

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

The Regular Scheduled Workshop of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Thursday, June 6, 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, 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; Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; 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; Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer; and Event Coordinator, Ms. Cinderella Bennett.

Mayor Copeland introduced Ms. Cinderella Bennett as the City's Event Coordinator and he welcomed her to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Vincent led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Pruitt gave the Invocation.

6. Consent Agenda

- A. Ratify the contract between the City of McDonough and Sajid R. Patharwala, Shamanan Patel, and Mmohmadiftekhar Munshifor the purchase of two parcels on Postmaster Drive to complete the roundabout in the amount of \$ 8,755.00 which will be paid from SPLOST funds.
- B. Ratify the appointment of Attorney Vincent Lotti to be an Associate Judge in the McDonough Municipal Court and he was sworn in on May 29, 2019.
- C. Adoption of the 7th Budget Resolution to amend the FY 2018-2019 Budget for approved transactions in various funds; authorization for Mayor to sign.
- D. Approval to surplus a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria Vin # 2FAFP71WXYX112406 from the Fire Department.
- E. Adoption of a “Friends of the Courts” Resolution establishing a committee and placing a specific item regarding the Courts on the November 5, 2019, ballot; authorization for the Mayor to sign.
- F. Approval of change order #5 submitted by Boston Productions, Inc. for a re-edit of the McDonough Heart Video to a 3-screen presentation and to make software changes to the Polk Museum Building at a cost of \$13,128.00 which will be paid from SPLOST IV funds.
- G. Approval of a contract service order between the City of McDonough and Charter to increase the City’s internet bandwidth so we may better provide services to the city and public WIFI. The will be an increase to \$1500.00 monthly with an increase to 500mb budgeted from the General Fund; authorization for the Mayor to sign.
- H. Approval of a contract between the City of McDonough and Darnel Quick Recovery, Inc. to collect total past due amounts on closed water/sewer/sanitation accounts. This debt collection group will receive 28% on all recovered funds, and 40% on all bankruptcies that require legal action; authorization for the Mayor to sign all related documents.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett motioned and Councilmember Roger Pruitt seconded. Prior to the vote, Mayor Pro Tem Varner requested that Item 6E be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Mayor Copeland asked Councilmember Pruett and Councilmember Pruitt if each agreed to the amend the motion to remove Item 6E for discussion, and they each agreed to the amendment.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Item 6E, to be added as discussion Item 7A. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

7. Public Comments - Dr. Harold Grier, regarding Grier Manor

Dr. Grier was not in attendance for the meeting.

(The following item was added through approval of the Consent Agenda)

7A. Discussion of the Adoption of a “Friends of the Courts” Resolution establishing a committee and placing a specific item regarding the Courts on the November 5, 2019, ballot; authorization for the Mayor to sign.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner asked about the purpose of the proposed resolution, what leverage would it give the City and what about any related election costs to taxpayers. Attorney Jim Elliott said he thought the only leverage would be political, and to express the will of the people of the City of McDonough, and that it would be a non-binding referendum. The City Clerk said she would request the information from the Elections Director about any related election costs and provide that to Mayor and Council.

: Mayor Pro Tem Varner stated for the record, that she is not opposed or unopposed to it moving. She was just trying to be a better steward of our taxpayers’ dollars; she cares for the economic viability of downtown; however, she is just basing her decision on what leverage does it give us? Does it matter? Does it really matter in the decision making of whatever the County decides to do?

Attorney Elliott stated to the extent that this referendum on the ballot is going to be conducted in accordance or conjunction with the general election that’s going to be held anyway, he did not believe there would be an additional dollar figure associated with placing this on the November ballot.

Councilmember Elrod commented on the importance of asking the citizens how they feel moving forward, and he said the best time to do that is during a city-wide election. Councilmember Pruitt echoed the importance of getting the opinions of the citizens of McDonough.

Councilmember Vincent shared concerns over the wording “near the jail site” in the question relating to the proposed relocation. She said that this has the potential to become a political hot box and suggested that a better approach might be to have conversations with Henry County relative to the City’s concerns; and there was some further discussion.

Mayor Copeland said that the wording in the question was derived from a County report about the location; and he said he has met with several judges in an effort to discuss the matter further.

Councilmember Pruitt motioned to adopt a “Friends of the Courts” Resolution establishing a committee and placing a specific item regarding the Courts on the November 5, 2019, ballot; and authorize the Mayor to sign. Councilmember Elrod seconded. The vote was four in favor and three in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Elrod, Councilmember Pruett and Councilmember Pruitt. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent.

- Round-about at Iris Lake Road
- Continue work on Bridges Road and McDonough Parkway
- Bridges Road/Simpson Street realignment
- Lawrenceville Street and McGarity Road property acquisition
- Continue sidewalk connectivity to Highway 155
- New entrance signage coming into the City
- We will need more firetrucks and two additional fire stations to cover the City
- More police cars are needed
- Parks and rec facilities and playground equipment
- Community Center
- Final SPLOST list will be presented to Board of Commissioners on June 18, 2019
- July 19, 2019, is the deadline for an Intergovernmental Agreement by all governing authorities
- August 1, 2019, the SPLOST ballot language will be submitted to the Elections Office
- November 5, 2019 is Election Day
- April/May of 2020, to start receiving funds

After the presentation, there were some questions and discussion.

11. Approval of the minutes for the May 20, 2019, Council Meeting

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the May 20, 2019, City Council Meeting Minutes. 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 Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Vincent did not vote because she did not attend the May 20, 2019, City Council Meeting.

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)

No Executive Session was held.

13. City Administrator and City Clerk Comments

Mr. Dickerson offered his thanks to the more than 100 volunteers who came out for the first McDonough Beautiful City-wide Clean Up Day, which was held on June 1. The event covered ten City streets, and more than four truckloads of bulk items and garbage were collected.

Ms. Price reviewed the due dates of the Personal Financial Disclosure Statements: for non-election Councilmembers that their statements are due July 1, 2019, by 5:00 PM, with no grace period allowed and for incumbent candidates they will have 15 days after

qualifying to submit Personal Financial Statements, with no grace period allowed. She also commented that the GMA Convention packets will be ready at the June 17, 2019 Council Meeting.

14. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Vincent offered her heartfelt thanks to her fellow Councilmembers and City staff for their support throughout her brother's illness and recent passing.

Councilmember Elrod thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He thanked Ms. Sylvia Dennis for her continued efforts with the Walk to End Alzheimer's; and he thanked everyone who was involved in making the first McDonough Beautiful Clean-Up Day and the Simpson Street Police Precinct groundbreaking events a great success.

Councilmember Stewart said there were 100 campers at Shiloh on Monday. He also commended an unnamed City of McDonough police officer for taking the time to stop and play basketball with some of the youth at a city park recently.

Mayor Copeland commented on the history of the courthouse discussions that have taken place over the years, and he said that other discussions are taking place but that he is not ready to discuss them fully at this time.

15. Adjournment

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember motioned and all stood in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 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.