



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Workshop
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
February 3, 2022
6:00 PM

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

Mayor Vincent asked that in honor of Black History Month, there be a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Edward Head, who passed away on January 27, 2022. Mayor Vincent noted that Mr. Head was a long-time resident of McDonough and he was instrumental in initiating the voting districts within the City.

The 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	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present

Others in attendance were: City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; City Clerk, Ms. Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Deputy Fire Chief, Mr. Dave Williams; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Stormwater Supervisor, Mr. Brandon Williams; Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton; Executive Assistant, Ms. Joani Clemons; Executive Assistant, Mr. Jimmy Cochran.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda, with one modification that Item 4 be changed to “Pledge of Allegiance” from “Pledge to the Flag”. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Councilmember Benjamin Pruett gave the Invocation.

Councilmember Scott Reeves and Mayor Vincent presented the Proclamation in Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Strawn & Co. Insurance to Mr. W. Norman Strawn, who was in attendance along with family members and staff members of the business. A photograph with Mayor and Council was taken to commemorate the occasion.

Ms. Stacey Wallace, Henry County Housing Rehab Director, and Ms. Marsharn Wilson, Executive Director of National Community of Resources and Development (NCRAD) presented information about the Community Development Block Grants Program (CDBG) to Mayor and Council. Some of the topics they discussed are listed below:

- Henry County has partnered with NCRAD to provide assistance with home repairs in local municipalities to homeowners who meet certain income criteria.
- The program does include a forgivable lien that is attached by the County, with a payment term of five to ten years, depending on the investment in the property.
- Titles on the homes must be clear.
- If County taxes are owed on the property, NCRAD cannot provide assistance.
- We need to get the word out to City of McDonough residents who may qualify.
- We are currently working on a flyer that will be provided for the City to provide to citizens who may qualify for the program.
- Habitat for Humanity works in unincorporated Henry County, while NCRAD works only in municipalities of the County.

Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble presented a request for Mayor and Council to approve the license service agreement with INPUT-ACE to provide video enhancement as a cross-compatibility software program. Chief Noble explained that the software would enable the extraction of still photographs from videos from any file type or format. The Technology Services Department also reviewed the proposal and Department Director Mr. Steve Sikes confirmed that the software was compatible and was previously added to the Technology Services budget. Discussion ensued.

After the presentation, Mayor and Council agreed unanimously on the record to add this item to the Consent Agenda for the February 21, 2022 City Council Meeting.

Chief Noble also presented a request for approval for the cost 25 E-citation licenses to be used on laptops or tablets. Chief Noble explained that the E-citations licenses would allow law enforcement officers to issue citations from their patrol vehicle instead of on the handheld device that has been used in the past. Discussion ensued.

After the presentation, all agreed unanimously on the record to add this item to the Consent Agenda for the February 21, 2022 City Council Meeting.

Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark presented a request for approval for the Impact Fee Program Update Amendment 5, dated September 26, 2017, with Ross+Associates for the preparation of the 2021 Annual CIE Update Report. Discussion ensued.

After the presentation, all agreed unanimously on the record to add this item to the Consent Agenda for the February 21, 2022 City Council Meeting.

There were no unscheduled public comments.

Councilmember Vanessa Thomas discussed a proposed ordinance regarding the Title 17 Code amendment which was previously presented at the April 19, 2021 City Council Meeting. She noted that the previous discussion was more about multi-family developments and zoning issues; however, she shared her continued concerns about ongoing traffic issues, as well as burdens on public safety and infrastructure. She suggested that staff provide a quarterly progression report to Mayor and Council in regards to any efforts being made to mitigate the traffic issues and infrastructure burdens on the City. Councilmember Reeves shared his agreement with Councilmember Thomas' concerns, and he said that he hopes this discussion is given high priority at the upcoming City Council retreat.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Jamal Burt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett did not vote, as he was not in attendance at the January 18, 2022 City Council Meeting.

**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) and for Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1). Councilmember Benjamin Pruett motioned and Councilmember Jamal Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Ben Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Varner left the meeting during Executive Session.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to set the salary for the City Clerk, Ms. Christy Taylor at \$84,776.77 annually, to be paid retroactively to the date of her appointment; and Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Varner left the meeting during Executive Session.

Councilmember Pruett made a motion to authorize the creation of the Department of Facilities and Asset Management; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to appoint Mr. Steve Morgan as the Director of Facilities and Asset Management; and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to authorize a budget amendment for Facilities and Asset Management; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mayor Vincent explained that Fire Chief, Steve Morgan will be making a lateral move in employment to Director of Facilities and Asset Management, which results in the promotion of Deputy Fire Chief, Dave Williams, to Fire Chief.

City Clerk, Ms. Christy Taylor expressed her gratitude to Mayor and Council.

City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Gordon Maner with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Mr. Maner facilitated several of the City of McDonough City Council retreats in years past.

Councilmember Thomas said she feels like the Council got a lot accomplished at the meeting, and she looks forward to continuing those accomplishments into the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart said the City will continue moving forward as it has at tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Reeves thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting, and said he looks forward to the continued progress in the City of McDonough. In closing, he suggested that future meetings should be ended in prayer.

Councilmember Burt said he is proud to be moving forward, and he shared his excitement for the future of the City.

Mayor Vincent commented that she is currently working in the capacity of City Administrator and Mayor, and she acknowledged that there remain to be vacancies in some of the City's essential positions. However, she shared her pride in the City staff and the jobs that they continue to do, and she noted that the City continues to move forward as it should, in a very positive direction. She expressed that the City will continue to operate in transparency and she stressed the importance of citizen engagement. She said that the City of McDonough continues to be the "new promised land", as the Council moves forward in unity and productivity.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 8:51 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 the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.