



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
January 18, 2022
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Vincent verified with the City Clerk that the meeting was properly advertised to the public; and Ms. Taylor confirmed that the meeting was properly advertised.

Interim City Clerk Ms. Christy Taylor called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Sandra Vincent	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Absent (due to a death in the family)
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present

Others in attendance were: City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; Interim City Clerk, Ms. Christy Taylor; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Deputy Fire Chief, Mr. Dave Williams; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Main Street Director, Ms. Cinderella Bennett; Stormwater Supervisor, Mr. Brandon Williams; Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Joani Clemons

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda, subject to the removal of Item 9 and Item 14. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Thomas seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Reeves requested that it be noted for the record that he made a request that the discussion regarding a moratorium for multi-family zoning be added to the agenda. Mayor Vincent agreed that there had been a request regarding that discussion, however staff has not had an opportunity to review all of the information; therefore, the discussion relative to multi-family zoning was deferred to the February 3, 2022 Workshop.

Mayor Vincent called for the vote. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Varner. Councilmember Ben Pruett was not present for the meeting; and Councilmember Jamal Burt was not yet sworn in to vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance; and the Reverend Doctor Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

The Honorable Henry County Probate Judge Kelley Powell administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Jamal Burt. Councilmember Burt's family was in attendance for the meeting.

Main Street Manager, Ms. Cinderella Bennett presented a request to renew Ordinance 21-01-04(D). The purpose of the ordinance is to allow for licensed Merchants to sell alcoholic beverages which are dispensed into a cup purchased through McDonough Mainstreet Program; whereby patrons are permitted to exit the licensed business with the beverage onto designated right-of-ways within the Downtown Entertainment District. City Attorney Jim Elliott provided that the Ordinance would not need to be renewed annually as long as the sunset provision was removed from the language of the Ordinance. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas suggested that the Council consider changing the times from 12:00 noon to 11:00 p.m., to 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday due to working hours. Discussion continued. Mayor Vincent called for a motion to renew Ordinance 21-01-04(D), with the exclusion of the sunset provision. Councilmember Varner motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. There were four in favor and two in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, Councilmember Burt and Councilmember Varner. Those voting in opposition were Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Pruett was not in attendance.

Deputy Fire Chief, Mr. Dave Williams presented a request to approve the purchase of two fire trucks: one Pierce Pumper Truck; and one Custom Pierce Aerial 100' Platform Ladder Truck, which will be paid with funds previously allocated through SPLOST V. Mayor Vincent clarified that although on the agenda the funding source for Project 9 is listed as Fire Station and Equipment, it should reflect Public Safety Facilities and Equipment; and Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark verified that Public Safety Facilities and Equipment is the correct funding source.

Deputy Chief Williams continued the discussion relative to the request for approval to purchase two new fire trucks. He explained that the proposal is time sensitive, and that the prices will increase by 7 – 8 percent on January 29, 2022, which would add approximately \$127,000 to the purchase prices. He also noted that if the City were to prepay for both of the trucks, that would produce a discount of \$58,000 from the total costs. Discussion continued. Mayor Vincent verified with the City Attorney that he could add language to the agreement that if certain benchmarks are not met, the City would have the right to cancel the agreement. Mr. Elliott agreed to add the language, and he noted that the practice of prepayment is fairly common as it relates to firefighting expenditures in Municipal Government. Discussion continued. Finance Director, Mike Clark briefly explained the process of obtaining SPLOST funds and how they are allocated.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the contract for the purchase of the pumper truck and the ladder truck. Councilmember Varner motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves and Councilmember Varner. Councilmember Thomas abstained. Councilmember Pruett was not present at the meeting.

Agenda Item 9 was removed when the Agenda was approved.

Stormwater Supervisor, Mr. Brandon Williams presented a request for the approval of the proposal from Fox Environmental, to provide technical support services for the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Phase II permit. An analysis to determine costs relative this proposal for technical support revealed that this agreement would provide a savings to the City, as well as an improved level of technical assistance, at a total cost of \$22,000.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the proposal from Fox Environmental, to provide technical support services for the MS4 Phase II permit. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not present. Copies of the proposal to be provided to Mayor and Council once completed.

Mr. Williams also presented a request to approve a proposal for 2022 Water Quality Monitoring for the City's Watershed Protection Plan, at a cost of \$13,093. This proposal will be funded by the Stormwater Department Enterprise Fund. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the proposal for 2022 Water Quality Monitoring. Councilmember Varner motioned and Mayor Pro tem Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not present. Copies of the proposal to be provided to Mayor and Council once completed.

