RV storage; and Robins Square Mixed Use Zoning for 6 stores and rental/condominium units. He noted the biggest detriment is land availability.

Mayor Hinz noted the current 5-year Capital Improvements Plan along with the Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Schedule was included in the packet for use by the Councilors for the upcoming budget season. He asked that everyone review the documents and be prepared to amend at the upcoming meetings.

Mayor Hinz noted on October 30<sup>th</sup> of this year Amber Barnes of 30 Northaven Drive asked for a variance to Chapter 55, Animal Protection and Control, of the Robins Municipal Code to allow her to keep three pit-bull dogs at her residence. He noted at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the Council tabled action to allow time to consider the request. Mayor Hinz noted along with the three pit bulls, Ms. Barnes also has two Labrador dogs, adding he feels 5 large dogs is somewhat excessive. He noted he has not heard or seen any good reasons as to why the Council should vary from the Code to allow the three pit-bulls to remain. Ms. Barnes noted she read the code relating to pets and vicious animals when they moved to town, but did not think to check under exotic animals to see if the pit-bulls were addressed. She noted they have a chain link fence adding the dogs are kept inside with the exception to go outdoors to urinate and defecate. She asked what kind of evidence the city is looking for to allow them to keep the dogs. Mayor Hinz noted the Council has an obligation to provide for public safety to the Robins residents and enforce the City Ordinances. Mayor Hinz also noted with that many dogs they develop a "pack" behavior. Ms. Barne's partner Shawn noted the dogs are crate trained and are never left outside without supervision. He noted they respond to commands and are much better behaved than most of the dogs walking the sidewalk on the other side of the fence. He

noted he is the alpha leader and the dogs are submissive. He noted most of the neighbors don't even realize they even have dogs. He added they train the dogs via "marker training", adding they all have their own personalities and all have their own way to be corrected. He noted they are companion dogs and are treated like part of the family. Mayor Hinz asked if they ever use physical discipline on the animals. Shawn noted when he needs to get their attention he may have to poke or nudge them to settle down and listen. Overbeck voiced his concerns relating to the fact the city has an Ordinance relating to this, noting if the city waives from the ordinance and something were to happen, the city could be put in a liability situation. Norton noted he feels the Council should review the ordinance as he is not in favor of breed specification. He noted he loves dogs but realizes there is an Ordinance on the books. Overbeck noted there are a lot of statistics relating to pit-bulls noting they are 3-5% of the dog population in the US with 60-70% of incidents and deaths resulting from pit bulls.

Mayor Hinz noted he feels the Council needs to either enforce the ordinance or grant the variance tonight. He noted he still does not know what the variance could be based on. Ms. Barnes asked what they could do to convince the Council to allow them to keep the dogs. Mayor Hinz stated it is the responsibility of Ms. Barnes to present evidence and data to the Council to allow an exemption to the City Ordinance. Cook noted several dogs can climb chain link fences to get out. Cook left the meeting due to another appointment. Pilcher moved to approve Resolution No. 1217-7, Norton seconded. On the vote, Overbeck nay, Pilcher, Norton and Sevcik ayes.

Sevcik moved to adjourn at 6:20 p.m., Overbeck seconded and all voted aye.

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Chuck Hinz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer