

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL-136 KEYS FERRY STREET
JULY 18, 2016
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held Monday, July 18, 2016, at 6:00 PM.

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

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

Mayor Copeland	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Elrod	Present
Councilmember Pruett	Present
Councilmember Stewart	Present
Councilmember Varner	Present
Councilmember Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; IT Associate, Mr. Brian Linton; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda, with the removal of the Proclamation for Tabernacle of Praise Church because the proclamation was not completed. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Pruett led the Pledge to the Flag; and the Reverend Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

Mayor Copeland recognized Dr. Gordon Baker, the Reverend Joel Stokes and Ms. Shirley Holloway as the members of the Ethics Board for the City of McDonough, and commended them for their service. Mayor also recognized Tax Commissioner, Mr. David Curry, who was in attendance for the meeting.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the following Change Orders to the Contract with New South Construction regarding the New Courthouse Facility and authorization for the Mayor to sign the documents. Change Orders are as follows:

Change to Signage Allowance	\$ (4,269)
Judge's Chamber Wall to Extend Hallway	-
Judge's Bench-Passageway Construction	-
Break Room-Opening for Stove Installation	-
Unsuitable Soil at Parking	8,318
Scope revisions -Fire Alarm Connections	-
Wood door hardware/electronics	6,958
Credit for dumpster area decrease	(5,212)
Alternate Flooring	(2,736)
Credit for site furnishings to be handled by City	(5,000)
	<u>\$ (1,941)</u>

- B. Approval for the Lease Agreement Lighting Services with Georgia Power for Alexander Park on Hwy 42; authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement. There is no charge for lights or installation. There will be an estimated monthly charge of \$64.36 for the flood light and \$23.67 for the replacement light. These charges will be paid from the Parks and Recreation Utilities line item in the General Fund.
- C. Effective as of July 1, 2016, approval of the annual salaries of the City Administrator at \$107,636, and the City Clerk at \$73,000, to be funded from the FY 2016-2017 General Fund Budget.
- D. Approval to add the City Administrator, Keith Dickerson; and the Finance Director, Mike Clark to the Georgia Fund 1 account; authorization for the Mayor to sign the updated Georgia Fund 1 Resolution in which now there will be the three names of the City Administrator, Finance Director and City Clerk who are authorized to deposit or withdraw funds from the account.
- E. Approval of the July 7, 2016, Workshop Minutes.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items A through E. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamation for The Reforming Church 5th Anniversary Day an official part of the Minutes of the Meeting. (The Proclamation for Tabernacle of Praise Church was previously removed from the Agenda.) Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

8. Community Development Items

Mr. Rodney Heard

Rezoning Petition – Zoning Map Amendment

A. Case #160504

Applicant(s): Laurie Burney - The Bridal Company

Petition Request: C-2 (Central Commercial)

Existing Zoning: O-I (Office Institutional) with conditions

Address: 78 Atlanta Street Council District: 2, Sandra Vincent

Land Lot(s) 134 of the 7th District 0.75 +/- total acres

City Council Meeting (Workshop (7/7/16) and **Public Hearing (7/18/16)**

Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard reviewed the rezoning petition. The applicant, Ms. Laurie Burney was present at the meeting and discussed the plans for the business and the property.

- Business will sell bridal wear
- 17 parking spaces to include handicap parking
- Approximately two employees on staff

After a brief discussion, Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor, and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Vincent motioned to approve rezoning petition 160504, in agreement with Ordinance 16-07-18001Z, to rezone the property located at 78 Atlanta Street, from O-I to C-2; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

B. Case #160505

Applicant(s): Zip Hinton - Zack's Properties, Inc.

Petition Request: O-I (Office Institutional).

Existing Zoning: R-100 (Single-Family Residential)

Address: 218 Highway 42 N Council District: 2, Sandra Vincent

Land Lot(s) 124 of the 7th District 1.623 +/- total acres

City Council Meeting (Workshop (7/7/16) and **Public Hearing (7/18/16)**

Mr. Heard reviewed the rezoning petition for Zack's Properties, Inc. (The applicant was not present).

Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor, and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Vincent motioned to approve rezoning petition 160505, for 218 Highway 42 N (218 Atlanta Street) in agreement with Ordinance 16-07-18002Z, from R-100 to O-I; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**9. Discussion and adoption of the
2016 millage rate, at the Rollback
Rate of 4.56.**

Mr. Keith Dickerson

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson discussed the 2016 Millage Rate, at the rollback rate of 4.560. The new rate reflects a reduction of 4.92 percent.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt the 2016 Millage Rate, at the rollback rate of 4.56. Councilmember Elrod motioned, and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

10. Polk Building Discussion

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson discussed an update regarding the renovation of the Polk Building.

- Asbestos and lead paint have been removed from the building.
- Sprinkler systems have been installed.
- Connected fiber to building.
- Mr. Mark Wallimer, a Museum Planning Exhibition Consultant, will come for meetings with the Council and art groups on August 1 and 2, 2016, to make further recommendations for the building usage.

