

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
JULY 16, 2018
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, July 16, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Copeland 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	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	Absent
Councilmember Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Absent (Due to illness)
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; Ms. Kathy Owens, Police Department; and Ms. Trisha Colpetzer, Executive Assistant.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda, with the deletion of Items 6F, 6G, and Item 12. Councilmember Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart were not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Elrod 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. Approval of the McDonough Police Department to donate to the Woodbury Police Department a 2008 Dodge Charger, VIN # 2B3KA43G08H229857 along with the vehicle's existing Equipment.
- B. Approval of the rejection of all Bid Proposals for the City of McDonough Solid Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal Services which were submitted by the deadline of May 3, 2018.

- C. Approval to allow Malone Design/Fabrication to fabricate and install additional exhibits not included in the original contract for the Polk Museum at a cost of \$49,046.00 which will be paid from SPLOST IV funds.
- D. Approval to allow Goforth Williamson, Inc. to purchase and install a single acting altitude valve with solenoid shut-off features for the water tower located at Richard Craig Park at a cost of \$18,630.00 and will be paid from the Water Department Budget.
- E. Approval to pay TIG (Technology Integration Group) \$40,158.66 for new Storage Area Network (SAN), replacing the City's primary administrative storage element creating a better disaster recovery plan, but utilizing older equipment in less critical areas. This will be funded by the Technology Services Budget from the General fund; authorization for the Mayor to sign document.
- F. Approval of two contracts between the City of McDonough and Fouts Bros. to purchase two command vehicles for the McDonough Fire Department Battalion Chiefs; authorization for the Mayor to sign contracts. The cost of each command vehicle is \$65, 613.00 for a total of \$131,226.00 and will be paid from the public safety portion of impact fees.
- G. Approval to purchase from various vendors the necessary equipment to complete and make operable the two command vehicles. The total cost of the equipment will be \$60,840.00 and will be paid from the public safety portion of impact fees.
- H. Approval to purchase from Diversified Golf Carts, Inc. one mini ambulance for park trails. The cost of the mini ambulance is \$12,643.70 and will be paid from the public safety portion of impact fees.
- I. Approval of a contract between the City of McDonough and Steel Builders and Structure, to purchase and install one 22'x 25'x 9' metal storage building at Alexander Park. This unit will be used to store equipment for all of the City's park system.; authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract. The cost of the storage building is \$6,495.00 and will be paid from the parks and recreation portion of impact fees.
- J. Approval of the July 2, 2018 Workshop Minutes.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 6F and 6G. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart were not present at the meeting.

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson opened the discussion regarding the adoption of the 2018 millage rate, as follows:

- Full rollback from 4.299 to 4.083.
- The rollback is in alignment with what was budgeted
- Total of a 2.89% increase which totals approximately \$100,000

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

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt the 2018 millage rate ordinance, levying an ad valorem tax in the amount of 4.083 on all property within the City for the 2018-2019 fiscal year; and to authorize the Mayor to execute all required documents. Councilmember Pruett motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Vincent shared her continued concerns regarding how the rollbacks will affect the City as it continues to grow into the future, without knowing the projected costs for the City's growth as it relates to issues such as cleanliness and beautification. Mayor Copeland said after two extremely successful years and setting aside \$1.5 million for an emergency fund, that the City is confident that it can meet its obligations or the rollback would not take place.

After brief discussion, Mayor Copeland called for the vote. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart were not present at the meeting.

After the vote was recorded, Mayor Copeland signed the required documents in the presence of Henry County Tax Commissioner, Mr. David Curry, and Ms. Lynn Carty with the Henry County Tax Commissioner's Office.

8. Community Development Item Mr. Rodney Heard
Special Use Permit
Case Number: 180501 Council District: 1, Rufus Stewart
Applicant(s): **William Hartford on behalf of Highway to Heaven Ministry**
Address/Location: 205 Simpson Street
Petition Request: **Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for church per reference to Code Section 17.72.020 – Special Use**
Existing Zoning: M-1 (Light Industrial)
Location: Hwy 20-81 Village Activity Node I (Hwy 20-81/Simpson Street/Bridges Road), City Gateway Tax Parcel ID: M10-05002000
Land Lot(s): 133 and 156 of the 7th District, Tract Acreage: 1.775 +/- total acres
Meetings:
MPC Workshop (06/12/18) MPC Public Review (07/10/18)
MCC Workshop (07/02/18) **MCC Public Hearing (07/16/18)**

Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard reviewed case number 180501, for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for a church, per reference to Code Section 17.72.020 – Special Use. The Applicant, Mr. William Hansford was in attendance at the meeting.

