

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
SEPTEMBER 7, 2017
5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billy Copeland

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

2. Roll Call

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

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

Others in attendance for the meeting were: City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Main Street Manager, Ms. Courtney Whitman; Community Development Director, Mr. Rodney Heard; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Officer Kentavias Gates; and Ms. Kathy Owens.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Elrod led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Pruett gave the Invocation for the meeting.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of a Budget Amendment Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2018 for transactions in various funds and authorize the Mayor to sign.
- B. Approval to proceed with G.T. Restoration, LLC. for the construction of office partitions in the Finance Department on second floor of City Hall. The renovation cost of \$15,860.00 will be paid from the General Fund.
- C. Approval to purchase a 2017 Ford F-550 Regular Cab/17,500 lbs. GVWR Cab & Chassis at a cost of \$38,146.00 and will be paid from the

- Stormwater budget.
- D. Approval to purchase two police motorcycles and equipment for the McDonough Police Department; motorcycles purchased from Killer Creek Harley Davidson in Roswell and the equipment from Loudoun Communications at a total cost of \$ 75,078.94 and will be paid from the General Fund.
 - E. Approval to purchase additional video storage array expansion for ONSSI Security Camera storage to accommodate the Polk Building, City Hall, Parks and the Square at a cost of \$14,456.24 and will be paid from the General Fund.
 - F. Approval of a Customer Service Agreement between Shred-It and the City of McDonough at an annual cost of \$450.00 and will be paid from the General Fund; authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement.

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

7. Unscheduled Public Comments

- (1.) Ms. Sylvia Dennis thanked the City of McDonough and the City Council for supporting the 2017, Walk to End Alzheimer's.
- The event is scheduled for September 30, 2017, at Alexander Park, with registration starting at 8:00 a.m.
 - All four cities within the county have agreed to participate in "Paint the Town Purple" from September 24 through September 30, 2017
 - Thus far, \$18,000 has been raised
 - Special thanks to Councilmember Vincent for Co-Chairing the event

After Ms. Dennis concluded her remarks, Councilmember Vincent shared her appreciation to Ms. Dennis as well as her colleagues on the City Council for their continued support of this important cause. She also noted that this year's walk will not include the Jerk Festival, which has historically been held in conjunction as a fund-raising event for the walk.

8. Discussion of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update and Public Hearing

**Mr. Keith Dickerson
Mayor Copeland**

City Administrator, Mr. Keith Dickerson discussed the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, and he said that the Public Hearing will be held on September 18, 2017. He noted that Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will hold an open house regarding the Comprehensive Plan in October; and discussion ensued.

- Henry County and three of four cities involved; Stockbridge opted out
- No cost for Comprehensive Plan if ARC does it

9. Discussion of a Resolution adopting an Amendment to an Intergovernmental between the City and Henry County regarding Jonesboro Road Park property;

Mr. Dickerson

authorization for the Mayor to sign

Mr. Dickerson discussed amending the agreement regarding the Jonesboro Road Park property, which is jointly owned by the City and the County.

- Originally planned soccer fields were built elsewhere by the County, and the money for soccer fields is gone
- According to proposed agreement, County will take on engineering costs Stormwater design
- City will move forward with plan by Bron Cleveland upon approval by Council
- This is a SPLOST bonded project.
- County has signed off on amended agreement and commitment to move forward

Councilmember Vincent made a motion to approve a Resolution adopting the Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Henry County, dated November 6, 2008, regarding the acquisition and development of park property located along Jonesboro Road and to authorize the Mayor to sign. Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

10. Discussion of Annexation

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson discussed the need to continue efforts towards annexation to sure up the boundaries of the City. He requested the support of Mayor and Council in moving forward with holding open houses to gather input on what areas should be included; and discussion ensued. Mayor and Council agreed on the following:

- Open houses are required to move forward, and they will help to determine what areas should be considered for annexation
- Invite County Commissioners who have constituents in the city limits
- Would like to move forward with something to submit for the upcoming legislation session

Councilmember Vincent reiterated the importance of protecting the Jonesboro Road corridor in an effort to control the development and maintenance of that area.

11. Discussion regarding City owned property located at: 373 Macon Street 363 Macon Street 348 Griffin Street

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson stated that two open houses were held at the Wesley Chapel Municipal Courthouse building in an effort to determine the best use for the vacant property. He said that some of the suggestions from attendees have included using the property for a museum or as a community facility. After presenting the information, Mr. Dickerson asked for input from the Mayor and Council; and discussion ensued.

