



MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
FEBRUARY 4, 2021
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod 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	Absent
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 Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; and Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod called for a motion to approve the Agenda, subject to the deletion of Item 6D, and the addition of Item 12A, Jonesboro Road Park discussion by Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not in attendance for the meeting.

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember R. Pruitt led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Reverend Watson gave the Invocation.

6. Consent Agenda

Administrative

- A. Approval of the November 16, 2020, City Council Meeting minutes
- B. Approval of the January 4, 2021, City Council Meeting minutes
- C. Adoption of a Resolution to establish the dates/times, qualifying fees, and methods of payment for the municipal seats to be filled in the upcoming election on November 2, 2021.

Community Development

- D. Approval of a Development Agreement between the City of McDonough and TRG Geranium Park, LLC which includes Exhibit A, Exhibit B, Exhibit C, and Exhibit D; authorization for the Mayor to sign the document.

Human Resources

- E. Approval to add the position title of Captain in the Police Department with a Grade of 77 (position only).

Public Safety

- F. Approval to surplus the following police vehicles:
 - VIN 2B3AA4CV5AH122352; 2010 Dodge Charger (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXAG2CH237079; 2012 Dodge Charger (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXAG9CH237077; 2012 Dodge Charger (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXAG1DH629391; 2013 Dodge Charger (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXAGXDH629390; 2013 Dodge Charger (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXSG8EH223979; 2014 Dodge Charge (white)
 - VIN 2C3CDXAT6EH191191; 2014 Dodge Charger (white)
- G. Approval of agreements between the City of McDonough and Pro-Tec Fire Protection, LLC. to complete sprinkler system maintenance and repairs for two city properties:
 - Public Works Building at a cost of \$1,700.00
 - Fire Station #2 at a cost of \$3,500.00Funds will be paid from each respective department's budget; authorization for the Mayor to sign agreements.

Public Works

- H. Approval to purchase a Kubota Sidekick RTV-XG850 from Mason Tractor in the amount of \$13,653.04 and it will be paid from the General Fund.
- I. Ratify the 2021 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application; Authorization for the Mayor to sign LMIG Application and cover letter.
- J. Approval to allow Turnipseed Engineers to provide engineering services for S.R. Hwy 20 dual roundabout utility relocation at a cost not to exceed \$60,000.00 which will be funded by SPLOST IV; authorization for Mayor to sign related documents.
- K. Approval to allow Goforth Williamson to replace the gear box for the orbital B aeration tank at the Waste Water Treatment Plant at a cost of m \$20,610.00 which will be paid from the Waste Water Treatment Plant budget.

Technology Services

- L. Approval for the Mayor to sign a contract agreement to renew BIS Digital recording systems at the Municipal Court at a cost of \$1,130.00 which will be paid from the General Fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the deletion of Item 6D. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present for the meeting.

7. Camera Presentation

Mr. Preston Dorsey
Mr. Steve Sikes

City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey discussed the installation of new camera equipment in McKibben Chambers. Mr. Steve Sikes was not in attendance at the meeting. Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton offered a brief demonstration of the new camera equipment that will be utilized to record and publish meetings held in chambers.

8. Georgia Mobility Presentation

Mr. J.T. Williams and Ms. Auta Lopes with Georgia Mobility gave a presentation about providing a new personal rapid transit (PRT) system in the State of Georgia, which they would like to start in McDonough. Ms. Lopes explained that Georgia Mobility will partner with the City to utilize the existing public right-of-ways for the transit system, and in turn the City will receive up to five percent of the gross revenues produced. She stated that currently there is a commitment from Goldman Sachs to provide four to six billion dollars for these projects, and there will be no cost to the City. Mr. Williams presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project, which he reiterated is not a commitment by the City. He explained that the MOU will be used to secure the funding for the project, and there will be no commitment whatsoever from the City until a detailed franchise agreement is signed.

Mr. Williams described how the transit system will utilize individual multi-passenger vessels known as J-Pods which travel on an overhead rail system as an alternate method of public transportation. He noted that the entire system is solar powered and will produce no emissions, while offering a safer and faster transportation option throughout the State of Georgia.

Councilmember Vincent requested that a copy of the presentation be provided for Mayor and Council, along with a copy of the map for the proposed routes. She also requested clear information on what this will look like in the City of McDonough. Some discussion ensued. Ms. Lopes offered two websites where information on the transit system can be viewed at www.jpods.com and www.georgiamobilitycompany.com.

9. Scheduled Public Comments

Mr. Eddy Smith discussed tax collections for the City of McDonough by the Henry County Tax Commissioner's Office. He asked that the City provide an outline of the money that is received by the County Tax Commissioner for his/her own personal use from the City of McDonough, so that the citizens can be properly notified. In closing, Mr. Smith asked for support of Georgia Senator Emmanuel Jones' Senate Bill 22. Some discussion ensued.

