

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL-136 KEYS FERRY STREET
MAY 16, 2016
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on May 16, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

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

City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price called the roll, as follows:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; and Tourism Director, Mr. Christy Collier

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Elrod motioned, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt led the Pledge to the Flag; and The Reverend Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

Mayor Copeland recognized Ms. Sandi Rivers, who is a candidate running for the office of District Attorney, and thanked her for her attendance at the meeting.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Ratify the Southern Outdoor Cinema, LLC rental agreement and the service/equipment sheet which Mayor has signed for a movie which was shown at the Square on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The cost was \$879.00 which was paid for by the Main Street budget.
- B. Ratify the License Agreement and Release Agreement between the City of McDonough and Baz Brothers Production, LLC dated May 6, 2016 for a film shoot at City Hall on the third floor on June 11, 2016 and in the parking lot on June 12, 2016.
- C. Approval and authorization for the Mayor to sign a Proposal/Representation Agreement from Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson, LLP to review and edit the City's Personnel Policy for current legal compliance and internal consistency. Total project cost not to exceed \$8,600.00 and will be paid from the City Attorney's current budget (FY 2016).
- D. Adoption of a Resolution appointing the City Attorney and the City Clerk as agents for the City for the purpose of accepting service of process in a civil action against the City pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-4 (e)(5). (This is in addition to the Mayor and City Manager/Administrator who are already authorized by Georgia Rules of Civil Procedure).
- E. Approval of an Atlanta Gas Light Company Contract and authorization for the Mayor to sign document for a new 220 ft. gas line to be run at the new Courthouse facility. The cost of \$ 2,138.12 will be paid from the funding for the Courthouse facility.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland presented a Proclamation for "Kids to Parks Day," and stated that he had presented a Key to the City to Ms. Annie Laurie Smith Mobley, 103; and to Ms. Agnes Fisher Beers, 102, both McDonough residents, in recognition of their birthdays. The Mayor then called for a motion to make all three items an official part of the Minutes of the Meeting. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

8. Community Development Items

Mr. Rodney Heard

Rezoning Application – Zoning Map Amendment

A. Home Horizon Hospitality – Avalon Parkway

Case #160301

Applicant(s): Al Patel of Home Horizon Hospitality

Request: C-3 (Highway Commercial)

Existing Zoning: C-3 (Highway Commercial) with conditions per ORD 05-05-02001(Z)

Action(s) Requested: Vote per scheduled **Public Hearing on 05/16/16.**

Municipal Planning Commission Recommendation: Approval per CDD recommendation

Community Development Director Recommendation: Approval, as an alternate recommendation, of C-3 (Highway Commercial) with new conditions.

Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard notified Mayor and Council that Mr. Al Patel with Home Horizon Hospitality had officially withdrawn his application for rezoning. A copy of the letter is attached in the minute book.

Rezoning (ZMOD) Application – Zoning Map Amendment

B. McDonough First United Methodist Church – 131 Macon Street

Case #160316

Applicant(s): Jason Harper on behalf of McDonough First United Methodist Church Board of Trustees

Request: O/I (Office Institutional) with “modified” conditions

Existing Zoning: O/I (Office Institutional) with conditions per ORD 04-03-01004(Z)

Action(s) Requested: Vote per scheduled **Public Hearing on 05/16/16**

Municipal Planning Commission Recommendation: Approval per CDD recommendation

Community Development Director Recommendation: Approval of O/I (Office Institutional) with new “modified” conditions.

Mr. Heard presented the rezoning application for McDonough United Methodist Church. Attorney Warren Power was present on behalf of the applicant, and requested that Mayor and Council approve the application to amend the zoning map, per Ordinance 16-05-16003(Z). Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor; and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve Ordinance 16-05-16003(Z). Councilmember Elrod motioned, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson discussed the Henry County Water Authority’s proposed charge to the City to move the water lines that are in conflict with the road construction for the Phillips Drive Road Improvement Project. Mr. Dickerson stated:

- All citizens in the county pay the 2-mill tax to the Henry County Water & Sewer Authority.
- From 2006-2015, the 2-mill tax collections ranged from \$8,000,000 to \$15,000,000
- No consistency in the amounts collected through the tax since 1968.
- He questioned why doesn’t the Water Authority tell the County to do a rollback?
- No ending time is known for the 2-mill tax.
- Mr. Dickerson’s suggestion is to pay the fee under protest

Discussion continued about the need to move the project forward and address the public safety issues in the Phillips Drive area; however, Councilmembers expressed their disagreement with the fee of \$27,413.55 being charged. Councilmember Vincent asked that the City Administrator

reach out to Commissioner Moss and make him aware of this issue in his district; and she also requested updated information relative to the Service Distribution Strategy.

The issue will be discussed further at the June 2 Workshop Meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve minutes for the April 18, 2016, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor. The minutes for the May 5, 2016, Workshop were not approved at the meeting.

Unscheduled Public Comments

(1) Councilmember Kamali Varner recognized Mary Rozier, who is a 4th grade student in the Henry County School System for her academic achievements, citizenship and community service work and made the following statements:

- Mary donated 260 bottles of water to Flint Michigan to assist in their water crisis efforts with her “Cases for a Cause Campaign”.
- She has had perfect attendance in school from Pre-K through 4th grade
- She received a National Community Service Award from President Obama
- She has completed more than 100 hours of community service
- She thanked Mary’s parents, Randall and Sandra Rozier; and said that Mary was a true servant

Councilmember Varner and Mayor Copeland presented Mary with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mary thanked her parents for guiding her to become a good leader.

Mayor Copeland on behalf of the City of McDonough took the opportunity to commend Mary for her outstanding service to the community.

(2) Ms. Annette O’Banion stated that she had reviewed the draft budget on the City’s website and made the following comments:

- Please consider budget line item for Jonesboro Road Park plan, and provide a green space plan.
- Through her independent research, Ms. O’Banion believes that the approximately 170 full-time employees of the City make an average salary of \$46,480
- She confirmed that the average household income within the City is \$45,263, according to census information.
- The City needs to develop sensitivity to the idea of the tax basis.
- The City needs to promote higher paying jobs inside the City of McDonough through a push for economic development.

At the conclusion of Ms. O’Banion’s comments, Councilmember Vincent asked if the City Administrator used the newly completed salary study as a reference to this discussion and the upcoming budget; and he confirmed that he had.

No Executive Session was held at the meeting.

City Administrator, Mr. Dickerson reminded Mayor and Council that he would be out of the office on the upcoming Monday and Tuesday.

City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price noted that the Ethics Board Organizational Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, at 5:00 p.m., in McKibben Chambers.

Councilmember Vincent recognized the growing Guyanese population in McDonough, and said that Guyana is celebrating its 50th year of independence.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone in attendance for the meeting, and said that he is looking forward to the 39th Annual Geranium Festival on May 21st.

Councilmember Stewart praised Miss Mary Rozier for her continued efforts to serve her community. He also expressed his sympathy and asked for continued prayers for the family of former Fire Chief, Mr. Bill Fort, who passed away on May 15, 2016.

Councilmember Varner thanked Police Chief, Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Steve Morgan; and the Public Works Department for their efforts to make Georgia Cities Week a success in McDonough this year.

Mayor Copeland echoed Councilmember Stewart's condolences for the family of former Fire Chief, Mr. Bill Fort. He noted that the 39th Annual Geranium Festival is scheduled for May 21; and said that there will be 429 vendor booths at this year's festival. In closing, he again recognized Miss Mary Rozier and her parents for their continued dedication to community service; and thanked Ms. Sandi Rivers for her attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. All stood in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 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.