

MINUTES  
CITY OF MCDONOUGH  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – JANUARY 22, 2019  
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 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   | 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; Auditor, Mr. Jimmy Whitaker; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; and Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Adoption of a Resolution to establish the dates, place, qualifying fees, and methods of paying fees for municipal offices to be filled in the upcoming election on November 5, 2019.
- B. Adoption of a Resolution regarding the 2020 Census to establish the Henry County Complete Count Committee with appointments being made from Henry County, Hampton, Locust Grove, Stockbridge and McDonough. This committee will work in conjunction with representatives of the US Census Bureau's Atlanta's Regional Office to the extent possible.
- C. Ratify the approval of a contract increase in the amount of \$3,600.00 with Ross + Associates for the Annual CIE Update and City's Impact Program. This will bring the total fee for all services to \$45,895.00.

- D. Approval to purchase a Grundfos submersible solids handling pump from Goforth Williamson, Inc. at a cost of \$21,322.90 which will be paid from the Sewer Treatment Plant budget. (The pump is broken and currently a rental pump is being used at the Turner Church Pump Station).
- E. Approval for Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. to repair the flygt pump at the Turner Church Pump station at a cost of \$10,257.62 which will be funded by the Sewer Treatment Plant Budget.
- F. Approval of the minutes of the January 3, 2019, Organizational City Council Meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items A through F. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mr. Jimmy Whitaker reviewed the City's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Some of the information Mr. Whitaker highlighted is listed below:

- Total Assets and Deferred Outflows were \$90,912,374
- Total Net Position for Governmental Activities and Business-Type Activities was \$74,125,620
- Total Fund Balance for the General Fund was \$8,588,629
- Total Fund Balance for SPLOST III was \$648,900
- Total Fund Balance for SPLOST IV was \$6,628,706
- Total Fund Balance for Developmental Impact Fees was \$961,604
- Total Fund Balance for the Urban Redevelopment Authority was \$40,855
- Total Fund Balance for Other Governmental Funds was \$194,152
- The General Fund reserve percentage was 56.8%

After the presentation, discussion ensued. Councilmember Elrod asked about the finding for Stormwater fees continuing for at least the past five years; and he asked if that issue is being addressed. Mr. Dickerson said that he has spoken to Attorney Jim Elliott about reviewing a letter that has been prepared to address that issue to collect those funds which would be sent to unpaid account holders. Secondly, Councilmember Elrod verified with Mr. Whitaker that the fund balance as shown in the presentation does not include the purchase of the second reservoir, which took place after June 30, 2018; Mr. Whitaker confirmed Councilmember Elrod's statement.

Councilmember Pruett asked about the percentage of long-term debt that is reflected in the report. Mr. Whitaker replied that the City is in good shape and that long term debt would become a concern if the City was unable to meet the covenants of 1.08 percent for GEFA loans. Councilmember Vincent said she appreciated the report being user-friendly and illustrating how the City has made significant investments to benefit the quality of life for the citizens of McDonough. Discussion continued.

Mayor Copeland commented on the growth he has witnessed since coming to City Hall in 1972, and he said the City has come a long way since that time. He commended the staff for their hard work to create a successful budget in an effort to always be good stewards

of citizens' tax dollars. Mr. Dickerson echoed the Mayor's sentiments and said the Council is doing great things. Lastly, Councilmember Vincent thanked the City staff for having a fiscally responsible mentality in all that they do.

Doctor Grier was unable to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Vincent read the Proclamation for BBP GEM, Inc. Day into the record. Those in attendance on behalf of BBP GEM, Inc. came forward to receive recognition and a photograph was taken to commemorate the occasion.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamations for Ms. Arlene B. Mallard Day and BBP GEM, Inc. Day a part of the minutes of the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Varner motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

#### Unscheduled Public Comments

The following persons wanted to introduce themselves as new vendors on the Square.

(1) Ms. Jordan Jones – Aurora Mercantile

- Opened store in Clay Plaza on the square
- The store sells clothing, home furnishings and décor
- Store also highlights local artists
- Art classes are available

Councilmember Elrod praised Ms. Jones for her hard work in renovating the space for her store.

(2) Ms. Katy Bell – Macon Street Tacos

- Happy to be a part of the resurgence of downtown McDonough
- Great networking opportunities on the square
- Helping employees of federal government during shut down by offering free meals to families impacted
- Thank you for the opportunity

No Executive Session was held.

City Administrator, Mr. Dickerson announced that the City was awarded the \$20,000 Safety Grant from Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) for the second year. He complimented the City Clerk for her hard work to ensure the City received the grant money.

City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated to Mayor and Council that their packets for Mayors' Day were at their seats, which included contact information for a GMA representative in case they experience any issues at the conference. She also said that the three council

seats that are up for election in November 2019, will be advertised to the public in the Saturday, January 26, 2019, edition of the “Henry Herald”.

Councilmember Vincent thanked staff for their continued hard work and she thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone in attendance for all that they do for the City of McDonough. He also thanked Ms. Janis Price for her work on the safety grant, and he thanked Ms. Price and her assistant for handling the accommodations and scheduling classes for the upcoming Mayors’ Day Conference. Lastly, he commented on how far the City has come since he joined the Council, and he thanked his fellow councilmembers, City staff and the public for their support in moving McDonough forward.

Councilmember Pruett thanked the members of Bazz Brothers Productions for their attendance at the meeting and their generous work in the community. He also thanked the business owners and citizens who were in attendance for the meeting.

Councilmember Stewart thanked the First United Methodist Church for including all faiths in celebrating “Unity Day”. He also thanked Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church for sponsoring the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Youth Day Program; and he said there were 32 young people who participated in the event.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner thanked the City staff for the awesome job that they do each day to ensure that the community is sustainable and progressing. She also thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting for their contributions to the community.

Councilmember Pruitt also thanked those in attendance for the meeting. He recognized Mr. Keith Dickerson and his staff on a great job with the budget.

Mayor Copeland also thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He recognized Ms. Kelly Tucker and her daughter Erin, who were in attendance; and he thanked them for their interest in the meeting. Lastly, he reminded Council that there are five appointments that have to be made by February 7.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 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 schedule was published in the *Henry Herald* on December 26, 2018; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.