

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
APRIL 17, 2017
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, April 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The 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 for the meeting were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; Technology Services Specialist, Mr. Brian Linton; Major Chad Rosborough; Major Kyle Helgersen; Sergeant Jeremy Hobbs; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

Prior to approval of the meeting agenda, Mayor Copeland took the opportunity to wish Councilmember Varner a Happy Birthday; and everyone joined him in singing “Happy Birthday” to Ms. Varner.

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

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

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to surplus a 1990 Flexible Sewer Rodding machine and trailer on GovDeals; Model # HV2060TR/L, Serial Number WMTR 901190.
- B. Approval to enclose part of a city owned building located at 77 Lawrenceville Street to be used as Public Safety Storage Building consisting of 4,000 square feet at a cost of \$ 65,670.00 and to refurbish the other part of the building at a cost of \$ 6,325.00 so that the entire building will have the same appearance. Both expenditures will be paid from impact fees; authorization for the Mayor to sign both proposals.
- C. Approval of a renewal services rental service agreement for the floor mats

at City Hall and the Police Department for cleaning and delivery; fees will be paid by the General Fund.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the addition to authorize the Mayor to sign the document in Item 6C. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson introduced Ms. Cherral Dempsey, Ms. Chandria Brown, and Ms. Krystal Stovall-Dixon with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Project Manager Ms. Dempsey presented an update regarding the One-Way-Pairs Project and stated that this project will begin in about two months around June 16th. Some of the topics discussed are listed below:

- Roadway project to begin at the intersection of Jonesboro Road and Rosebud Lane and will end 400 feet east of the intersection at Postmaster Drive
- Connections on both ends will be constructed on new alignment
- Two traffic lanes will be provided in each direction
- Roundabout will be added at the intersection of Jonesboro Road and Doris Street
- Right-of-way acquisition to be completed hopefully in April, 2017
- Construction will begin June 16, 2017
- Construction time is estimated to take about 30 months
- Notification of Construction letters will be sent out to surrounding property owners prior to June 16, 2017.

At the conclusion of the presentation, discussion ensued. Councilmember Vincent expressed the importance of residents and business owners being notified in ample time prior to the start of construction. She mentioned that the property owners may not be the current occupants, and she wants to ensure that anyone who will be affected by the construction receives the project notifications.

Chief Preston Dorsey invited Major Kyle Helgerson and Detective Joseph Cooper along with his family members to come forward to present Detective Cooper with the award for 2017 Investigator of the Year and made the following comments:

- Detective Cooper has been employed with the City for four and a half years
- Total time in law enforcement is approximately ten years
- In 2016 Detective Cooper made 104 arrests; the most of any detective for the year and one of the highest annual arrests stats by a single detective at the City of McDonough Police Department
- Chief Dorsey also discussed specific cases in which Detective Cooper was instrumental to the apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators.
- Chief Dorsey and Major Helgerson presented Detective Cooper with the 2017 Investigator of the Year Award

Mayor Copeland and Council stepped down from the dais to congratulate Detective Cooper and offer their appreciation for his service to the City.

Chief Dorsey introduced Major Chad Rosborough who gave a presentation regarding the existing drug issues in Henry County. Some of the discussion items are listed below:

- In 2016 there were a total of 503 drug-related arrests in Henry County with 197 of those arrests occurring within the City of McDonough
- Of the 2016 total drug arrests, 197 were for Methamphetamine; 15 were for Heroin; and there were no arrests related to the drug Fentanyl

- In the first quarter of 2017 there have been a total of 182 drug-related arrests in Henry County, with 47 of those arrests occurring within the City of McDonough
- Of the total drug arrests thus far in 2017, 46 were for Methamphetamine; 9 were for Heroin; and 6 were for Fentanyl
- Major Rosborough acknowledged that prescription drugs, marijuana, cocaine and other illicit drugs continue to present issues within the community

At the conclusion of the presentation, some discussion ensued. Major Rosborough said that the City is working closely with the Department of Family and Children Services, the Henry County Sheriff's Department, and the Henry County Court System's Drug Court Program in an effort to rehabilitate people who qualify and have successfully completed the program.

Councilmember Vincent asked if there is a way to gather information regarding why people become involved in drugs, and also if there are particular areas where drug-related activities are more prevalent. She suggested that if we can determine those two things that maybe civic or religious organizations can organize efforts to intervene with the young people within the community. Major Rosborough agreed that it is important for leaders in the community to become involved and make an effort to deter drug use. Councilmember Vincent remarked that as a policy-making body for the community it is imperative that the City Council continues to invest in partnerships and policies that will make a difference. Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent asked about the diversity of the drug-related issues; and Major Rosborough responded that these issues are ongoing across all racial and socioeconomic groups.