City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott discussed the continued concern about water capacities in the City's water system. He said that after the moratorium was imposed in October 2020, it was amended twice in 2021, and now provides that any one property owner could be granted two waivers for the construction of a single-structure containing less than 3,000 square feet. He noted at the request of Mayor and Council, he has prepared a draft ordinance to extend the moratorium until a date to be determined by Mayor and Council.

Mayor Vincent stated that her recommendation would be to extend the moratorium for an abbreviated period, to allow for the completion of the final report concerning the City's water system. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to extend the moratorium for 90 days. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not present.

Proclamations

Certificate of Recognition in Appreciation of Papa John's Pizza McDonough

Proclamation for Preston Dorsey Day – presented by Mayor Copeland

Proclamation for Ronnie Thompson Day – presented by Mayor Copeland

Proclamation for Wanda Ricks Day – presented by Mayor Copeland

Acknowledgement that Mayor Billy Copeland presented Ms. Trisha Colpetzer, Ms. Leslie Tillery, and Ms. Shelby Ausband with Keys to the City on Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Acknowledgement that Mayor Billy Copeland submitted to the Interim Clerk on December 21, 2021, retirement letters from the following employees:

- Preston Dorsey, City Administrator - December 6, 2021
- Preston Dorsey, City Administrator – December 22, 2021 (Email)
- Ronnie Thompson Public Works Director – December 6, 2021
- Wanda Ricks, Senior Customer Service Representative - December 6, 2021

Mayor Vincent noted that former Mayor Billy Copeland presented Proclamations, bestowed Keys to the City and accepted retirement notices from staff prior to his leaving office; and he requested that each of these items be made a part of the official records of the City. Mayor Vincent also acknowledged the Recognition of Appreciation for Papa John's Pizza McDonough, which Councilmember Varner presented in appreciation for the establishment providing food for 500 families during the holidays.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to make the Proclamations, letters of retirement and Acknowledgements a part of the minutes of the meeting. Councilmember Varner motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not present.

Agenda Item 14, Scheduled Public Comments was removed when the Agenda was approved.

There were no unscheduled public comments.

Executive Session (if needed) for: Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2
Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1)
Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2)

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not present.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Varner motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not in attendance.

Councilmember Varner made a motion to terminate the employment contract of Christy Taylor dated October 7, 2021, and to appoint Ms. Taylor to the position of City Clerk of the City of McDonough, effective immediately, as provided in Section 3.13 of the City Charter, with a salary to be determined at the next Council Meeting; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Pruett was not in attendance.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the January 2, 2022, Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes, and to approve the January 3, 2022, Organizational City Council Meeting Minutes. The vote was five in favor. Councilmember Burt did not vote, as he was not in attendance at the two meetings. Councilmember Pruett was not in attendance.

Ms. Taylor thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the City of McDonough as the City Clerk.

Councilmember Jamal Burt shared his excitement to be a part of the City Council; and he said he is ready to help the citizens of McDonough.

Councilmember Reeves thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting, and he said he looks forward to working with Councilmember Burt.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He noted that Georgia Cities Week will be April 24, through April 30, 2022, and he said he hopes each Councilperson will host a project in their district. He also encouraged the newly elected councilmembers to engage in the classes that are offered through the conferences.

Councilmember Varner thanked everyone who was in attendance at the meeting. She noted that last year on January 19, she presented a Proclamation in Honor of Rico Daniel McCambry Day. She said that since that time, Rico made the commitment to do something on that date each year to give back to the City of McDonough community. She said that on January 19, 2022, they will be visiting Tussahaw Middle and McDonough Middle Schools, where Mr. McCambry will present students with the best essays with gift cards for their achievements.

Councilmember Thomas thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. She said that she has a heart for the citizens and she wants to continue to act as their voice and an ear to hear, to keep them actively involved in the decisions of the Council.

Mayor Vincent said she is honored to serve with her colleagues on Council. She offered a brief update on her first two weeks at City Hall as Mayor, where she has held daily meetings with Department Heads and staff members. She said that while the City is currently operating without a City Administrator and without a Public Works Director, she is excited to work with so many

people who are stepping up to the occasion in an effort to move McDonough forward. She also shared her personal appreciation of Executive Assistant Ms. Joani Clemons for her hard work and dedication, noting Ms. Clemons brings excellence to her job every day.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Christy L. Taylor,
City Clerk

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This is a regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council of the City of McDonough duly noticed pursuant to the requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings Law (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1, et seq). Notice of the meeting schedule was published in the *Henry Herald* on December 29, 2021; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.