

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
JANUARY 17, 2017
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, in McKibben Chambers.

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

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price called the roll for the meeting, 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; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; Main Street Manager, Ms. Courtney Whitman; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the agenda, with the postponement of Item Number 11, which will be heard at the February 2, 2017, Workshop Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Roger Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval to surplus the following vehicles from Public Works Department:

1994 Ford F-150 (pickup truck) VIN # 1FTDF15Y7RNB67976
1996 Ford F-250 (pickup truck) VIN # 2FTHF25H6TCA57991
1991 Ford Medium Heavy F700 (dump truck)
VIN # 1FDXF70J4MVA22666
1996 Ford F-250 (pickup truck) VIN # 2FTHF25H4TCA57990
1994 GMC Sonoma (pickup truck) VIN # 1GTCS14Z8R8525361
2000 Ford F-150 (pickup truck) VIN # 3FTRF17W4YMA78554

B. Approval to purchase a KIP 860 Wide-Format Scanner at a cost of \$18,183.00 and will be paid from the General Fund; authorization for the

Mayor to sign the agreement with Konica Minolta.

- C. Approval to purchase four Konica Minolta Bizhub C654c Printer/Scanner Units for \$30,440.00 for the Police Department and will be paid from the General Fund; authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement.
- D. Regarding the upcoming November 7, 2017 Election, approval for:
 - Qualifying dates to be set for Monday, August 21 – Friday, August 25, 2017, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm each day, closing for lunch from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
 - Qualifying fee methods of payments which will be cash, money order, personal checks, cashier checks. (This is the method Henry County accepts for payment).
- E. Regarding the Phillips Drive Project, approval to purchase 30 mailboxes, 30 Post decorative covers, and 30 4x4 treated posts for a total estimated cost of \$2,820.00 which will be paid by SPLOST IV funds.
- F. Approval of a contract between the City and Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc. for architectural work at the Polk Building with the following costs:
As-Built predesign floor plans \$3,600.00
Phase One Drawings \$33,575.00 plus expenses
Phase Two Drawings \$25,675.00 plus expenses.
All fees will be paid from SPLOST IV funds.
- G. Approval to have Georgia Commercial Fence and Construction Inc. to install the following for the McDonough City Cemetery:
 - 9 Granite columns with caps
 - 60 feet (approx.) ornamental steel fence and concrete steps with black coated hand railsProject cost will be \$25,823.00 and will be paid from SPLOST IV funds.
- H. Approval of the minutes of the January 5, 2017, Council Meeting.

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

Councilmember Elrod discussed the proposed installation of all-accessible playground equipment at Big Spring Park, by representatives of H.O.P.E. Park.

Ms. Lori Harris from H.O.P.E. Park made a presentation to Mayor and Council regarding the playground equipment project which will accommodate all children, including those with special needs.

- Playground equipment will be all-inclusive and all-accessible to accommodate children with special needs
- Equipment will be divided into sections for different age groups, i.e.; ages 2 to 5; and 5 to 12.
- Free-standing equipment for activities
- Installing a sway fun, which is a glider that will accommodate wheelchairs and walkers
- Some other pieces of equipment will include a roller table; a disc net climber; a wobble pod; a rush winder; an ozone climber; a ring tangle; chime reach panels; and rhapsody chimes

- Required rubber-bonded surfacing will be installed in fall zones
- Hoping to hold grand opening on March 25, 2017

Councilmember Elrod said that the City will install a new roof on the existing pavilion, provide the grading for the project, and remove the current equipment. H.O.P.E. Park will provide the new equipment and complete the installation. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt asked if the City would be responsible for maintaining the playground area and the equipment, and Councilmember Elrod replied that the City will maintain the park, just as it does all of the other parks and playgrounds within the city.

Councilmember Elrod motioned to allow H.O.P.E. Park representatives to install all-accessible playground equipment at Big Spring Park, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Main Street Manager, Ms. Courtney Whitman presented the proposed expansion of the City of McDonough Main Street District:

- Small businesses can benefit from Main Street Programs and continue to promote economic growth
- Asking City Council to review expansion and approve
- A map of the current and proposed district areas were included in the presentation

Councilmember Elrod shared his support of the expansion. He commented that several business owners on Highway 42 assume that they are included in the Main Street District and have been involved in sponsoring events in the past.

