

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – JUNE 17, 2019
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, June 17, 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, 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 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; Tourism Director, Ms. Christy Collier; Executive Assistant, Ms. Euretha L. Olokodana; and Help Desk Technician, Mr. Aerrigo Evans.

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

Councilmember Elrod led the Pledge to the Flag.

The Reverend Bert Neal, Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

6. Consent Agenda

- A. Preliminary Plat Review, Chapter 16.12 Procedure, Section 16.12.060 (A-D)
Applicant(s): John Palmer (Falcon Design Consultants) on behalf of Blue River Development
Petition Request: **Approval of Preliminary Plat**
Development: *Stapleton Park* (residual, undeveloped portion of Bridlewood & Bridleridge tracts)
Location: Lake Dow, McGarity, and Airline Road Corridors (situated between Bridleridge & Clearwater Pointe subdivisions)

B. Approval of the June 6, 2019, Council Workshop Minutes

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Elrod motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. Prior to the vote, Councilmember Pruett noted that Consent Agenda Item 6A does not pertain to rezoning, only the approval of a preliminary plat. The vote was seven in favor.

7. **Public Comments** - Ms. Leslie Erwin, Attorney, regarding 49 Hampton Street
- Ms. Erwin represents property owners Cathy and Steve Sowell
 - Property owners are attempting to sell two properties at 49 Hampton Street and 50 Jonesboro Street
 - Both properties are governed by Ordinance 07-06-18-001(Z)
 - Prospective buyer was denied business license by the City and told a site development plan would be needed
 - Ms. Erwin reached out to Mr. Rodney Heard and Attorney Mr. Jim Elliott to discuss conditions for properties
 - Proposed business is a professional medical office
 - Prospective buyer plans to use the property as-is
 - Seeking guidance from Mayor and Council on how to proceed with being able to sell the properties

Mayor Copeland thanked Ms. Erwin for sharing her concerns; and suggested that she needed to meet with the Community Development Director, City Administrator and Attorney to discuss the matter further.

Mayor Copeland called on Mayor Pro Tem Varner to present the Proclamation for Caribbean Heritage Month and to read it into the record. Mayor Pro Tem Varner invited members of the Caribbean Association of Georgia (CAG) to come forward and accept the Proclamation.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamations for Olympic Day, Tabernacle of Praise Church and Pastor McBride's 14th Anniversary, Flag Day and Caribbean Heritage Month a part of the minutes of the meeting. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard, presented a project status update related to the Town Center and Main Street Districts Public Art Programming Study.

- Collaboration with Community Development, McDonough Arts Council, McDonough Main Street, McDonough Beautiful and community stakeholders
- Focus of projects is to promote health and wellness; connectivity; pedestrian access; and social interaction

Mr. Kyle Brooks was in attendance and he addressed Mayor and Council. Mr. Brooks explained his art and the sentiment behind the mural he painted on the wall of Pasta Max.

- Mr. Brooks grew up in Henry County
- The mural took about nine days to complete

- Completed projects in downtown Atlanta, the Atlanta Beltline and in Nashville, Tennessee
- Art is characterized as street/folk art
- Felt very welcomed and supported in McDonough

Mr. Beau Kelly was also in attendance and he discussed how public art enhances the community and he thanked Mr. Brooks for the work he completed.

Councilmember Vincent shared her personal appreciation for artists and she thanked Mr. Brooks for offering inspiration through his artwork in the City. Councilmember Elrod also expressed his thanks to Mr. Brooks and Mr. Kelly for their collaborative efforts to bring public art to the City of McDonough. Councilmember Pruett, Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart each offered their personal appreciation to Mr. Brooks as well.

Councilmember Elrod added that the painted pedestrian walkways on Sloan Street need to be painted back since pedestrian traffic has increased since the mural was completed.

Mr. Heard continued with his presentation and reviewed some art projects that are already within the City and discussed ideas on how to move forward and create a committee to consider future art projects:

- Consider design themes
- Determine eligible sites and specify locations
- Interact with art
- Create an art walk throughout the City

After the presentation, some discussion ensued. Mr. Heard said that the discussion regarding public art would continue at the July 1, 2019, City Council Workshop.

Unscheduled Public Comments:

(1) Ms. Sylvia Dennis – Caribbean Festival

- Thank you to Mayor and Council for another amazing walk in McDonough
- Thank you to everyone who came out to support
- People came from all over to make the walk successful again this year
- Thank you for Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Vincent and Councilmember Stewart for their attendance at the event, where they each received a plaque for public service

After her comments, Ms. Dennis presented Public Service Distinction Award plaques to Councilmembers Elrod, Pruitt and Pruett, as well as to Mayor Copeland and City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson.

**11. Executive Session (if needed) for: Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2
Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1)
Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2)**

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Pruett motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign a Joint Defense and Common Interest Agreement regarding SDS between the City of McDonough, the other three Cities, and Smith, Welch, Webb and White, as presented on June 17, 2019. Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Clerk, Ms. Price mentioned that a quorum was needed at the upcoming SPLOST meeting on June 27th, and asked who could attend? Councilmembers Pruett, Vincent, Stewart and Pruitt each said they could attend the meeting. She stated that if anyone had any issues in Savannah at the Convention, to please go to the GMA registration desk for assistance or she would be available to help in any way.

Councilmember Pruitt, Mayor Pro Tem Varner and Councilmember Stewart each thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting.

Councilmember Pruett thanked Mr. Brooks for the gift of his art to the City. He also thanked the members of the CAG for their consistent communication that led to another successful event in the City.

Councilmember Elrod also thanked those in attendance. He also thanked Ms. Dennis and the members of CAG for the plaque and their continued efforts with the Walk to End Alzheimer's. He thanked the City staff for their work to make the soft opening of the CO Polk Museum a success. He also thanked the City Clerk for her continued hard work to make the GMA Convention an enjoyable and successful experience for Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Vincent echoed the sentiments of her fellow councilmembers.

Mayor Copeland shared his excitement about investments in the City and the construction of businesses on the square. He said that the current growth is unprecedented in the City of McDonough.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 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.