

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
OCTOBER 16, 2017
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, October 16, 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 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 for the meeting 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; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition under Item 7, of the Proclamation for Retired Educators' Day. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval for the purchase of eight police vehicles and equipment relative to the following vendors and cost for 8 vehicles and equipment:
- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Vehicles | Don Jackson Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep | \$180,800.00 |
| Emergency Equip. | West Chatham Warming Devices | 63,093.92 |
| Cameras | Digital Alley | 32,160.00 |
| Decals | Firehouse Graphics | 3,080.00 |
| Window Tent | The Bass Station | 1,560.00 |
- Total cost of \$280,693.92 will be paid from the General Fund.
- B. Approval to pay invoice from C&C Lovejoy, LLC in the amount of \$8,450.00 for a change in scope of work for the Hampton Street Project. Changes included removal of unsuitable material base and replacing with GA DOT required material and striping some parking spots. This cost of \$8,450.00 will be paid from SPLOST IV funds.

- C. Approval to purchase McKay Meters to replace current parking meters on and around the downtown area. This General Fund budgeted equipment item will not exceed \$71,000.00.
- D. Adoption of the second Budget Amendment Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2018 Budget.
- E. Adoption of a Resolution authorizing a “Seat Belt and Safety Policy”; authorization for Mayor to sign Resolution, and Mayor and City Administrator to sign the “Seat Belt and Safety Policy”.

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

Mayor Copeland presented the Proclamation for Radiant Church Day as well as the Resolution in Memory of James Ronald Colvin. He also presented a Proclamation for Retired Educators’ Day and read it into the record. Retired educators Ms. Ann Jones, Ms. Carol Dotson, Dr. Joan Jordan and Dr. Gordon Baker were in attendance at the meeting to accept the Proclamation.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamation for Radiant Church Day; the Resolution in Memory of James Ronald Colvin; and the Proclamation for Retired Educators’ Day an official part of the meeting minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland welcomed Mr. Dennis Duncan, who spoke about concerns of some of the Georgetown residents:

- Mr. Duncan is a board member of the Georgetown Community.
- Residents are concerned by students who are jumping fences and crossing private properties to walk to and from school
- Residents are working to add an eight-foot fence to deter the foot traffic
- Republic garbage trucks are damaging streets with leaking hydraulic fluid and garbage “juice”
- Streets are stained and cracked from the garbage trucks
- This has been going on for several months with no resolution from Republic Services
- Trucks should be maintained and equipped with spill kits to clean up any spills
- Thanks to Police Chief for adding speed detection device to deter speeding

Mayor Copeland thanked Mr. Duncan for his comments and said he shared his concerns with the street damage from the garbage trucks. He noted that several conversations have taken place regarding concerns from citizens, and the City will continue to work to resolve the issues.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson shared his thoughts about the issues with the garbage trucks:

- We have tried to address these issues with Republic
- We may have to put out a new RFP
- The current contract ends somewhere near the end of the year
- These problems have been ongoing and nothing has changed

Mr. Tim Houska, who is also a resident in Georgetown spoke about issues with damage to his property from lawn care services provided through the Homeowners’ Association.

- Lawn service company spills two-cycle oil and gas in front of his home
- Stains are left on the road by the lawn services company as well as the garbage company

Mr. Dickerson discussed a proposal made to Tourism by CGI Communications to create and provide community videos to highlight the City of McDonough at no cost.

- The videos would highlight welcome notices, parks and quality of life
- The videos would be integrated into the City's website
- The company sells advertisements which are displayed around the individual videos
- Most of the work is done through scripting which is provided by CGI
- We want to discuss having the videos updated annually instead of every three years as proposed

Councilmember Vincent suggested that the City should look into the costs associated with producing these types of films, so that the City would own the finished product and be able to control the content.