Councilmember Vincent shared that she had spoken with Councilmember Stewart, who could not be in attendance for the meeting due to illness. She said that he shared that he

still has a few concerns, and he is awaiting a response from the Applicant. Councilmember Elrod also asked that Mr. Hansford reach out to Councilmember Stewart regarding those concerns.

Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing regarding the SUP, for Highway to Heaven Ministry. No one spoke in favor; and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to postpone the vote on the Special Use Permit in case number 180501, until the next City Council Workshop Meeting, on August 2, 2018. Councilmember Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart were not present at the meeting.

Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark presented an update of revenues and expenditures of the General Fund, SPLOST Funds and Hotel/Motel Fund, for eleven months, ended May 31, 2018.

- Revenues for the General Fund total \$14,505,825 with total expenditures of \$13,386,947.
- Excess revenues over expenditures for the General Fund total \$1,118,878.
- SPLOST III revenue interest totals \$629 with total expenditures of \$33,676.
- Excess expenditures over revenues total \$33,047.
- SPLOST IV revenues total \$1,480,048 with total expenditures of \$2,270,643.
- Excess expenditures over revenues total \$790,595.
- Hotel/Motel Tax Fund revenues total \$1,347,718 with total expenditures of \$1,347,718.

Mr. Dickerson gave an update regarding the steps taken and progress made for the 2020 Census:

- We're talking with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Census Bureau
- Most of the addresses have been submitted by the County, which we will verify and update as they become available
- There is one hard-to-count area between Jonesboro Road and Hampton, which is not entirely within the City of McDonough
- We will target the hard-to-reach area with advertising to reach those residents

Councilmember Vincent said she participated in a class related to the Census through the Georgia Municipal Association; and she learned that most of the census information will be gathered online, so the public needs to be educated on that process. She discussed partnering with local organizations to register citizens who do not have access to computers. Ms. Vincent said that jobs will be available as a result of the Census, and that the City should provide information related to those jobs to the citizens of McDonough, as a public service.

Public Comments:

Mr. Chuck Blackshear discussed bringing the sport of Pickle Ball to the City of McDonough:

- Pickle ball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S., similar to tennis with a smaller court, paddles and perforated plastic balls
- Pickle ball is a great sport for seniors
- People come from all over to play in tournaments, which will have a beneficial economic impact for the City
- Costs to convert tennis courts for pickle ball are approximated at \$500 per court
- It's a great opportunity for older citizens to bond with younger citizens
- Printed t-shirts are given out for every tournament, which could provide a business opportunity for a local vendor

Councilmember Elrod made the suggestion of reaching out to the Board of Education to see if an agreement could be reached about the three tennis courts that will no longer be used at Henry County High School, for possible conversion to pickle ball courts. Councilmember Vincent shared her excitement and continued support regarding bringing pickle ball to the City of McDonough.

(Item 12 was previously removed from the agenda)

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Real Estate, O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1). Councilmember Pruitt motioned, and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart were not present at the meeting.

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

There were no action items to report.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated to Mayor and Council that the Henry Municipal Association (HMA) Quarterly Dinner will be hosted by the City of Locust Grove, on Thursday, July 19, at 6:00 p.m., at the French Market.

Councilmember Vincent shared concerns regarding illegal dumping within the City. She said there is a group who is interested in participating in the "Keep McDonough Beautiful" campaign; and she asked that the City come up with incentives to keep people from dumping trash through ordinances and/or fines.

Mr. Dickerson responded that he has discussed with the Police Chief adding high-definition cameras to survey effected areas, and he said that violators will be fined if proven guilty of illegal dumping.

Councilmember Vincent asked about the proper mechanism for reporting challenges related to illegal dumping; and Mr. Dickerson said there is a contact us form on the City's website, where questions and/or issues are addressed by the appropriate personnel within the City.

Councilmember Elrod remembered Councilmember Rufus Stewart and offered his well wishes for a speedy recovery. He also thanked staff members who put together the current budget for their efforts and a job well done. He further thanked the McDonough Police Department for their response to a recent violent attack on a waitress at a local restaurant, in which the four suspects have been identified and three have been arrested.

Councilmember Pruitt echoed the sentiments of Councilmember Elrod in thanking the police department for their quick response to the violent attack that took place. He also thanked the City Administrator and City staff for the hard work on the budget. Also he noted a concern that some of the pedestrian crosswalk lights are not working properly on the square.

Mayor Copeland discussed meeting the Belcher family earlier in the day, including their triplets who recently graduated from Ola High School, each with a 4.0 GPA (grade point average). Mayor Copeland has invited the family to attend the August 2, 2018 Workshop Meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Elrod motioned, and Councilmember Pruett seconded. All stood in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 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.