- City owns two properties located behind the old Municipal Court building
- Enough room on two separate properties for 8,000 square-foot structure
- Existing old court building does not provide enough space for large events
- Consider the Dream Center in Easley, South Carolina as an example
- Need feedback from Mayor and Council

As the discussion began, Councilmember Elrod suggested investigating what it would cost to construct a purpose-built structure geared towards the suggested uses for the property. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt commented on the uniqueness of the existing building and said he would hate to see it changed in any way. Councilmember Vincent expressed that the property should have a community purpose with a focus on empowerment for young people and suggested that it could also be used as a physical space for the operations of non-profit organizations.

12. Discussion of acceptance of donation of three custom bike racks/art pieces from Dr. Fallas

Mr. Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson discussed the proposed donation of three custom bike racks/art pieces from Dr. Fallas, to the City of McDonough.

- Dr. Fallas would like to donate three bike racks, which are also art pieces to the City
- Racks incorporate the use of music lyrics and nursery rhymes
- These pieces will infuse community with art and encourage exercise

Councilmember Pruett motioned to accept the donation of three custom bike racks from Dr. Fallas, and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

13. Discussion of an additional polling place to open during the early voting time in McDonough prior to the November 7, 2017 Election

Ms. Janis Price

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price discussed the request to open an additional polling place for early voting prior to the November 7, 2017 election. She shared that the costs associated with adding another polling place would be between \$2,400 and \$2,800 per week, Monday through Friday.

Councilmember Vincent recommended that the previous polling place located at Wesley Lakes Elementary School be utilized as an additional polling place for the upcoming elections, to offer citizens with mobility issues an additional location for voting and to eliminate any unfair advantage that her opponent might have as a result of his residence being within a few streets of the elections office. After further discussion Mayor asked for a motion.

Councilmember Vincent motioned to approve extending a polling place to include Wesley Lakes School for early voting, on Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29, 2017, for the same hours as already presented; and Councilmember Varner seconded. The vote was two in favor and five opposed. Those voting in favor were Councilmember Vincent and Councilmember Varner. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Copeland; Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Pruett; and Councilmember Stewart. The motion did not pass.

14. Approval of the August 21, 2017, City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the August 21, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt; Councilmember Elrod; Councilmember Stewart; Councilmember Varner; and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Pruett abstained, and Mayor Copeland did not vote.

**15. 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 enter into Executive Session for Real Estate, O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (1). Councilmember Pruett motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to return to the Regular Workshop Session. Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt 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 vote.

There were no action items to report.

16. City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk Comments

Mr. Dickerson mentioned the groundbreaking of the McDonough High School and McDonough Middle School that took place on the previous day. He also discussed the possibility of severe weather and storm damage from Hurricane Irma, and he said that the City may find itself hosting evacuees from the storm. He offered his continued thoughts and prayers for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas.

Mayor Copeland requested that the City Attorney, Ms. Hancher look into whether the City could waive the hotel bed tax for those who may be displaced due to extreme weather conditions anticipated coming with Hurricane IRMA; and she agreed to do so.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated that the City of Stockbridge will host the quarterly HMA Dinner on October 12, 2017. She also shared that GMA and GIRMA have offered a list of contact numbers to assist those in need throughout the storm.

17. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Vincent shared that the Homeowners' Association Bootcamp was a successful event with a very good turn-out. She also reminded everyone about the Walk

to End Alzheimer's on September 30, as well as the As One Prayer Walk that is scheduled for September 23, 2017, starting at Henry County High School, at 9:00 a.m. She requested that the City draft a Proclamation regarding the 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's; and to invite and recognize sponsors like Edward Jones.

Lastly, Councilmember Vincent requested that the City Clerk research what the costs associated with opening Wesley Lakes School as an additional polling place would have been to the citizens of McDonough.

Councilmember Elrod thanked Dr. Fallas for his donation of the bike racks to the City. He commented that he is encouraged by how the community has stepped up with donations over the last year. He noted that he will be traveling and unable to attend the September 18, 2017, City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Stewart said that he has been working with Henry County Development to rehabilitate houses in District 1.

18. Adjournment

Mayor Copeland echoed Mr. Dickerson's sentiments regarding prayers for all of the victims of Hurricane Harvey, as well as those in the path of Hurricane Irma.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt 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 December 21, 2016; and a copy of the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.