POST AGENDA
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
JUNE 15, 2020
6:00 PM

**1. Call to Order** **Mayor Copeland**

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

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

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Acting Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble; Community Development Director; Mr. Rodney Heard; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; and Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda as published. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Elrod seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Vincent stated that she had sent an email requesting that the items be removed from the Consent Agenda because the items had not been previously discussed; and Mayor Copeland stated that he would consider a substitute motion.

Councilmember Vincent motioned to remove Items A, B, D, E, F, G and H from the Consent Agenda; and Councilmember Varner seconded. The vote was three in favor and four opposed. The motion did not pass. Those voting in favor were Councilmember

Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett and Councilmember Pruitt.

Councilmember Vincent discussed her reasons for requesting that the items be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion, and further discussion ensued.

Mayor Copeland called for the vote on the motion to approve the Agenda as published. The vote was five in favor and two opposed. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition.

**4. Pledge to the Flag**

Councilmember Varner led the Pledge to the Flag.

**5. Invocation**

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

**6. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A. Approval to employ James L. Whitaker, P.C., Certified Public Accountant to provide financial services to the City of McDonough for the year ending on June 30, 2020, in the form of the year end audit and internal control related report, and other necessary reports to be in compliance; authorization for the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the engagement letter.

B. Approval of the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Main Street and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This MOU will keep the McDonough Main Street Program in compliance.

C. Authorization for the Mayor and other designated signers to sign revised documents/ Resolutions for Ga Fund 1 accounts and bank accounts for the City.

D. Approval to award the contract to Piedmont Paving for the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG). Total cost of the project is $568,840.04 of which $270,712.10 is the LMIG Grant funds, and the City will pay $298,127.94 from SPLOST IV funds; authorization for the Mayor to sign document(s).

E. Adoption of a Budget Amendment Resolution to amend FY 2019-2020 budget for approved transactions in various funds.

F. Ratify the CDBG Documents in which the City will continue participating with Henry County in this program for 2021-2023.

G. Approval /Adoption of a Resolution to extend moratorium on approval of new development that will connect to the City's water system; moratorium extended to August 1, 2020.

H. Adoption of a Resolution to approve commencement of statutory process to amend the zoning ordinance to set a maximum of 8 units/acre of developed property for multifamily development

Mayor Copeland stated that the motion to approve the Agenda as published sanctioned the approval of the Consent Agenda as well.

**7. FY 2020-2021 Budget Discussion — Mr. Mike Clark**
**Public Hearing — Mayor Copeland**

Finance Director Mr. Mike Clark discussed the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget:

- The Millage Rate is assumed to remain the same at 3.806.
- There are no employee compensation increases included in the budget.
- The City has a freeze on hiring other than essential positions, with essential hiring being deferred until at least January 2021.
- The General Fund balance of $18,662,000, includes a 3 percent increase over the previous year.
- The Hotel/Motel Tax Fund has seen the greatest impact as a result of COVID-19, with a reduction in revenues of 28.97%.
- The Tax Assessor predicts that property values could increase to as much as eight percent.
- It is approximated that there will be a 20 to 25 percent decrease in Local Option Sales Tax.

After Mr. Clark's review, several reductions and changes were suggested and will be changed in the revised budget.

Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing. Ms. Loletha Hale spoke only to suggest that a hand-out should be offered to the public when the budget is being discussed. The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price read an email from Ms. Annette O'Banion-Westcott into the record, expressing her concerns regarding the proposed budget.

Councilmember Vincent expressed her concerns about having a staff member removed from Mayor and Council's ability to call on to become the Director of Main Street. She said there is continued controversy over the utilization of Ms. Colpetzer, who is the Executive Assistant to Mayor and Council; and she asked that there be some clarification regarding who is available to provide assistance to Councilmembers.

Mayor Copeland stated that Ms. Colpetzer is the only appointment that he has, and that she is always available to assist Councilmembers. Councilmember Vincent shared that she feels that Ms. Colpetzer serves at the pleasure of the Mayor, and that she may not be authorized to help Councilmembers if the Mayor disagrees with the Councilmembers' plans.

Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing. The budget adoption is scheduled for June 22, 2020.

8. **Administrative Variance Request**

**Applicant:** Tim McKinley on behalf of Heatherland Homes, LLC.
CC District: 3 - Mayor Pro Tem/Councilmember Craig Elrod
Development/Project: Arnold Estates (McGarity Road Corridor)
Request(s): Said application is for the following item pertaining to "As-built Conditions" -

- **#200601 Rear Yard Setback: Reduction from 40' to 36' = 4', within the 10% reduction threshold allowed by Chapter 17.96, to Lot #39 (252 Lotus Circle) per as-built conditions.**
- **#200602 Rear Yard Setback: Reduction from 30' to 27' = 3', within the 10% reduction threshold allowed by Chapter 17.96, to Lot #37 (244 Lotus Circle) per as-built conditions.**

CDD Recommendation: Approval (Refer to *06/04/20* stamped documents)
City Code Section(s): 17.96.020

Community Development Director Mr. Rodney Heard reviewed the Administrative Variance Request pertaining to as-built conditions for Lot 39 and Lot 37 in the Arnold Estates (McGarity Road Corridor) Development. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Heard said that no vote from Mayor and Council was needed for approval. He said that absent a veto from Mayor and Council, the approval will be formalized and the applicant will be notified immediately.

**9. Proclamations**

Caribbean Heritage Month, presented to Mr. Frederick Gardiner
National Skilled Nursing Care Week
Celebrate Class of 2020 Senior Day
Flag Day

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamations for National Skilled Nursing Care Week; Celebrate Class of 2020 Senior Day; and Flag Day a part of the minutes of the meeting. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**10. Race Equity and Leadership** **CM Sandra Vincent**

Councilmember Vincent discussed a recent training trip to the National League of Cities, where training was provided in Race Equity and Leadership. She said that the training also dealt with unconscious or implicit bias, allocating resources and other challenges that communities face today.

