MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
November 18, 2024
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor 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	Absent
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Steve Morgan; Attorney Michael Huening, on behalf of Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Dave Williams; Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; Community Development Director, Sylvia Smith; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedidie; Human Resources Director, LaTangela Hill; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; City Planner, Bill Spivey; and Planning Tech, Tina Tebo.

Councilmember Reeves gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Payton led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

The City Clerk sounded the Consent Agenda as follows:

6A. Technology Services **Brian Linton, Director**
Request for approval to pay the Civic Plus invoice in the amount of $11,017.46.

6B. **Public Works** **William VonDenBosch Director**
Request approval to Replace 700’ of water main on the McDonough Parkway project, for Consolidated Pipe to provide materials at a cost of $45,604.30; and RDHE to provide labor at a cost of $138,700.00, for a total project cost of $184,304.30. Funding Source: SPLOST IV Project 15

6C. Public Works **William VonDenBosch Director**
Request for approval to build a storage building for water/sewer pipes and supplies, at a cost of $27,880.00. Funding Source: SPLOST V – Project 23

6D. Public Safety
Authorization for the Mayor to sign a Resolution and Agreement with GIRMA to provide PTSD insurance for first responders, as is required by House Bill 451, at a cost of $12,778.00 per year.

6E. Public Works **Steve Morgan**
Request approval to go out for bids for crack filling on Jonesboro Road from Kelly Rd to Rosebud Lane. Approx 12,144 linear road feet (double lane). Funding Source: SPLOST V

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as sounded, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner arrived after the vote; and Councilmember Stewart was absent from the meeting.

No public comments were offered.

Mayor Vincent noted for the record that a Proclamation Honoring Michelle Amarra was presented on November 8, 2024.

Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedidie presented the engagement letter of Mr. James L. Whitaker, P.C., Certified Public Accountant, and requested approval for authorization to engage Mr. Whitaker for auditing services for for FY 2023-2024. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the engagement of Mr. James L. Whitaker, for auditing services for FY 2023-2024; and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner arrived after the vote; and Councilmember Stewart was absent from the meeting.

Police Chief Ken Noble presented a request for approval to purchase three (3) 2025 Kia Telluride LX and two (2) 2024 EV6 Light Range RWD vehicles for the McDonough Police Department from Hutchinson Kia in Macon, Ga; and the equipment will come from West Chatham Warning Devices in Savannah, Ga., for a total cost of $209,395.15. He identified the funding source as ARPA Fund- Public Safety. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the purchase of three (3) 2025 Kia Telluride LX and two (2) 2024 EV6 Light Range RWD vehicles for the McDonough Police Department from Hutchinson Kia in Macon, Ga; and the equipment will come from West Chatham Warning Devices in Savannah, Ga., for a total cost of $209,395.15, utilizing ARPA Funds; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner arrived after the vote; and Councilmember Stewart was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Robert Reichert offered a presentation requesting the City of McDonough's participation in the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition. Mr. Reichert discussed the development of an Atlanta to Savannah high performance intercity passenger rail system, which requires an annual contribution of $2,000.00 for Municipalities to participate. A copy of his presentation is filed with the Clerk's Office.

Human Resources Director, Latangela Hill reviewed the findings and recommendations of the Classification and Compensation Study. She noted that the results provided for an $18 minimum wage for the City of McDonough. She presented the request for the adoption of the proposed pay plan with competitive pay rates, which includes the reassignment of some positions. Ms. Hill noted that all employees will receive letters detailing their salary, title and pay grade. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the pay increases as proposed for 191 employees, to adopt the Hybrid Parity, move Executives to Midpoint; and to include the pay equity adjustment; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Human Resources Director, Latangela Hill presented a request outlining policy changes related to Holiday Pay, Blood Donations and Compensatory Pay. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the policy changes related to Holiday Pay, Blood Donations, and Compensatory Pay; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch presented the request for approval to reimburse water customers For property damage caused by air in a service line totaling $9,401.63. He offered that additional damage has been reported by a homeowner who had been out of town when the issue occurred; therefore, the total amount for damages will be determined as that property is assessed. He identified the funding source as Water Distribution. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to authorize the reimbursement to water customers for property damage caused by air in service line; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Community Development Director Sylvia Smith noted that case number 240205, for Lake Dow Self Storage was withdrawn by the Applicant, and will need to be readvertised for a future hearing.

Director Smith noted that case # 240902, Shoppes Lane Gas Station has also been postponed by the Applicant, to 2025.

Director Smith also announced that case 240901, Andy Welch for Hardeman property has also been postponed by the Applicant, until 2025. This case will have to be readvertised.

City Planner, Bill Spivey presented an updated draft of the Text Amendment to amend and update the Zoning Code (Chapter 17) and the Zoning Map. He noted that there are still some revisions which need to take place before the final draft is presented for approval at the December 16, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Planning Tech, Tina Tebo then discussed proposed changes to the fees associated with zoning petitions, to increase all fees to $75; and include a re-advertisement fee of $300.00, for items that are postponed or withdrawn by the Applicant.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to postpone the approval of the Title 17 amendments to the December 16, 2024, City Council Meeting; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

City Clerk, Christy Taylor presented the draft 2025 Holiday Schedule for consideration by the Mayor and Council. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Varner made the recommendation that the schedule be amended include the addition of New Year's Eve. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule with the addition of New Year's Eve, and to include the observation of that holiday in 2024, and in perpetuity thereafter; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Taylor also presented the draft 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule, for approval. It was recommended by Councilmember Thomas that the July 2025 Workshop be moved to July 1, 2025. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule, as presented with the change of the July 2025 Workshop from July 3, 2025, to July 1, 2025; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Reeves made his nomination of Brian Shuler to the Planning Commission, and Charles Piersaul to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Vincent called for the Adoption of a Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of McDonough. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to adopt Resolution Promoting Civility, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go into Executive Session (if needed) for Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2; Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1); and Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Mayor Pro Tem Varner motioned, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Varner motioned, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to adopt a Resolution for the City of McDonough to authorize participation in Amicas Brief the Chang vs. City of Milton appeal before the Court of Appeals of the Supreme Court of Georgia; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were

Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:42 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.