

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
JUNE 18, 2018
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, June 18, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance for the meeting were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Pruitt led the Pledge to the Flag; and the Reverend Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Ratify the application for funding submitted by the City for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program, Project Title: The City of McDonough Community Revitalization Planning Grant.
- B. Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute applications seeking State and Federal Grants, subject to final approval of any successful awards by the Governing Authority.
- C. Approval to authorize payment to ComTech for ten interior doors located at City Hall to be furnished with access control using key fobs at a cost of \$20,000.00 which will be paid from the General Fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner invited Councilmember Vincent to present the Proclamation for Caribbean Heritage Month; however, the Vice President of the Association had not arrived for the meeting, so she asked that the presentation be deferred until later in the meeting if possible.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for a motion to make the Proclamation for Caribbean Heritage Month an official part of the meeting minutes. Councilmember Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson reviewed the 2018-2019 budget. Some of the items he highlighted are listed below:

- Increase in total expenditures in the FY 2018 General Fund of \$764,140
- Total budget for all City funds is \$27,658,815
- Increase in Hotel/Motel Fund Revenue of \$261,602, as of May 31
- Insurance Premium Tax Revenue has increased \$88,842
- Looking at a preliminary millage rate of 4.155 down from the current rate of 4.299

Mayor Pro Tem Varner opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor; and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Pro Tem Varner closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for a motion to adopt the FY 2018-2019 Budget and the Resolution; and authorize the Mayor to sign. Councilmember Vincent motioned, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Dickerson discussed the limited accessibility to the schools that are being built on Postmaster Drive, with one entrance and one exit. He expressed the need to study road-improvement plans for the intersection with the County and the State:

- The 90-degree turn at the end of Postmaster Drive will not work for the schools
- The Board of Education has no responsibility to improve the intersection
- Want to create discussion regarding the needed road improvements and attempting to obtain help from the County and the State
- Possibility of another roundabout to address the issue

Councilmember Vincent shared her concern in learning that the Board of Education has no responsibility to improve the intersection, especially as it relates to safety of the students. She asked Mr. Dickerson to look into whether the Safe Routes for School Program is still active, to help in getting sidewalks and crosswalks for students. Councilmember Pruitt also shared his concerns that the Board of Education is not responsible for any of the needed improvements. Councilmember Elrod suggested that in addition to the proposed intersection improvements, that the issues with dumping at the dead-end of Postmaster Drive also need to be addressed. City Administrator is concerned that the City may end up bearing most of the cost of the improvements. Mr. Dickerson will speak to the current school board attorney to discuss road improvements and possible assistance in funding.

Mr. Dickerson discussed a joint project with the County related to Phase II of McDonough Parkway.

- County does not have the funding necessary to complete the project since bids came in much higher than anticipated
- County has reduced the scope of work to move the project forward
- County is now requesting that the City invest its portion of the allotted SPLOST IV Funds so that project can move forward
- Completion of the project is contingent on SPLOST V
- G-DOT has pushed the tie in at Highway 20 with a two-lane roundabout to 2022.

Discussion ensued and councilmembers shared their thoughts and posed questions regarding the agreement and requirements related to bonded funds. Councilmember Vincent asked about adding provisions to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bind the County to complete the project, considering the project with McDonough Parkway has stopped.

Councilmember Pruitt shared his disappointment with the work that was done at Turner Church and Highway 20, with accidents continuing to be an issue without a red light. He said that funding from the County continues to be an issue in completing projects. Councilmember Elrod asked about the stipulations regarding bonded money for SPLOST projects, and he said that the question about how those funds can be used would need to be answered before a decision is made.

After further discussion, it was determined that this issue will come back before Mayor and Council for further discussion.

