MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
July 17, 2023
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The City Clerk called roll for the meeting as follows:

Mayor Sandra Vincent	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Absent

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Steve Morgan; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy L. Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Dave Williams; Interim Community Development Director, Andrew Baker; Interim Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Mike Clark, Finance Consultant; Assistant Public Works Director, Brandon Williams; and Helpdesk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Thomas gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Burt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vincent called for the approval of the Agenda with the addition of Item 8A, to approve the renewal of Courtware. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett motioned to approve the Agenda as stated, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

The City Clerk sounded the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

Consent Agenda

A. approval for the Mayor to transmit Automatic Renewal of the Cooperative Agreement with Henry County for continued participation in the Community Development Block Grant CDBG Program

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Stewart motioned to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

There were no Public Comments.

Ms. Upshaw and Mr. Clark offered a presentation for the 2023 Millage Rate:

- FY 2023-2024 Budget was adopted on June 20, 2023.
- Total General Fund Appropriations - $26,469,079.
- Estimated Property Tax Collections - $5,400,000.
- No proposed increase to the millage rate; the rate will remain at 3.033 mills.

Mayor Vincent opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in opposition; and no one spoke in favor. Mayor Vincent closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the renewal of the Courtware agreement. Councilmember Burt motioned to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

On behalf of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, Peachtree City Police Chief Janet Moon presented Chief Ken Noble with a plaque recognizing the City of McDonough Police Department's State Certification.

After the presentation, Chief Ken Noble presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lieutenant Julia McCaslin.

Assistant Public Works Director Brandon Williams presented the request for approval to purchase one 2023 Chevrolet 1500, from Bellamy Strickland, at a total cost of $46,214.00. He noted that this is a replacement vehicle for a 2012 Ford Ranger, and that the purchase would be funded using Line Item (Vehicles) 505-5.4440.54.2200. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves motioned to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Baker offered a Power Point presentation regarding the proposed Mighty Homes project. He briefed the Mayor and Council on the meetings Community Development has had with representatives from Mighty Homes, to discuss the proposed housing project for homeless veterans; however, he noted that no application has been submitted by Mighty Homes. Mr. Drew Walston was also in attendance for the meeting on behalf of Mighty Homes, and he briefly addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed project.

City Administrator Steve Morgan presented the request for authorization to pay the annual renewal costs to Visual Labs for the Police Body Cameras and in-car video systems, at a total cost of $73,440.00. He identified the funding source as Funding Source: General Fund - Line Item 100.5.1535.52.1301. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruett made a motion to approve payment of the invoice to Visual Labs, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Morgan presented the request to authorize payment of the CivicClerk invoice for annual maintenance renewal of the software used for posting agendas, minutes, and other documents, as well as recording and streaming the meetings to the City's website, in the amount of $13,891.50. He noted that the payment would be funded using General Fund - Line Item 100.5.1535.52.1301 Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to authorization to pay the Civic Clerk invoice of $13,891.50, for annual maintenance renewal of the Clerk's software used for posting Agendas and videos to the City's website; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Morgan also presented the request for authorization to pay the ClearGov total invoice of $25,000.00, for annual renewal fees for ClearGov Operational Budgets Suite; ClearGov Personnel Budgeting Suite; ClearGov Capital Budgeting Suite; ClearGov Digital Budget Book Suite; ClearGov Transparency Suite. The funding source was identified as Funding Source: General Fund - Line Item 100.5.1512.54.2599. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt motioned to approve payment of the ClearGov invoice in the amount of $25,000.00; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Morgan presented the request to add security lighting through Georgia Power, for parking at Hampton and Tarpley Street. Mayor Vincent noted at the start of the meeting that this expenditure would be charged to the Streets Department and paid at a rate of $195.00 per month. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas motioned to approve the addition of security lighting for parking at Hampton and Tarpley Streets; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Morgan discussed the need to install improved fencing around a detention pond at Jonesboro Road and Hattie Barnes Drive, as the State has officially turned the property over to the City. Mayor Vincent noted at the start of the meeting, that this expenditure would total $10,750.00, and be paid through SPLOST IV Funds under line item 325-5.4210.54.1409. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the installation of fencing at Jonesboro Road and Hattie Barnes, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mr. Morgan also discussed the proposed agreement for cost sharing for a Retail Recruitment Services Plan with Retail Strategies. He said the agreement would include participation from the Henry County Development Authority, Henry County, and the Cities of Locust Grove, Stockbridge, and McDonough. He noted that the City of Hampton will not be participating. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to reject the proposal as provided; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was three in favor and three in opposition. The motion did not pass. Those voting in favor were Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Stewart. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, and Councilmember Thomas.

Mayor Vincent requested advisement from Attorney Walker on the motion. Ms. Walker advised that in this instance, the members voting in opposition would be the prevailing party, adding that those voting in opposition can bring the matter back at the next meeting.

Attorney Walker requested that the second reading of the Ordinance Amending Appendix A, Schedule of Fees, of the City Code of Ordinances, for Enhanced Public and Administrative Efficiency be once more deferred to the next meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1); and Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Councilmember Stewart motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Burt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Varner was not present.

There were no action items reported from Executive Session.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for approval of the July 6, 2023, City Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Stewart motioned to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Burt did not vote, as he was not present at the July 6, 2023, Workshop. Councilmember Varner was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Christy L. Taylor, CMC
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 schedule was published in the *Henry Herald* on December 21, 2022; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.