MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
August 15, 2022
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Council Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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. Dave Williams; Community Development Director, Mr. Charles Reese; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; Stormwater Supervisor, Mr. Brandon Williams; City Planner, Ms. Diane Johnson; Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton, Open Records Officer, Ms. Kathy Story; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Joani Clemons.

Councilmember Pruett gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Burt motioned, and Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Public Comments

- Attorney Nicola Cummings – Street Renaming
- Paul Burt – Southern Crescent Jazz Festival

Mr. Joshua Ash came before Mayor and Council to discuss the importance of spinal cord injury awareness, after losing the use of his legs in a motorcycle accident. Mr. Ash said that every day since his injury, he works “to turn I can’t into I can”.

Pastor Kyle Berry was also in attendance, and he discussed the importance of recognizing the needs of those with mobility limitations while also acknowledging their value. Pastor Berry said that the group plans to hold a Walk or Roll Event, in an effort to bring awareness and to provide support to those who live with spinal cord injuries.

Mayor Vincent said that several meetings have been held with Mr. Ash and the American Legion, to include meetings with Police Chief Ken Noble and McDonough Main Street Director Cinderella Bennett in support of the event. She noted that the route for the event would be determined by the organizers, and that the City will work to ensure that route is a safe route. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Alton Head, Commander of American Legion Post 516 was in attendance along with other members of the American Legion in support Mr. Ash and his efforts.

Mayor Vincent said that the City of McDonough will issue a proclamation for Spinal Cord Awareness. She asked for consensus from the City Council in supporting the event; and all agreed.

Administration **Mayor Vincent**

A. Request approval to enter into an agreement with Brown Pelican Consulting, LLC, to provide assistance with Local Option Sales Tax (L.O.S.T.). This agreement will include the four Henry County cities in a four-way split for total services rendered.

Mayor Vincent presented the request to enter into an agreement with Brown Pelican Consulting, LLC, to provide assistance with L.O.S.T. negotiations in conjunction with the three other Cities in Henry County. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Varner motioned to approve entering into an agreement with Brown Pelican Consulting LLC, to provide assistance with L.O.S.T. negotiations in a four-way split with the City of Hampton, the City of Locust Grove, and the City of Stockbridge; and Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

B. Approval to employ James L. Whitaker, P.C., Certified Public Accountant to provide financial services to the City of McDonough for the year ending June 30, 2023, in the form of the year-end audit and internal control-related report, and other necessary reports to be in compliance; authorization for the Mayor to sign the engagement letter.

Mayor Vincent presented the request to employ James. L. Whitaker, P.C., Certified Public Accountant to provide financial services to the City for the year ending June 30, 2023. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Pruett motioned to approve the employment of James L. Walker, P.C., Public Accountant to provide financial services to the City of McDonough, for the year ending June 30, 2023, and authorize the Mayor to sign. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Varner. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

Technology Services **Steve Sikes, Director**

Request to adopt Resolution 22-189, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Henry County, GA, and the County Municipalities for connectivity into the County's Network System to better provide and execute public safety services to its citizens.

Mr. Steve Sikes presented the request to adopt Resolution 22-189, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Henry County and the three other Municipalities to provide connectivity to the County's Network System to better provide public safety services. Police Chief Ken Noble and Henry County Chief Information Officer Mr. Jamie Pownall addressed Mayor and Council about the benefits of the proposed agreement. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Varner motioned to adopt Resolution 22-189, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Henry County, Georgia, and the County Municipalities for connectivity to the County's Network System; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development **Charles Reese, Director**

Request to approve the renaming of two streets along the McDonough One-Way Pairs due to conflicting names.

Mr. Charles Reese presented the request to approve the renaming of two streets along the McDonough One-Way Pairs due to conflicting names. Mr. Reese noted that in response to the Public Notice for community input; and after properly vetting the names that were submitted, the Community Development Department received total of five names for Mayor and Council to consider in renaming the two streets. The names provided for consideration were Mary Childs Street; Hattie Barnes Street; Cummings Street; Law Firm Street; and Trial Street. Discussion continued.

Mayor Vincent called for nominations for the renaming of the two streets. Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Stewart made a motion to rename the two streets Mary Childs Street and Hattie Barnes Street; and Councilmember Reeves seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Reeves addressed Ms. Cummings thanking her for her continued service to the City of McDonough community and he commended her life's accomplishments. He said he had given this vote much thought, and after learning about the lives of the midwives and the service they provided to the community, he supports the decision to rename the streets for Ms. Childs and Ms. Barnes. Ms. Cummings thanked Councilmember Reeves for his comments.