She said that as women, she feels that she and Councilmember Varner are treated as lesser citizens of the Governing Body. She offered examples of instances where she and

Councilmember Varner have been left out of important communications; and she said that when they share their own concerns, there is no response. As a result of those issues, she believes it is necessary to enlist the help of a facilitator/trainer who can identify the things that the Council needs to do to ensure that these concerns are addressed appropriately. However, she said that after discussing training options in March, her efforts to gather materials and move forward have recently been met with resistance by her fellow councilmembers.

Councilmember Vincent said that people think and respond based on their upbringing and personal perspectives, which is the reason diversity is so important in understanding one another's views and moving forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod publically thanked Councilmember Varner for a recent conversation. He said he fully supports training so that open conversations will continue going forward. Councilmember Varner commented that the training will have to include dedication and some frank and open dialogue, which she is hopeful will feed into staff and extend into the community. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Varner motioned to move forward with the training for Race Equity and Leadership for Council and for the community, with three options to be brought back at the July 20 meeting; and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**11. Citizen Review Board for the Police Department Discussion** **CM Vincent**

Councilmember Vincent first shared her appreciation and respect for police officers everywhere. She said that she believes that the issues the country is now facing are a result of policies and procedures that are often systemic and biased in nature. She said that she believes establishing a Citizen Review Panel to get the community involved to review the challenges and problems that emerge in law enforcement is the first step to making a change in McDonough.

She said that currently the McDonough Municipal Court judges are recommended by the Police Chief, who also oversees the Police Department. She said that racism has many components that allow opportunities for unintended consequences, which is why the laws and practices of the cities and courts need to be analyzed thoroughly.

Acting Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble said that there are efforts being made to try to get ahead of things by reaching out to similarly-sized police departments. He said that there will continue to be transparency moving forward, and that the Police Department will continue to do the great job that they do.

Councilmember Vincent said that she believes the Council should hold a public Workshop with members of the Police Department present to discuss the action steps that will be taken. She also said that there needs to be a staff person who is recording all of the steps that the City is taking and will take, to measure that those things have been done successfully. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Vincent motioned to start the process of identifying best practices for the Police System; and Councilmember Stewart seconded.

Councilmember Pruett asked that there be no vote taken until the recommendations are made due to the complexity of the issue. Councilmember Vincent clarified that she's trying to get is a sense of commitment from the Governing Body that this is what we are going to do in order to move forward in this direction.

After some discussion, Councilmember Vincent clarified her motion to move forward with the identification of opportunities for improvement for the McDonough Police Department to involve the Police Chief, his designee, Mayor and Council, and other stakeholders as identified; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. Prior to the vote, further discussion continued. The vote was five in favor, one in opposition and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Pruett voted in opposition; and Mayor Copeland did not vote.

**12. Update on Covid-19 — Mr. Preston Dorsey**

City Administrator Mr. Preston Dorsey referenced the information in councilmember's notebook regarding COVID-19 Pandemic.

**13. Safest Cities Awards — Mr. Dorsey**

Mr. Dorsey invited Acting Police Chief Ken Noble and Major Kyle Helgerson to come forward and accept two safest cities awards for the City of McDonough. According to Alarms.org, McDonough is the 24$^{th}$ safest city in the State of Georgia; and Safewise ranked McDonough as the 35$^{th}$ safest City in Georgia.

**14. Ratify the payment to Butler Snow for $10,538.05; which included additional legal services required due to the Covid-19 virus, which was paid from the General Fund. — Mr. Dorsey**

Mr. Dorsey asked for approval to ratify the payment to Butler Snow for $10,538.05, which included additional legal services required due to Covid-19, to be paid from the General Fund. Councilmember Pruitt motioned to ratify the payment to Butler Snow for $10,538.05; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**15. Ratify agreement between the City of McDonough and Keck and Wood Inc. for Professional services in Community Development which was paid from the Department's budget at the cost — Mr. Dorsey**

**established in the agreement effective January 22, 2020. Authorization for the Mayor to sign an additional agreement for continued professional services at the same rate.**

Mr. Dorsey asked for approval to ratify the agreement between the City of McDonough and Keck and Wood Inc. for professional services in Community Development, which was paid from the Department's budget at the cost established in the January 22, 2020 agreement. Councilmember Stewart motioned to ratify the agreement made with Keck and Wood Inc. for the professional services agreement from January 22, 2020, and authorization for the additional agreement for continuing professional services; and authorize the Mayor to sign. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**16. Approval of Minutes**

| | |
|---|---|
| **March 5, 2020** | **March 14, 2020** |
| **March 20, 2020** | **March 30, 2020** |
| **April 13, 2020** | **April 27, 2020** |

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2020; March 30th, 2020; April 13, 2020; and April 27, 2020. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Stewart was not present for the meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmembers Varner and Stewart were not present at the meeting.

**17. Unscheduled Public Comments**

(1) Ms. Kelly Rose
(2) Mr. Jaden Williams
(3) Ms. Loletha Hale
(4) Mr. Thomas White
(5) Mr. Jonathan Bergen
(6) Mr. Jamon Cooper
(7) Ms. Tosin Okee
(8) Ms. Annette O'Banion-Westcott
(9) Mr. Jordan Cooper

**18. 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 and Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(2). Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

There was one actin to report from Executive Session.

Councilmember Kamali Varner motioned to appoint Ken Noble as Acting Police Chief for the City of McDonough until further notice; and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

**19. City Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk Comments**

**20. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments**

**21. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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 January 1, 2020; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.