Councilmember Vincent requested that Mr. John Charlot, grandson of artist Jean Charlot be included in conversations regarding the renovation of the Polk Building.

11. Cemetery Expansion Discussion

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson discussed the expansion of the City Cemetery.

- 92 10'x10' available lots
- Each lot will include two burial plots, for a total of 184 grave sites.
- Electronic tracking system is now in place to improve recordkeeping
- Price point suggested is \$1,250 per grave site; or \$2,500 per 10'X10' lot of property
- Rules and regulations for cemetery will be updated.
- City will maintain property.
- Headstones will face eastward.
- SPLOST IV Funds are available for this project.
- Ground tests have been completed and soils have been surveyed
- Will look at adding columbarium down the road
- Sites will currently be sold in 10'x10' sections with two grave sites.
- Single-grave plots may become available as the second cemetery site is developed.

After some brief discussion, Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the gravesite price at \$1,250.00 each. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

12. Unscheduled Public Comments

(1) Ms. Annette O'Banion

- City's property adjacent to Ms. O'Banion's property has been unoccupied and in disarray since 2006. Ms. O'Banion has offered to purchase property to repair it herself.
- Corridor through Blacksville looks the worst that she's seen it in 18 years. Please, focus on looking at opportunities to develop a hub zone there.
- A hub zone will bring employment opportunities for citizens within a 2-mile radius.
- In response to Councilmember Vincent's comments on civil unrest at the last meeting, Ms. O'Banion expressed her concerns about the tone of conversations that have taken place in Chambers.
- Councilmembers set the tone for the City as its representatives.
- Ms. O'Banion stated that she has heard remarks such as "racist"; "other side of the tracks"; and "F the Law" in reference to a video project all used in (Superior Court) Chambers.
- Leaders need to be tuned in and set the tone for productive conversations in Chambers.

- Ms. White is a business owner, who owns one business in the City of McDonough.
- She is also the mother of a special needs child.
- Her child must attend school in another county because there are no special needs schools in the Henry County area.
- Currently raising funds to open special needs school in McDonough.
- Ms. Lori Harris with H.O.P.E. Park discussed the partnership with Our World to open a special needs school in McDonough.
- The first official fund raiser will be “Walk a Mile in Our Shoes,” on August 20, 2016.
- The event will consist of a 1.2 mile walk-a-thon where men will wear high-heel shoes in an effort to walk in the shoes of mothers with special needs children.
- Cost for sponsorship is \$25 per participant.
- Ms. Harris challenged Mayor Copeland; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; Councilmember Stewart; Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Police Chief, Preston Dorsey; and Tax Commissioner, David Curry to participate in the fundraiser.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (1). Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

There were no action items to report from Executive Session.

14. City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk Comments

Mr. Dickerson announced that the official opening of the Alexander Park Trail on Jonesboro Road will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

He also mentioned that online training for all City staff on how to properly interact with citizens with special needs has been initiated.

15. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Stewart thanked Ms. O'Banion for her comments and said that he is working with property owners to get their properties together.

Councilmember Elrod thanked Chief Dorsey and all of the McDonough Police Department, along with their families for their commitment to serving the citizens of McDonough. He also thanked the Members of the Ethics Board for their service and attendance at the meeting.

Councilmember Vincent thanked Chief Dorsey for all of his faith-based appearances this week in an effort to bring the community and the police department together. She commented on the support of Tabernacle of Praise Church in promoting unity, and she offered some personal sentiments:

- Some hard conversations need to take place so that those voices which have been suppressed can be heard.
- We need to find understanding and agreement in an effort to come together and do what is best for our community as a whole.
- Ms. Vincent said that she would be happy to have conversations with anyone who is interested in gaining understanding and/or sharing understanding of a perspective that may not be familiar to their own.
- We need to ask ourselves: Is there something I can do differently?
- Young people in our community feel as though they have been overlooked and left out, which has resulted in movements like "Black Lives Matter".
- Responses to the proposed "Ban the Box" initiative showed that there is no understanding and that needs to change.
- In closing, she said that the answer is to remove fear through understanding and love in an effort to come together in communion of all.

Mayor Copeland mentioned the crape myrtle trees that were destroyed on Lawrenceville Street, which had been planted in 1930. After looking into the situation, he was able to confirm that the trees had been cut by Georgia Power on behalf of AT&T.

In meeting with Georgia Power representatives regarding the trees, Mayor Copeland questioned whether the company would in fact be closing their McDonough location as he had been told by a concerned citizen. In response, he was told that information was confidential; however, it has since been confirmed that the McDonough office will be closed.

After expressing the continuing needs of citizens to be served at this location, Mayor Copeland said that he will discuss this issue and the need for the customer service facility at a future council meeting, and asked that Council support his efforts.

16. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 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.