Councilmember Vincent shared some concerns that she has regarding the proposed expansion:

- Typically throughout the state, Main Street is only a block or two from the Central Business District
- Concerned that proposed map will overlap Main Street, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Urban Redevelopment Area (URA).
- There has been no communication with the public regarding this expansion
- Economic Restructuring Committee should be the entity involved in this process
- The Governing Body needs to start the process of communicating with the community regarding what the community wants
- The City needs to look at how to enhance current businesses
- How do we reconcile the responsibilities of the DDA, the URA and Main Street?
- Councilmember Vincent expressed concerns that she and Councilmember Stewart have been left out of these conversations, since their districts will be affected.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt and Councilmember Elrod stated that this issue of expanding the Main Street District has been discussed in previous meetings in previous years, and it continues to be a request from Main Street. Councilmember Elrod suggested that further discussions take place before any vote. He also commented that the Council should make a decision on this issue as soon as possible, so that Main Street can move on to other projects if this expansion will not be approved.

At the close of the discussion, Councilmember Vincent requested that the Community Development Director provide the Council with a copy of the DDA and URA boundaries, along with a list of the Main Street Board Members.

Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark gave an update of the revenues and expenditures of the General Fund; SPLOST Projects Fund; Municipal Court Fund; and Hotel and Motel Fund, for the five months ending November 30, 2016:

- In November, \$2.3 million in property taxes were collected, with 90 percent collected
- \$278,000 has been collected in LOST sales tax
- Revenues for the General Fund total \$7,945,662, with total expenditures of \$5,134,777.
- Excess revenue over expenditures totals \$2,810,885.
- SPLOST III revenues total \$160, with total expenditures of \$17,699.
- Expenditures over revenue for SPLOST III total \$17,539.
- SPLOST IV revenues total \$13,043, with total expenditures of \$1,883,604.
- Expenditures over revenue for SPLOST IV total \$1,870,561.
- Capital Projects Fund – New Courthouse Facility expenditures total \$1,930,337.
- Hotel/Motel Tax Fund revenues total \$477,807, with total expenditures of \$477,807.
- Hotel/Motel Tax revenues have increased by \$17,516, from the previous year.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson made the request that the Mayor and Council approve and sign a Proclamation to make the City of McDonough a “Purple Heart City”, to honor our Country’s veterans. Mr. Dickerson said that the City will provide Purple Heart parking spots at three locations throughout the City, which will be reserved for veterans. Those locations will include one parking spot on the square, one behind the Veterans’ Support Group building, and one at City Hall.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation to make the City of McDonough a “Purple Heart City”. Councilmember Vincent motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

The Discussion of Annexation, presentation of specified map, and adoption of a Resolution to move forward with the annexation project during the 2017 Legislative Session was postponed to the February 2, 2017, Workshop Meeting.

There were no unscheduled public comments.

No Executive Session was held.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated the time and place for the Mayor and Council regarding the upcoming HMA Dinner, to be hosted by the City of Hampton. She also shared information with them regarding their reservations and class information for the upcoming Mayors’ Day Conference in Atlanta. Finally, she invited everyone in attendance about the upcoming Open House for the City’s new Municipal Court, which

will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Open House will be open to the public.

Councilmember Stewart was pleased with the turn out and participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade that took place in McDonough, on January 16, 2017. He also commented on the progress that is taking place at Philips Drive, and he said he is pleased with how everything is coming together.

Councilmember Pruett said that he is looking forward to the Mayors' Day Conference on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

Councilmember Elrod thanked the Mayor and his fellow councilmembers for their approval of the playground project at Big Spring Park. He also thanked the Police Chief and the Fire Chief for their hard work on the completion of the Municipal Courthouse project.

Councilmember Vincent echoed the sentiments of Councilmember Stewart, and she thanked everyone who participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on January 16, 2017. She suggested that the City should reach out to the organizers for future MLK Day events, so that the City can be better prepared to participate in such events.

Mayor Copeland also commented on the success of the Martin Luther King Day events that took place in McDonough, and he thanked the three members of council who joined him in participating. He said that he has been proud to take part in the annual event for the past eleven years.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 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 21, 2016; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.