



MINUTES
City of McDonough
Special-Called City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
May 6, 2024
10:00 AM

A Special Called City Council Meeting was held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Mayor Sandra Vincent	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	(Arrived after the start of the meeting)
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; Interim Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Assistant Public Works Director, Brandon Williams; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Stewart gave the Invocation.

Councilmember Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Stewart 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 not present for the vote.

City Attorney Emilia Walker made a presentation regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for a Housing Rehab Program. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the Clerk's Office). Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to authorize the City Attorney to move to the next step of compiling program information and details in preparation for the June 17, 2024, City Council

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

City Administrator Steve Morgan discussed the Capital Improvements Element (CIE), and he said that the most recent CIE shows that the City needs more parks. He said that there also need to be decisions on how to move forward with developing the City's existing parks, such as Geranium Park, which has been designated a passive park.

Mayor Vincent discussed the possibility of adding a Parks Department to oversee the maintenance of the passive parks and the City Cemetery. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to establish a Parks Department, to include the City Cemetery, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Assistant Public Works Director, Brandon Williams discussed playground resurfacing. He noted that the options for mulch on the playgrounds include EPDM mulch, which is poured into place, and rubber bonded mulch, which is more cost effective and has a three-year warranty. He said he obtained two quotes for rubber bonded mulch; one for \$76,000.00, as presented at the retreat; and another quote that came in at \$94,706.95, versus the costs associated with EPDM mulch, which were approximately \$116,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to authorize the use of rubber bonded mulch to complete playground resurfacing at Rufus Stewart Park, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor and one in opposition. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Thomas voted in opposition.

Mr. Morgan then brought forth the SPLOST Projects Discussion. He said that SPLOST VI will begin in March 2025; however, the percentages for the split have not yet been determined. Mayor Pro Tem Varner said she would like to see some of the SPLOST funds used to construct a public restroom near the square. Councilmember Thomas asked if streetlights could be paid with SPLOST funds. Discussion ensued.

It was determined by consensus that council members will submit their wish lists for SPLOST VI projects by May 13, 2024.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 12:16 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 was provided to the *Henry Herald* on April 30, 2024; and a copy the meeting notice was

posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Guiding Principle: Fiscal Responsibility, Accountability, Transparency