MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
FEBRUARY 15, 2016
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held Monday, February 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Pruitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Marine Corps Veteran, Mr. Bob Van Dunk led the Pledge to the Flag; and the Reverend Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

The City Clerk called the roll for the meeting:

Councilmember Kamali Varner	–	present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	–	present
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Pruitt	–	present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	–	present
Councilmember Craig Elrod	–	present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	–	present
Mayor Billy Copeland	-	absent

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Steve Morgan; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson, Business Development Director, Mr. Bob Trescott; Media Specialist, Ms. Casey Case; and IT Manager, Mr. Steve Sikes.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt confirmed with the City Clerk that the meeting was properly advertised.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt called for a motion to approve the Agenda with amendments to remove Item 9; and to correct the wording in Item 10, to reflect the Veterans' Support Group instead of Marine Corps League. Councilmember Pruett motioned, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; Councilmember Stewart; Councilmember Vincent; and Councilmember Varner. (Mayor Copeland was not present.)

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

6. A. Approval to award the bid for the Phillips Drive Improvement Project to A&M Construction, LLC; approve the Contract Agreement for the Project Between the City and A&M Construction; authorize the Mayor to execute all documents; authorize Staff to issue a Notice to Proceed with construction. Negotiated contract price will be $1,348,770.10 and will be paid from SPLOST IV.

B. Approval of an amendment to the current City Contract with BFI Sanitation Services, LLC (d/b/a Republic Services of Georgia). The rate adjustment for the fees charged by Republic to the City represents a 4% increase for commercial Services, and a $.02 increase for residential services. The new collection schedule effective April 1, 2016 will be 1 time per week, based on service zones: collection day for Zone 1 will be Tuesday, and collection day for Zone 2 will be Wednesday with residential recycling every other week.

Councilmember Elrod motioned to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; Councilmember Stewart; Councilmember Vincent; and Councilmember Varner. (Mayor Copeland was not present.)

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt called for a motion for approval and to make the Proclamations for Rosalind Bishop Day and Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Day an official part of the Minutes of the Meeting. Councilmember Vincent motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; Councilmember Stewart; Councilmember Vincent; and Councilmember Varner. (Mayor Copeland was not present.)

Mr. Don Ash, Director of the Emergency Management Agency and the 911 Center gave an update on ongoing emergency management measures.

- Police Chief Dorsey and Fire Chief Morgan are instrumental in supporting the operations of the Emergency Management Agency.
- March 12, 2016, an active shooter table-top exercise will be held to focus on an active shooter event at a government facility.
- April 8, 2016, a full-scale active shooter exercise will be held at the Henry County Administration Building.
- The 911 center processed more than 240,000 calls in the last year.
- Henry County 911 received four state awards last year, and has been nominated to receive eight state awards for the current year.
- SPLOST IV funds that were approved for an upgrade to the Public Safety Communications Projects are expected to be awarded on March 1, 2016, to provide better coverage and more abilities to provide public safety.

Councilmember Vincent asked how often the Emergency Management Plan is updated; whether it is available for public comment; and if it can be accessed in an electronic format. Mr. Ash stated that updates are constantly being made to the living document, and that electronic copies would be made available to the Clerk.
Ms. Vincent also asked about the school system's involvement with the active shooter exercises, and Mr. Ash said that the school system is on the design team and very involved with the exercises even though the training will not be held at a school facility.

A short discussion took place about the Reverse 911 Program and how many citizens are currently using the system. Mr. Ash said that citizens can register online to receive reverse

notifications in the event of severe weather alerts, at no cost; and that he would look further into the current number of citizens who use the Reverse 911 system.

Mr. Keith Dickerson introduced Mr. Bob Van Dunk and Mr. Jim Dunn, with the Veterans' Support Group to discuss the potential renovation of the Truman House to be used as a veterans' support facility.

- Habitat for Humanity and Home Depot estimate the costs for materials to renovate the house to be around $131,000.
- Preliminary discussions include possible partnership or ownership of the building.
- The house would be open all day to offer assistance and support for homeless veterans.
- Support will include education on veteran benefits, evaluations, meals, use of computers, and a clothing closet.
- Veterans' Support Group would like to make cots available for overnight stays, if weather conditions decline to freezing conditions.
- Project would be completed at no cost to the City, and would be paid for by Habitat for Humanity.
- Preliminary information indicates that there are approximately 400 homeless veterans in Henry County.
- Veterans' Support Group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, currently located at 255 Racetrack Road, in McDonough.

Councilmember Elrod asked about continued use of the parking lot at the Truman House for public parking, if the project were approved.
Councilmember Vincent discussed the possibility of using the building as a repository for information on all non-profit groups in the area. She also said that the current zoning for the building is restricted for restaurant use, so zoning issues would need to be discussed further with the Community Development Director. There will have to be more discussion before this project can be approved to move forward.

There were no Unscheduled Public Comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 4, 2016 Workshop; and to postpone the approval of the Minutes from the January 29 and 30, 2016 Special Called Meeting, to the March 3rd Workshop Meeting. Councilmember Elrod motioned for the above as stated and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; Councilmember Stewart; Councilmember Vincent; and Councilmember Varner. (Mayor Copeland was not present.)

There was no Executive Session held at the meeting.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson stated that he would be out of town from the 17th to the 24th of February, 2016.

The City Clerk distributed packets for the 2016 Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention and asked that each Councilmember return those to her by March 11, 2016.

Councilmember Vincent said that 30 people from the City of McDonough participated in the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus Event for Mayors' Day; and she thanked GMA and Gas South for making that event a possibility. She also said that a Senate Bill from a Henry County legislator is calling for the county-level seats to be nonpartisan; and she encouraged councilmembers to express any concerns that they may have with the bill.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Varner said that she would be representing the City on February 18th, 2016, in the "Millennials on the Move", at the South Metro Development Conference. Secondly, she noted that the McDonough Youth Council (MYC) had been recognized by Action Food Ministries for their efforts in distributing 25,000 food boxes and 4,500 super packs, in 2015; and she invited anyone who would like to support MYC to come to their next meeting on Saturday, February 20th, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt expressed his gratitude for the staff and the department heads. He also recognized local candidates attending the meeting,: Ms. Holly Veal, who is running for Henry County District Attorney; and Ms. Chaundra Lewis, who is running for Henry County State Court Judge.

Councilmember Varner thanked Ms. Chaundra Lewis for her efforts in supporting the MYA, as a former member of the Steering Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned to adjourn, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. All stood in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Janis E. Price
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 was published in the Henry Herald on December 30, 2015; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.