Mr. Dickerson reviewed changes made to the draft Solicitors/Peddlers Regulation Ordinance, which was presented at the June 7, 2018, Workshop Meeting for consideration:

- On page three of the draft ordinance, section 5.36.060, where it states “section 18”; that has been changed to 5.36.180
- On page six under Section 5.36.200 – Appeals, “ten days” was changed to “ten business days”

- On page seven, under Section 5.36.202 – Permit required; application; information; bond; fee; violation, the name of the vendor shall include a phone number as well
- On page seven, under Section 5.36.202(e), the fee for the permit shall be \$25
- On page eight, under Section 5.36.203, the section title “Exemptions from Division 2 Provisions,” has been changed to “Exemptions”; and in the body of the text, “provisions of division 2 of this article,” has been changed to “provisions of this article.”

Councilmember Elrod motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with the changes that the City Administered referenced, and Councilmember Pruitt seconded.

Councilmember Vincent shared her reservations about adopting the Ordinance without the Mayor being present, since he has voiced many concerns on the matter; and Mayor Pro Tem Varner agreed. Councilmember Elrod said he had spoken with the Mayor earlier in the day, and that the Mayor wanted to see this get done; and further discussion ensued.

Councilmember Stewart asked for clarification regarding how this will affect religious groups; and Mr. Dickerson pointed out that the Ordinance provides for non-profit organizations that are registered with the Secretary of State or tax-exempt organizations which are recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service would include churches.

Councilmember Vincent pointed out that not all religious groups are registered with the Secretary of State, nor are they all 501(c)3 organizations because of the restrictions associated with that designation. She questioned if that provision would cause encroachment of Freedom of Religion for unregistered groups; and further discussion ensued.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price repeated the motion to approve the Ordinance as presented with the changes that the City Administrator referenced; and Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for the vote. The vote was four in favor and two opposed. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

Public Comments

(1). Ms. Lavelle Lemon was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Summer Youth Program. She questioned why the program is only three weeks long when it was established as a four-week STEAM Program. She also asked about how the City and the community could increase resources for the camp to extend the program in length and throughout the county, as she sees this program as a great benefit to the children who are served.

(2). Mr. Donaven McGee, recent graduate of Wake Forest University said he went to the first youth camp that the City organized, and he also worked at the camp for five summers. He said that he personally understands the benefits of the camp, and that he would like to see more resources to extend the program as well.

Councilmember Vincent asked Mr. Keith Dickerson to begin conversations with the County about how to make direct investments into the youth within the community. She thanked Mr. McGee for sharing his experience and his continued interest the success of the Summer Youth Program. Councilmember Stewart also thanked Mr. McGee for his comments, and he said he believes the camp funds are being well spent since the move to Shiloh.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner called for a motion to approve the June 7, 2018, Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Stewart motioned, and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Pruett did not vote, as he was not present for the June 7, 2018, Workshop Meeting; and Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

No Executive Session was held.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson said that the RFPs for the Community Center and the City Attorney have gone out.

City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated that Council packets for the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention were provided at the meeting tonight with the needed documents. She said if they have any issues when they arrive for the convention, they should visit the registration desk at the convention center when they arrive. She also said that the City of McDonough will be recognized at the convention for the renewal of the "City of Ethics" status at the luncheon on Monday. During Ms. Price's comments, Councilmember Stewart volunteered to carry the City flag in the Parade of Flags at the convention.

Councilmember Vincent thanked the City of McDonough staff for the amazing job at the Caribbean Festival last weekend. She also recognized that the Mrs. Samuels was present at the meeting, and she read the Proclamation for Caribbean Heritage Month into the record.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He also offered his congratulations to Mr. McGee for his recent graduation from Wake Forest and invited him to come to meetings in the future. He thanked the Police Department for their assistance in making all of the weekend events so successful. Lastly, he thanked Councilmember Stewart for representing the City in the Parade of Flags at the GMA Convention.

Councilmember Stewart thanked Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark for a great job on the budget. He also thanked Chief Dorsey for his assistance with an event at Rufus Stewart Park over the weekend.

Councilmember Pruitt thanked the staff for a job well done; and he thanked everyone who was in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner also thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting, and she wished her fellow councilmembers safe travels to the convention in Savannah.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner motioned to adjourn, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. All stood in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Janis E. Price
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 published in the Henry Herald on February 7, 2018; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.