Mr. Mike Pete approached the podium and requested that one of the Councilmembers nominate Cummings Street as the name for one of the streets; so that Cummings Street could be voted on by the entire Council. Mayor Vincent stated that after calling for nominations from all five names, the motion was made to rename the streets Mary Childs Street and Hattie Barnes Street; and that is the correct process.

Mr. Pete again requested that Cummings Street be nominated for renaming one of the streets, so that all seven members of Council could vote on the name. Mayor Vincent asked if any member of the Body would like to make an amendment to the motion on the floor; and Councilmember Thomas offered a motion to disapprove Cummings Street.

Mayor Vincent shared concern about disapproving any particular name; and she requested the opinion of the City Attorney on the motion as presented. Mr. Elliott said that the only appropriate action would be to amend the pending motion or to move forward with the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for the vote. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development **Charles Reese, Director**
Request approval of the Contract Agreement with The Collaborative Firm to provide Technical assistance with updating Title 17 (Zoning Code) and other related codes; and authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract.

Mr. Reese presented the request for approval of the Contract Agreement with the Collaborative Firm to provide assistance with updating Title 17 Zoning Code. He said after several meetings and discussions, some changes were proposed to the Scope of Services and an updated agreement had been provided for consideration. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Pruett motioned to approve the Contract Agreement with the Collaborative Firm to provide Technical Assistance with updating Title 17 Zoning Code and other related codes; and to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development **Charles Reese, Director**
Administrative Variance:
Falcon Design - South Point Townhomes (333-424 South Point Blvd.)
Request a reduction in the required front setback by two (2') feet, from twenty (20') feet to eighteen (18') feet.

Mr. Reese reviewed the request for administrative variance from Falcon Design, to reduce the required front setback for South Point Townhomes by two feet, from 20 feet to 18 feet. Mr. Mike Crawford was in attendance on behalf of the Applicant, and he said that the reduction in setback would allow for front porches to be added to the townhomes. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Varner made a motion for approval of the Administrative Variance, for Falcon Design, South Point Townhomes for a reduction in the required front setback by two feet, from 20 feet to 18 feet, to allow for porches to be added to the townhomes. Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development **Charles Reese, Director**
Street Direction Change:
Ice Street – Staff has been contacted by the owner of the Planters Lofts to request that Ice Street become a one-way street from John Frank Ward to Keys Ferry St.

Mr. Reese presented the request for a street direction change on Ice Street. He said the request made by the property owner of the Planters Lofts is to change the two-direction street into a one -way street from John Frank Ward to Keys Ferry Street. The property owner Mr. Tony Carter was in attendance and he addressed Mayor and Council about the request. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent called on Chief Noble for his comments relative to public safety; and he agreed that the direction change would improve traffic safety in the area. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the street direction change for Ice Street, from John Frank Boulevard traveling southward to Keys Ferry Street, for the purpose of providing additional parking; and to remove the existing concrete structure, to allow for green scape improvements to the property. Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development **Charles Reese, Director**
Case Number: # 220513 Rezone to R-85 (Single Family Residential)
CC District 3: Scott Reeves
Applicant: Susan Murphy for Murphy property
Address/Location: 56 Cleveland St
Request: Rezone to R-85 (Single Family Residential)
Existing Zoning: C-2 (Central Commercial)
Land Lot(s) 134 of the 7th District 0.43. +/- total acres
MPC Workshop (7/12/2022) MCC Workshop (8/04/2022)
MPC Public Review (8/09/2022) **MCC Public Hearing & Vote (8/15/2022)**

Mr. Reese presented case number 220513, the petition to rezone the property at 56 Cleveland Street from C-2 (Central Commercial) to R-85 (Single Family Residential). Mr. Reese noted that staff recommends approval to R-85 (Single Family Residential), under as-built conditions.

The Applicant, Ms. Susan Murphy was in attendance for the meeting, and she thanked Mayor and Council for their consideration of her request.

Councilmember Reeves motioned to approve the request in case number 220513, to rezone the property at 56 Cleveland Street, from C-2 (Central Commercial), to R085 (Single Family Residential); and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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 Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2; Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1); and Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Mayo Pro Tem Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. All stood in favor.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go to back into Regular Session. Councilmember Pruett motioned and Councilmember Burt seconded. All agreed.

Councilmember Pruett made a motion to authorize the creation of a Communications Department for the City of McDonough; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart motioned to approve the August 4, 2022 City Council Workshop Minutes; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was four in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, Councilmember Burt, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmembers Pruett, Reeves and Varner did note vote, as they were not in attendance for the August 4, 2022 City Council Workshop.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Christy L. Taylor,
City Clerk