



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Workshop
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
October 3, 2024
6:00 PM

Mayor Sandra 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 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: Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Dave Williams; Interim Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Finance Consultant, Mike Clark; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Barbara Coleman, Connecting Henry; and Help Desk Technician, Robinson Monnelus.

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

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda, with the addition of two items: Item 8B, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Resolution; and Item 9A, an emergency request to obtain bids for a wing wall repair at 715 Industrial Boulevard. Councilmember Stewart motioned to approve the agenda as stated, 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 not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows: Approval of the September 16, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, 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 not present for the vote.

Public Comments:

1. Doctor Ella Thompson – The City needs Pickleball at Richard Craig Park
2. Karen David – Willow Place
3. Eddie Porter – Handicap residents need sidewalk improvements

Mayor Vincent noted that Proclamations Honoring Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month; Fulgencio and Elizabeth Santos - Santos Taqueria Express; Tanisha Brown - BrokeCan Inc.; Bishop Timothy J. McBride; and a Key to the City to Bishop Michael Strickland were presented on behalf of the City of McDonough.

The Governing Body then presented the Proclamation Recognizing Leo and Vanessa Hernandez - Leo's Café, to Mr. Leo Hernandez and members of his family and team who were in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Vincent read the Proclamation Honoring Judge Wade Crumbley into the record, and a video tribute was played honoring Judge Crumbley. After the presentation, Mayor Vincent called for a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution 24-10-03, naming the soccer mini pitch at Alexander Park East for Judge Wade Crumbley.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the naming of the soccer mini pitch at Alexander Park East for Judge Wade Crumbley, 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 not present for the vote.

Nick Anderson with Dominionium addressed the Governing Body regarding issues with the water bills at Willow Place. He said that the third-party billing company made an error in the rate, which impacted the residents' bills; however, those corrections have now been made and those residents have been refunded or credited for those overages. He also noted that a meeting with residents to discuss any other issues has been scheduled for October 11, at 5:30 p.m. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to amend the agenda to present a Proclamation Recognizing Professor David Bishop, who had arrived at the meeting. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the amendment to the agenda, 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 not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent read the Proclamation Honoring Professor David Bishop, and the Governing Body presented the Proclamation to Professor Bishop.

Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch presented an emergency request to obtain bids for a wing wall repair at 715 Industrial Boulevard. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the request to obtain bids for a wing wall repair at 715 Industrial Boulevard, 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 not present for the vote.

Bill Ross with Ross+Associates reviewed the Draft Capital Improvements Element Amendment pertaining to the City's Impact Fee Program. 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 24-10.03.1, authorizing the transmittal of a Draft Capital Improvements Element Amendment pertaining to the City's Impact Fee Program to the Atlanta Regional Commission for regional and state review. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mike Clark offered a Power Point presentation, reviewing the status of unobligated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the Clerk's Office) He said that there will be a virtual meeting on October 10, to review the status of obligated funds; and that any funds that are not obligated by December 31, 2024, would be requested to be returned to the federal government. Discussion ensued.

Barbara Coleman with Connecting Henry addressed the Governing Body about the Health and Human Services Department, which services the City of McDonough. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion fund Connecting Henry in the amount of \$300,000.00; and to authorize the Mayor to sign a Resolution in support. Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve up to \$10,000.00, to the Department of Human Services with respect to City fee exemption purposes, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

William VonDenBosch presented the request for approval for the purchase of one 2024 Chevrolet 1500 Double Cab from Bellamy Strickland, for the Parks Director, at a cost of \$41,364.00. He identified the funding source as Line Item 100-5.6220.54.2200 Capital Outlay, and he noted that this item was approved in the FY 24-25 budget.

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

Mayor Vincent reviewed the request for approval for the purchase and installation of six EV charging stations and six chargers with three pedestals from ENVIROSPARK, at a cost of \$17,510.00. She noted the funding source as Line Item – 100-5.4210.54.2599. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Reeves questioned the location of the charging stations, and Mayor Vincent advised that while one charger will be at the Public Works Building, the others will go into parks.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of six EV charging stations, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker offered a presentation on the concept of trollies in the City of McDonough. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the Clerk's Office) The presentation included proposed routes, expenses for maintenance and staffing, and examples of other Georgia cities with trollies. Mr. Baker noted that the cost of each trolley is approximately \$250,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves commented that he believed a test run would be helpful before making a decision to purchase the trollies. He added that no other quotes have been obtained, nor have any discussions taken place with the Main Street Board, Tourism, or any other local entities. Mayor Vincent said that the presentation was provided in response to a request for more information about the trollies, and it was time to put the issue to a vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the purchase of two trollies, as presented. Councilmember Reeves put forth a motion to deny the request for the purchase of the trollies at this time. There was no second to the motion. The motion died. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Payton made a motion to approve the purchase of two trollies to be purchased with ARPA funds. Mayor Vincent seconded and offered a friendly amendment to the motion that the authorization to move forward with the purchase not to exceed \$250,000.00 each. Councilmember Payton agreed to the amendment to the motion. The vote was four in favor and three in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Reeves and Councilmember Stewart voted in opposition.

Councilmember Reeves requested a roll call vote. The City Clerk called roll for the vote, as follows:

- Councilmember Thomas – In favor.
- Mayor Pro Tem Varner – In opposition.
- Councilmember Stewart – In opposition.
- Mayor Vincent – In favor.
- Councilmember Payton – In favor.
- Councilmember Reeves – In opposition.
- Councilmember Burt – In favor.

City Attorney Emilia Walker presented a request for authorization for Mayor to Execute an Agreement Granting Right of First Refusal for 108 Jonesboro Street. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement Granting Right of First Refusal for 108 Jonesboro Street, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

No Executive Session was held.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 10:10 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 2, 2023; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.