

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL-136 KEYS FERRY STREET
APRIL 7, 2016
5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Copeland

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

The City Clerk called roll, as follows:

Mayor Copeland	present
Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt	present
Councilmember Elrod	present
Councilmember Pruett	present
Councilmember Stewart	present
Councilmember Varner	absent
Councilmember Vincent	present

Others in attendance for the meeting were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher; 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; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

3. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Craig Elrod led the Pledge to the Flag.

4. Invocation

Councilmember Rufus Stewart led the Invocation.

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

6. Public Comments: Dr. Harold Grier and Mr. Rodney Heard regarding Grier Manor II

Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard assisted Dr. Grier as he presented Mayor and Council with an update regarding the proposed Grier Manor II development.

7. Unscheduled Public Comments

(1) Ms. Annette O'Banion

- Thank you and congratulations to police officers receiving awards
- April is National Child Abuse Month
- Still waiting on greenspace plan from the City
- Could Council define and publish consequences to ethical issues in an ordinance?
- What is the procedure for Council to communicate with the public on issues taken under advisement?

8. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval for the Mayor to sign the subrecipient Agreement Amendment No. 1 Year 2105 Henry County CDBG Program, Public Facilities improvements for City of McDonough, Activity: Sidewalk and Storm Drainage Improvements with the City matching with \$4,440.00.
- B. Approval to award bid to Total Dwellings Inc. in the amount of \$39,000.00 to extend the Avalon Fire State #52 Bay square footage to allow for additional fire engine parking.
- C. Approval of the updated Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the McDonough Police Department.
- D. Approval of the March 21, 2016 City Council Meeting minutes.

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

9. Proclamation: "Made in Henry" Manufacturing Appreciation Week in Henry County Ms. Leah Brown, Director of Existing Industry and Marketing

Mayor Copeland presented Ms. Leah Brown with the "Made In Henry" Proclamation, and called for a motion that the Proclamation be made an official part of the Minutes of the meeting. Councilmember Elrod motioned, and Councilmember Pruett seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

10. Presentation to Lt. Paul Honcharik of a 10 year service badge and promotion to Major **Chief Preston Dorsey**

Chief Dorsey presented Lieutenant Paul Honcharik with his 10-year service badge, and officially promoted Officer Honcharik to Major.

11. Presentation of Outstanding Achievement Awards, Leadership Awards and Officer of the Year Award **Chief Dorsey**

Chief Dorsey presented the following officers with Leadership Awards:

Sgt. Julia McCaslin	Major Kenneth Noble	Major Warren Langley
Major Paul Honcharik	Major Kyle Helgersen	

Chief Dorsey presented the following officers with Outstanding Achievement Awards:

Officer Wayne Poss	Officer Ryan Ivey
Officer Darrell Fowler	Officer Jermaine Hicks

Chief Dorsey presented Detective Thomas Spangenberg with the Officer of the Year Award.

12. Discussion of Revenues and Expenditures of the General Fund, SPLOST Capital Projects Fund, and Hotel/Motel Tax Fund **Mr. Mike Clark**

Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark offered updates on the General Fund, SPLOST Capital Projects Funds, and Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for the eight months ended February 29, 2016, as follows:

- General Fund revenues total \$10,407,078; and expenditures total \$7,881,046
- 97% of property taxes have been collected through February
- SPLOST III Capital Projects Fund has total revenue of \$317, with expenditures totaling \$342,621
- Total revenue from the SPLOST IV Capital Projects Fund is \$722,613, with expenditures totaling \$1,733,167
- Hotel/Motel Tax Revenues totals are \$85,698, for an increase of 14.13% from the previous year.

13. Update for FY 2016-2017 Budget **Mr. Keith Dickerson**

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson presented Mayor and Council with an update for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2018 budget. Discussion took place regarding projected revenues and expenditures of the City.

- No water rate increase
- Health Insurance costs have increased by \$489,077.70
- Salary Study recommendations to be emailed to Mayor and Council by April 13
- Mayor and Council Operating Plan to be emailed by April 13

- Draft Budget to be presented on May 5
- Updated budget format will now include a three-year projection

Further discussion took place relative to the increase in healthcare costs, as a result of increased medical claims. Councilmember Vincent recommended looking into separating out the Public Safety Tax, and commented that she believes that the County is moving in that direction.

14. Discussion regarding Overlook Subdivision

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson offered updated information relative to proposed acquisition of the Overlook Phase V property.

- City has some money in reserves to move forward, if the Council elects to do so
- There is not enough money in Impact Fees to purchase the property for parkland

Councilmember Sandra Vincent responded by making the following points regarding the proposed acquisition:

- No legal breach took place with regard to the proposed property acquisition at Overlook
- City is responsible for providing oversight to the development of subdivisions
- December 17, 2007 Resolution provides that the City desires to have a 0.5 acres park at the location
- Moral oversight took place by the City
- Citizens in Overlook have been overlooked
- Asking this body to do the right thing
- Personal inbox and Facebook page has been flooded with citizen comments about not wanting substandard housing or overcrowding in other areas of the City; however that is what is happening in Overlook
- Time for citizens to address Mayor and Council regarding problematic safety, health and aesthetic concerns in the Overlook Community that stem from a flawed policy

15. Discussion and update on the proposed plan for the McDonough City Cemetery

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson presented Mayor and Council with the proposed expansion plan for the McDonough City Cemetery:

- 164 plots, sold in 10' x 10' spaces
- Headstones and cornerstones only
- Plan includes 2 columbariums, each with 212 niches
- Close to putting plots on the market for sale
- Drive will be paved using SPLOST funds

Following the presentation, a discussion ensued regarding the proposed cemetery expansion.

16. 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)

No Executive Session was held.

17. City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk Comments

No comments were made.

18. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Vincent said that she has drafted a letter to the Henry County Board of Commissioners regarding the overgrown weeds on Jonesboro Road, after receiving a lot of citizens concerns. She will share any response that she receives with Mayor and Council. She also expressed concerns for the City as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) continues divert traffic to accommodate work on the Express Lanes. She suggested that businesses and City events should be highlighted by the Tourism Department and Mainstreet McDonough.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone at the meeting for their attendance. He also thanked the Police Chief and staff for their hard work; and wished Councilmember Pruett a Happy Birthday.

Councilmember Pruett expressed his own appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the McDonough Police Department.

Councilmember Stewart also thanked the Police Department. He also said that he attended leadership classes last week, and that he looks forward to sharing what he learned there.

Mayor Copeland offered his personal appreciation to the Police Department and all of their hard work. Further, he said that issues that are “taken under advisement” by the Council will be responded to in writing; and that the City Administrator is working on a greenspace plan for the City.

19. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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 December 30, 2015; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City’s website, as required by law.