

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
FEBRUARY 7, 2019
6:00 PM

The Regular Workshop of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billy 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:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Absent
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; Finance Director, Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Executive Assistant, Ms. Euretha Olokodana; Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer; Grant Writer, Ms. Marcia Simeon; and Public Works Administrative Assistant, Ms. Lauren Carter.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Pruitt led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Stewart gave the Invocation.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Mayor Pro Tem Varner's 2019 recommendations for Mr. Stanley Head to be appointed to the Planning Commission, and for Ms. Stefany Mosley to be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- B. Ratify the application for funding, requesting a Grant to support the McDonough Youth Advisory Council's activities for 2019 from the Taylor Foundation in the amount of \$20,000.00 signed by the Mayor. The City has no cost to match any funds for this Grant.
- C. Approval to accept the "Offer of Dedication" regarding the street lights within the Garden Walk Subdivision Phase 4 in accordance with Code Section 16.16.320(1). This will be an addition to the city's street light network system and will be paid by the General Fund.
- D. Approval of the 2019-2020 Budget Schedule.
- E. Approval of a contract between The City of McDonough and Allsouth Constructors, Inc. for all work specified for Water System Improvements and Modifications to the Water Treatment Plant Project No. 162071.005 in the amount of \$349,949.00 along with a contingency allowance; project cost is a capital outlay expense which will be paid from the water treatment plant's budget; authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract and all related documents.
- F. Adoption of a Water Rate Resolution for City of McDonough Water and Sewer customers living outside of the City limits. These customers outside the City limits will be billed at the same rate as Henry County Water Authority rates effective April 1, 2019.
- G. Approval of the minutes for the January 22, 2019, City Council meeting.
- H. Adoption of a Budget Amendment Resolution to amend the FY 2018-2019 Budget for approved transactions in various funds.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 6A through 6H. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Pruett was not present at the meeting.

7. Scheduled Public Comments:

Dr. Harold Grier – Grier Manor

Dr. Grier did not attend the meeting.

Mayor Copeland stated that Dr. Grier was not able to make the meeting. He also said that he was going to have the City Administrator discuss Item 9, the Simpson Street Police

Precinct and then hold Executive Session out of order from the Agenda, due to Mr. Dickerson having been ill and would leave the meeting after Executive Session.

Mr. Dickerson presented the revised plans for the Simpson Street Police Precinct:

- Entered negotiations with contractor to lower costs
- Savings from original bid of \$74,310
- Contract will be brought back for approval

Councilmember Stewart motioned to move forward with the Simpson Street Police Precinct at a cost of \$648,190.00, to be paid from Impact Fees; and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to enter into Executive Session for potential Litigation, O.C.G.A 50-14-2. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett was not present at the meeting.

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

There were no action items to report.

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| 8. Discussion and approval of the McDonough Beautification Project, and to become an active affiliate of “Keep Georgia Beautiful”, joining membership fee of \$3,000.00 with annual fee of \$165.00, project cost will be \$12,500.00; all costs will be paid from the General Fund. | Mr. Keith Dickerson |
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Executive Assistant, Ms. Euretha Olokodana discussed proposed implementation of the McDonough Beautiful Project. Ms. Olokodana, Ms. Lauren Carter and Ms. Marcia Simeon presented ideas for different aspects of the program:

- Ms. Lauren Carter focused on litter prevention through Education
- Ms. Olokodana discussed beautification to enhance the look and feel of McDonough

- Ms. Simeon presented information about redevelopment by eliminating slum or blighted areas in McDonough
- Asking each district council person to assign a liaison for their district to compile a task force with At-Large members, Administration, City Staff and volunteers
- Task Force will hold meetings throughout the City; schedule clean up days; advertise and educate; and work with partners to beautify and redevelop McDonough

Councilmember Vincent commented on some areas of focus she would like to see in relation to the McDonough Beautiful Project:

- Need a deliberate intent to identify how and where monies will be used so that no one is left behind
- Focus on areas outside of Main Street and South Point
- Issues of trash signage and Stormwater management need to be components that are addressed
- Enlist the help of the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and churches in partnerships
- Integrate “Adopt a Highway Program” into the project
- We have to have an inclusive comprehensive package for the entire city because McDonough is more than the square

Councilmember Elrod thanked staff for their hard work on the proposed project and encouraged recycling projects throughout the City as well as community-wide litter pick-up days. Councilmember Stewart shared his excitement about getting the McDonough Beautiful project started in the City. Mayor Pro Tem Varner complimented staff on a job well done and encouraged gathering contact information from participants to encourage continued involvement through technology.

