



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
January 16, 2024
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The City Clerk, Christy Taylor called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Sandra Vincent	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Battalion Chief, Buddy Jenkins; Interim Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Finance Consultant, Mike Clark; Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch; Assistant Public Works Director, Brandon Williams; Open Records Officer, Kathy Story; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Reeves gave the Invocation.

Councilmember Burt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vincent called for the approval of the agenda, with the addition of a Resolution in Loving Memory and Appreciation of Earnest Preston Dorsey, as Item 6A. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Vincent read the Resolution In Loving Memory and Appreciation of Earnest Preston Dorsey into the record, after Mr. Dorsey's passing on January 12, 2024. This document was made an official part of the meeting minutes by consensus of the Governing Body.

Councilmember Darryl Payton made the appointment of Jerry Hayes to serve as the Commissioner of the Planning Commission. Councilmember Payton's appointment for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) will be made at the next meeting.

Public Works Director William VonDenBosch presented the request for approval to replace one Falk gear box and 20 H.P motor on Orbal B due to failure, at a total cost of \$17,880.00. He identified the funding source as Line Item 505-5.4335.52.2200.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the repair, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Assistant Public Works Director Brandon Williams presented the request for approval to move forward with the 2024 Water Quality Monitoring for the City's Watershed Protection Plan as required by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, at a cost of \$27,687.00; and authorization for the Mayor to sign all related documents. He identified the funding source as Line Item - 506-5.4970.52.3850. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mr. Williams also presented the request for approval to purchase a Scag Windstorm Blower (Model: WS23-37V-EFI) from Cambell's Equipment through the Scag Bid-Assist program, at a cost of \$10,654.02. He noted that the blower will be used for maintaining parks, facilities and rights-of-ways; and he identified the funding source as Line Item 100-5.4210.54.2100 Machinery.

Councilmember Varner made a motion to approve the purchase of the Scag Windstorm Blower, at a cost of \$10, 654.02, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Vincent stated that the request for approval to upgrade Community Development's Permitting, Inspections, and Business license applications by Tyler Technologies for a one-time payment of \$24,135.00 and a \$5,000.00 annual maintenance cost will come back for consideration at the next meeting.

Finance Consultant Mike Clark presented the request for adoption of Resolution 24-01-16, authorizing the Governing Body to accept the terms of financing for the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, not to exceed \$9,671,000.00, and at an interest rate of 2.9 percent. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-01-16, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mr. Clark and Interim Finance Director Deborah Upshaw presented the second reading of an Ordinance Creating a McDonough Public Safety Special Service District to Enhance Public Safety within the City. Prior to the presentation, Mayor Vincent reiterated that this Ordinance has been drafted to address disparities in Public Safety salaries within the City as compared to

neighboring agencies. She also noted that the original Ordinance presented for review contained language that would be stricken, as follows:

“WHEREAS, in order to promote and enhance public safety, the City has determined that it is in the best interest of the City ~~and the citizens and residents of the City~~ its residents and visitors that a special service district be created encompassing the geographic limits of the City, for the purposes of providing and enhancing public safety services within the City ~~and to construct and maintain facilities therefore~~, as authorized under Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6 of the Georgia Constitution; and”

Mayor Vincent noted that item 14 on the agenda is contingent on the adoption of Ordinance 24-01-16 Creating a McDonough Public Safety Special Service District to Enhance Public Safety within the City. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Clark and Ms. Upshaw then offered a Power Point Presentation related to the establishment and approval of a millage rate of \$1 Mill to promote and enhance Public Safety Services within the Special Service District (SSD) for the fiscal year 2024-2025 as follows:

- Public Safety – Police \$.616 Mills
- Public Safety – Fire \$.384 Mills

Mr. Clark noted that there is an approximate \$10,000 difference in the starting salaries of neighboring public safety agencies and the City of McDonough. He explained the establishment of this millage rate will assist in retention of current employees, filling vacancies, as well as funding additional positions in Public Safety. Mayor Vincent noted for the record that these funds can only be utilized for Public Safety salaries. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve a millage rate of \$1 Mill to promote and enhance Public Safety Services within the Special Service District (SSD) for the fiscal year 2024-2025 as follows: Public Safety – Police receiving \$.616 Mills; and Public Safety – Fire receiving \$.384 Mills; all funds designated for salaries only.

Mayor Vincent offered a friendly amendment to the motion for the adoption of Ordinance 24-01-16, Creating a McDonough Public Safety Special Service District; and Councilmember Reeves agreed to the amendment. Councilmember Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor.

City Clerk, Christy Taylor presented the request for authorization to pay the invoice from Henry County Elections & Voter Registration for the November 7, 2023, Municipal Elections, in the amount of \$15,049.73. She identified the funding source as Line Item 100-5.1330.53.1790.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

No Executive Session was held.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for approval of the December 11, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Varner made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Payton was not yet sworn at the December 11, 2023, City Council Meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for approval of the December 19, 2023, Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was four in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Reeves were not present; and Councilmember Payton was not yet sworn at the December 19, 2023, Special Called Meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for the approval of the January 2, 2024, Organizational City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Christy L. Taylor,
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 02, 2023; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.