Mr. Dickerson presented information on the proposed construction of an 8,000 square-foot community room at the 363 Macon Street and 348 Griffin Street location:

- Mr. Dickerson consulted with Vaugh & Melton for costs associated with a brick structure
- The costs to construct the community building are estimated at \$1,250,000
- There is \$500,000 available in SPLOST for Community Development facilities
- \$750,000 would be paid from the General Fund reserves
- The facility could have many uses to include training, Home Owners Association Meetings, classes, etc.
- Mr. Dickerson recommended moving forward with the project

Councilmember Vincent stressed the importance of integrating technology for presentations and streaming.

Councilmember Stewart motioned to move forward with constructing a community room per the recommendation of the City Administrator at an estimated cost of \$1,250,000; and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the October 5, 2017, City Council Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Pruett motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner did not vote because she was not present for the October 5, 2017, Workshop Meeting.

(Due to a malfunction with the voting lights, the City Clerk was unable to see all of the voting lights and noted five votes on the record, later she did confirm with Councilmember whose voting light did not come on that he had voted to approved the minutes).

Unscheduled Public Comments

Mr. Keith Sweat, Chairman of the McDonough Main Street Advisory Board discussed the focus of the Mainstreet Program:

- The Main Street Board should not be perceived as a special event or parade committee, and it needs to become a viable economic entity moving forward
- The board has been going through a recruiting and training processes
- Mr. Sweat has been attending economic workshops
- He appreciates the unified plan, but there is more to accomplish
- Mr. Sweat presented the 2012 LCI Study and he asked for the document to be used as a foundation for where Main Street needs to go

Councilmember Vincent shared her support of the Downtown Program, and she pointed out that some of the items discussed in the LCI were not set into action because of the public's input. She suggested that the document should be reviewed by the Main Street Advisory Board to determine what elements are relevant today before submitting it for approval of Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Elrod thanked Mr. Sweat for his dedication and hard work on the Main Street Board and noted that it is a non-paid volunteer position. He said that he supports the use of the LCI Study as a roadmap for the Main Street Program to move forward.

Mayor Copeland also offered his appreciation for Mr. Sweat and the McDonough Main Street Advisory Board. Mayor Copland also commented that the City had two crown jewels the reservoir and the Square.

Ms. Sylvia Dennis commented to Mayor and Council about the success of the "2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's":

- As the Chair of the "Walk to End Alzheimer's", Ms. Dennis thanked the Mayor, Council and City staff for their support of the event
- To date, very close to \$28,000 has been raised
- A total of 230 walkers participated
- Henry County was the #2 team in all of Atlanta for fundraising
- Ms. Dennis thanked Councilmember Vincent for her continued participation

Councilmember Vincent commented that because the event was so successful, the City of McDonough will now have the opportunity to host its own "Walk to End Alzheimer's".

No Executive Session was held.

Councilmember Vincent acknowledged several senior citizens in attendance at the meeting, and she thanked them for their continued support and involvement in the community.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone who was in attendance at the meeting. He also invited everyone to come out and attend the Fall Festival on the square on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

Councilmember Varner echoed the appreciation for everyone in attendance for the meeting. She noted that she had been nominated by the Georgia Municipal Association to attend the Atlanta Regional Commission's Leadership Institute, Class of 2017. She said that she had a wonderful experience and that she was awarded a trophy for graduating from the course. Further, she invited the Mayor and Council to attend the State of the Region Breakfast on November 3, 2017, where she will be recognized for her accomplishment.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He also discussed some issues with trash on Highway 155 and on I-20, coming into the City and asked if there was anything more that the City could do to prevent the trash problems.

Mr. Dickerson responded that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will not allow for the placement of signs to deter littering; however, it might be necessary to have further discussions with GDOT about the issue since the City maintains the right-of-ways.

Councilmember Vincent also offered comments about the Jonesboro Road Park groundbreaking, and she said she had been contacted by a group of seniors who are interested in bringing pickle ball to McDonough. She said that she would love to have further discussions with the City Administrator on how to go about integrating activities that will serve all citizens within the community.

Mayor Copeland thanked the citizens who offered presentations, as well as everyone in attendance for the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 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.