Chief Dorsey introduced Sergeant Jeremy Hobbs who gave a presentation regarding the existing gang activity in Henry County. Some of the discussion items are listed below:

- The McDonough Police Department's Pro-Active Crime Enforcement (PACE) along with other Henry County law enforcement agencies have documented over 2,000 gang members in Henry County; and that number is growing
- Sergeant Hobbs' presentation included photographs of different gang signs that are associated with individual gangs
- The number of gang members in the United States outnumbers that of foreign fighters and terrorists in the U.S. by more than four times
- Within the City of McDonough there are approximately 15 active gangs
- Sergeant Hobbs offered pictorial examples from YouTube which depict gang activity within the City of McDonough
- He also presented photographs of gang graffiti on local fencing and buildings and he described the meanings associated with the writings
- The presentation included photographs of gang-member gatherings at local parks and businesses
- Sergeant Hobbs presented a list of recent cases that have been linked to gang activity in the City of McDonough
- Sergeant Hobbs stated that most gang members range in age from nine to 21 years of age

At the conclusion of the Power Point presentation, Sergeant Hobbs played a video of recorded gang activity within the City of McDonough. As the YouTube video was played, he pointed out the indicators of gang affiliation. At the conclusion of the video presentation, discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt asked what the City Council can do to assist in resolving the problems related to gang activity within the City. Sergeant Hobbs asked that the Council continue to support law enforcement and to get the word out to citizens that these issues are growing within our community.

Councilmember Vincent asked about the diversity of gangs within Henry County, and Sergeant Hobbs explained that gang activity is not limited to one specific race or culture.

Councilmember Stewart echoed the concerns of the other councilmembers, and he said that he makes attempts to reach out and speak to the youth, so that he can understand why these issues are so prevalent. He encouraged the other members of Council to get out of their own comfort zones and try to hold conversations to address the problems that the City's young people are facing.

At the end of the discussion, Councilmember Vincent suggested that the City Council should hold a summit meeting along with the other major agencies within the community to figure out a strategic plan to address some of these issues.

Mr. Dickerson discussed an opportunity for the City to apply for a Freight Cluster Plan Study Grant to be shared with Henry County and Locust Grove, and he asked for approval from Mayor and Council. Councilmember Vincent motioned to adopt a resolution to support a Freight Cluster Plan Study Grant Application to be shared with Henry County and Locust Grove, with the 20% match funding for this grant not to exceed \$6,500.00 for the City of McDonough, and authorize the Mayor to sign the document; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mr. Dickerson opened the discussion of the Ethics Ordinance. Councilmember Vincent motioned to adopt the proposed Ethics Ordinance; and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Workshop Minutes from April 6, 2017. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland and Councilmember Varner did not vote because they were unable to attend the April 6, 2017, meeting.

There were no public comments.

No Executive Session was held.

Mr. Dickerson said that he will keep the GDOT plans in his office in case anyone would like to view them. He said that updated information regarding GDOT projects will be posted to the City's website and on social media. Other methods of informing citizens will include flyers and utilizing the electronic message board at the Main Street Welcome Center.

City Attorney Ms. Leigh Hancher notified Mayor and Council that she will be out of the office from Thursday, April 20 until Tuesday, April 25, 2017, attending the Municipal Lawyers Association Conference; and she thanked them for the opportunity to do so.

City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price commented on the upcoming HMA Dinner at the Hazlehurst House on Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. which the City will be hosting. She also asked that everyone to remember the family of Ms. Merle Manders. The funeral for Ms. Manders will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., at Haistens Funeral Home Chapel. (Ms. Manders was the City Clerk for Stockbridge for 35 years).

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt thanked the officers who shared their presentations, as well as everyone else who was in attendance for the meeting.

Councilmember Varner thanked the Public Safety Department for all that they do for the City of McDonough. She also thanked everyone for the birthday wishes.

Councilmember Stewart thanked the Police Department for the presentations they offered. He also thanked those who were in attendance for the meeting.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone in attendance for the meeting. He also thanked all of the members of the Police Department for protecting and serving the City of McDonough, and for taking the time to present such important information at the Council Meeting.

Councilmember Vincent also thanked the members of the Police Department for their service to the City, and for bringing such important information to the meeting. She thanked everyone who was involved in the recent Camp Creek site restoration ceremony. She also shared her appreciation for the success of the Easter Sunrise Service that was held on the square on April 16, 2017.

Mayor Copeland asked about the status of the Summer Youth Program for 2017. Mr. Dickerson responded that only one bid has been received, which is currently being reviewed. He also took the opportunity to express his appreciation for the City's Police Department and their efforts to keep the community safe.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 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.

