



**MINUTES**  
**City of McDonough**  
**City Council Meeting**  
McKibben Chambers City Hall  
136 Keys Ferry Street  
April 15, 2024  
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Vincent called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Edward M. Copeland, III.

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

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

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Steve Morgan; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief Ken Noble; Fire Chief Dave Williams; Interim Community Development Director, Andrew Baker; Human Resources Director, LaTangela Hill; Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Finance Consultant, Mike Clark; Open Records Officer, Kathy Story.

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

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the agenda, with the deferral of Item 15, Case #240201 Heritage Montessori School, until after the Town Hall for District 3 can be held, on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda with the deferral, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent from the meeting.

The City Clerk sounded the Consent Agenda, as follows:

**6A. Administration**

**Steve Morgan, City Administrator**

Request approval to pay the annual contract amount to Otis Elevator Company for regular service maintenance from April 01, 2024, through March 31, 2025, for \$14,745.36. Funding Source: Line Item - 100-5.1565.52.2240.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

**Public Comments**

1. Gail Murtha shared concerns related to the proposed Montessori school at Judy Drive.
2. Taira Castora confirmed the time of the upcoming Town Hall Meeting as 6:00 p.m.
3. Angel Marrero said he would provide his statements at the Town Hall Meeting.
4. Sheila Green shared concerns related to the proposed Montessori school.

Solicitor Pam Bettis recognized the City of McDonough Police Department for their continued hard work and dedication to the community.

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation Recognizing May 2024 as Tennis Month to members of Above the Net Tennis Club, who were in attendance for the meeting.

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation to the principal and a Member of the Board of Our World School, recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of McDonough.

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month to the McDonough Fire Department, announcing the naming of the new aerial truck at Station 52 as H.A.N.K. (Highlighting Autism Awareness and Knowledge).

The Mayor and Council presented the Proclamation Honoring the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W.D. Lemon and Sons Funeral Home, to the Lemon Family.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 24-04-15, recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 21 – 27, 2024, and encouraging all citizens to support the celebration and corresponding activities. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to adopt the Resolution, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

Mayor Vincent called for the adoption of Resolution 24-04-15.1, the City Council of the City of McDonough Expressing Awareness and Commitment to Transparency and Upholding the First Amendment Rights. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to adopt the Resolution, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

City Administrator Steve Morgan presented the request for approval to award the Solid Waste Sanitation bid to Republic Services at an annual increase of 4.5% for five years, and for authorization for the Mayor to sign all required documents. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas requested copies of the other bids that were received. This item was deferred to the May 2, 2024, City Council Workshop.

Mr. Morgan then presented a proposal to increase the Water/Sewer/Sanitation fee structure to collect sufficient revenue for the daily operation and maintenance of our water, sewer facilities and sanitation collections to increase efficiency and to meet compliance and regularity standards. Discussion ensued. It was determined that this item would also be brought back at the May 2, 2024, City Council Workshop for further consideration.

Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch presented the request for authorization for StreetScan to perform sidewalk asset management and ADA ramp management on all the City's sidewalks and ramps, at a total cost of \$74,817.00. He identified the Funding Source as Line Item - 326-5.4210.54.1401 SPLOST V – Sidewalks. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

Finance Consultant, Mike Clark presented the request to hold the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update Public Hearing; and to adopt Resolution 24-04-15.2, authorizing the transmittal of a Draft Capital Improvements Elemental Annual Update Report for 2024 to the Atlanta Regional Commission for Regional and State review.

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 adopt Resolution 24-04-15.2, authorizing the transmittal of a Draft Capital Improvements Elemental Annual Update Report for 2024 to the Atlanta Regional Commission for Regional and State review. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

At the request of the Applicant, Item 15, case number 240201, for Heritage Montessori School was deferred when the agenda was approved.

Interim Community Development Director, Mr. Andrew Baker reviewed case 240204, the request for a zoning modification with conditions, to allow an open-air dining/retail park at 2050 Avalon Parkway, POD T. The Applicant, Ms. Tan Bowers was in attendance, and she offered a Power Point presentation of the proposed project. She also noted that she has an agreement from the property owner of POD V, to lease that property for over-flow parking as well. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent opened the Public Hearing. Ms. Sylvia Holmes spoke in opposition. Ms. Montana Young Frazier spoke in support. It was noted that three other citizens were in attendance to speak in support; however, they left the meeting before the Public Hearing. Mayor Vincent closed the Public Hearing. Councilmember Thomas stated she was opposed to the location of the proposed project. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve case number 240204, for a period of one year and to allow for up to 20 vendors and no more than ten food trucks, with other conditions as recommended. Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor and one in opposition. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Thomas voted in opposition. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent from the meeting.

It was noted for the record that Item 17, case number 240205, for Lake Dow Self Storage had been deferred for 30 days at the request of the Applicant.

No Executive Session was held.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the approval of the April 4, 2024, City Council Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was absent.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:02 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 02, 2023; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.