Councilmember Pruitt motioned to approve the city to be an affiliate of “Keep Georgia Beautiful”, with the project cost of \$12,500, to be paid from the General Fund; to pay the membership fee of \$3,000 with an annual fee of \$165; and for each Councilmember to assign a liaison. Councilmember Elrod seconded.

Prior to any vote, Councilmember Vincent shared further concerns that District 2 was not laid out specifically in the proposed plan for the McDonough Beautiful Project. She suggested that staff come back to Mayor and Council after those concerns have been addressed and every part of the City is equally represented. After further discussion, Councilmember Pruitt withdrew the motion and Councilmember Elrod withdrew his second.

Councilmember Elrod motioned to adopt the McDonough Beautification Project to become an affiliate of “Keep Georgia Beautiful”, with a budget of \$12,500, which will be paid from the General Fund, to include the joining membership fee of \$3,000 and \$165 annually; and with the understanding another presentation will be made with a formal plan, which will list all four Districts to be included in the project. Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor and one opposed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland,

Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition; and Councilmember Pruett was not in attendance for the meeting. The motion passed.

- 9. Discussion of revised plans for the Simpson Street Police Precinct and to move forward with updated cost features of \$648,190.00 which will be paid from Impact Fees. Mr. Dickerson**

This item was discussed out of order from the Agenda.

10. Approval of the annual retreat minutes of January 11, 2019.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the annual retreat minutes from January 11, 2019. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Varner did not vote, and Councilmember Pruett was not present at the meeting.

11. Unscheduled Public Comments

(1) Ms. Pat Boston – Littering issues

- Residents of unincorporated McDonough but we want to be a part of the process
- Enforcement needs to be a part of addressing the littering issues
- As educators, we know that education is very important
- We should all be vested in the community whether we're City of McDonough residents or not
- We would like to do whatever we can to keep our community beautiful

- 12. 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)**

This item was taken out of order from the Agenda.

13. City Administrator and City Clerk Comments

The City Clerk, Ms. Price said that the City Administrator will be out of the office on Friday, February 8.

14. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Vincent said she looks forward to the day that there is a clearer understanding of countering positions between districts, because at the end of the day we need to ensure that everyone is a part of the progress that happens in McDonough.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He recognized two members of the McDonough Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), and he thanked the Mr. and Mrs. Boston for their interest in the City. He discussed several ribbon cuttings for new businesses in McDonough, and said that he is encouraged by citizens moving their families here to open new businesses in the City.

He also publicly thanked the Henry County Fire Department for the Fire station 51 ambulance that they have provided in the City. Councilmember Elrod noted that a new mural is being painted in the City on the old Planter's building, and he encouraged everyone to stop and enjoy the new artwork.

Councilmember Stewart thanked those in attendance for the meeting and commended the City staff for a continued job well done. Mr. Stewart commented that in light of the recent government shut down, he would like to help City of McDonough residents who have been impacted; and he asked if there was a way to offer financial assistance for water payments to those people. Mayor Copeland suggested that Councilmember Stewart share those discussions with the City Administrator, Public Works Director and Attorney to determine what options may be available.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting, and she also recognized the members of MYAC who were present. She advised staff members to bring back the McDonough Beautiful Project for further discussion, and she reiterated the need for the plan to be inclusive of every district. She thanked Commander Head and the American Legion Post 516 for their work across the state of Georgia.

Councilmember Pruitt thanked all of the visitors, MYAC members and staff members who attended the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner recognized the two MYAC members who were at the meeting, and she asked them to introduce themselves. Miss Nadia Abdulridha and Miss Nikita Patel each introduced themselves and addressed Mayor and Council briefly.

Mayor Copeland reminded everyone that Valentine's Day is February 14, and he thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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.