Councilmember Vincent provided the clarification that the City of McDonough is contracted with the Henry County Tax Commissioner's Office to collect the taxes for the City, in lieu of the City collecting its own taxes. She noted that the City Administrator is currently working to determine what the costs would be to the City to collect our own taxes versus what is being paid to the Tax Commissioner for those collection services.

Mr. John Teague discussed the upcoming Henry County Bicentennial. He noted that while planning events may be difficult with the continuing pandemic, there have been meetings to discuss the 200-year anniversary. He noted that May 15, 2021, is the official 200th birthday for the County.

10. Proclamations:

Mr. Reco McDaniel McCambry Day
Mrs. Diane Reed Day
Pastor Spencer T. O'Neal

Councilmember Varner read and presented the Proclamation for Mr. Reco McDaniel McCambry Day. Mr. McCambry was in attendance for the meeting along with members of his family, and he thanked the Council for their recognition. Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent complimented Mr. McCambry on his success and thanked him for his contributions to the community.

The City Clerk Ms. Janis Price read and presented the Proclamation for Mrs. Diane Reed Day. Mrs. Diane Reed was in attendance for the meeting along with members of her family, and she expressed her gratitude for the recognition of her service. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent each thanked Mrs. Reed for her tremendous service to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod called for a motion to make the Proclamations for Mr. Reco McDaniel McCambry Day, Mrs. Diane Reed Day, and Pastor Spencer T. O'Neal an official part of the minutes of the meeting. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

**11. Approval and authorization for the Mayor
to sign TEFRA documents and resolutions**

Mr. Jim Elliott

City Attorney Mr. Jim Elliott discussed the requirement that the Chief Executive Officer of the City approve documents related to the bond issue by the McDonough Housing Authority, for which the City has no financial or other obligation.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod called for a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the TEFRA documents and resolution. Councilmember Varner motioned and Councilmember Vincent seconded. The vote was five in favor and one in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember

Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod voted in opposition. Mayor Copeland was not present for the meeting.

12. Speed Bumps Discussion

Councilmember Vincent

Councilmember Vincent discussed ongoing speeding and traffic issues related to Carmichael, Low, Harris, and Woodruff Streets, in District 2. She said that since this item was placed on the agenda, the Mayor has sent an email regarding the correction of these issues by installing speed bumps; however, the residents have requested that rubberized speed tables be installed in lieu of speed bumps to reduce the noise. She requested that the City Administrator address any issues that there may be with installing speed tables in lieu of bumps.

Mr. Dorsey noted that in his experience, the speed bumps are more effective in reducing traffic issues; however, he is open to suggestions from the effected residents in the area. Councilmember Vincent said she would offer the information to the residents and request feedback from them to determine how to best move forward.

12A. Jonesboro Road Park Discussion

Councilmember Vincent

(This discussion item was added when the agenda was approved.)

Councilmember Vincent asked if the Council could approve to authorize the signature of the Mayor to the Jonesboro Road Park contract, since it was previously approved by Mayor and Council at a Special-Called Meeting. Mr. Elliott noted that he just received a copy of the contract earlier in the day, and he planned to have it ready for the next meeting on February 15, 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod noted that historically the bid is awarded for a project, and then the contract is submitted for review and approval at a later date.

13. Approval of January 22, 2021, Special Called Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2021, Special Called City Council Meeting. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Varner seconded. The vote was four in favor. The motioned passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember B. Pruett and Councilmember R. Pruitt did not vote as they were not present for the January 22, 2021 Special Called Meeting. Mayor Copeland was not present at the meeting.

14. Unscheduled Public Comments

(1) Ms. Vanessa Thomas

- What is the status of the Truck Ordinance?
- We are continuing to have issues with trucks parked along the streets near the Avalon Recreation Complex.

Councilmember Varner commented that the City Attorney is still working on the wording of the Truck Ordinance to strengthen the language, and that discussion is scheduled to come back at a City Council Meeting in March.

- 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)**

No Executive Session was held.

16. City Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk Comments

No comments were made.

17. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember R. Pruitt thanked all of the visitors who were in attendance at the meeting.

Councilmember Vincent offered her condolences to the family of Ms. Elaine Moore, whose career with the City of McDonough spanned 30 years. Councilmember Vincent also offered a reminder about the District 2 Clean-Up Day on Saturday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m., and she discussed several of the issues with illegal dumping in the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod also offered his condolences to the family of Elaine Moore. He discussed several of the positions Ms. Moore held during her tenure with the City, describing her as “one of a kind,” who will be deeply missed.

18. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod adjourned the meeting at 7:28 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 December 30, 2020; and a copy of the schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City’s website, as required by law.