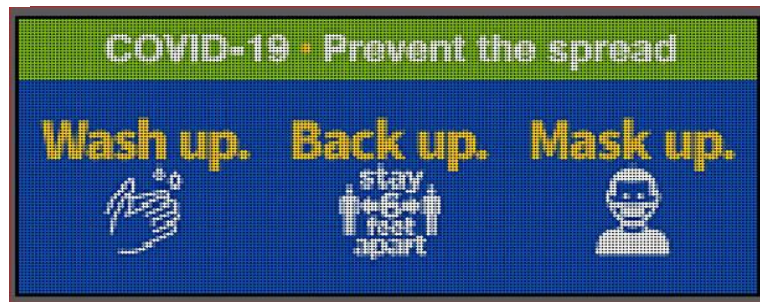




MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
MARCH 4, 2021
6:00 PM



1. Call to Order

Mayor 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 Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present (via telephone)
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 (via telephone); City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble; Deputy Fire Chief, Mr. Dave Williams; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson; Community Development, Mr. Eric Pitts; and Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Copeland called for a motion for approval of the Agenda, subject to the postponement of Item 10C; the postponement of Item 10E to April 1 and April 19, 2021; and the addition of Item 11A regarding Hamilton Pointe. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Varner led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Stewart gave the Invocation.

6. Consent Agenda

Finance

- A.** Adoption of a Budget Amendment Resolution to amend the FY 2020-2021 for approved transactions in the various funds.

Public Safety

- B.** Approval for the Police Department to purchase five (5) 2021 Chevrolet Tahoes from Bellamy Strickland along with the tint, emergency equipment, car radios, decals for a total cost of \$233,091.20 which will be paid from the General Fund and then reimbursed by SPLOST funds when available.
- C.** Approval to pay Williams Fire Apparatus to make the necessary repairs and re-inspection on Quint 51, the Fire Department's aerial ladder truck and the cost not to exceed \$17,500.00. These funds will be reimbursed from GIRMA insurance due to the incident which occurred on January 7, 2021; Authorization for Mayor to sign document.
- D.** Adoption of an Ordinance in which the Police Department shall regulate the parking, standing and stopping on any of the City's public rights-of-way contained with the municipal street system.

Public Works

- E.** Approval to seek bids for the 2021 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) paving project for the following streets:

Road Name	From	To	Rating	Width	Length
Carver Rd.	Phillips Dr.	Payne Dr.	73	22	2044
Regal Dr.	Bugle Way	Kingston Ln.	76	22	953
Ward St.	Holly Smith Dr.	George W Lemon St.	76	18	1249
Ambassador Dr.	Foxchase Ln.	Monarch Dr.	64	22	1323
Industrial Pkwy	SR 20 W	Avalon Pkwy	67	22	5690
Monarch Dr.	Bugle Way	Cul de sac	67	22	2167
Old Industrial Blvd	Hampton St. (SR 20/81)	Industrial Blvd	68	32-42	626
Lyman Stringer Blvd	Simpson St.	Macon St. (SR 42)	71	20	856
Marlin Dr.	Labonte Pkwy	End	72	22	1668

The paving will be paid from the 2021 LMIG Grant estimated at \$238,661.24 + 30% matching from GDOT and SPLOST IV.

- F. Adoption of an Ordinance extending the moratorium to December 31, 2021, regarding final improvement of any land development projects necessitating connection to the City's water system and this Ordinance provides for a waiver to be granted under certain circumstances.
- G. Approval to pay Henry County \$13,537.00 for the City of McDonough's share of a local match to update the Henry County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the development of a Henry County Trails Master Plan in 2021.
- H. 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.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Vincent asked that item 6H be removed from the Consent Agenda to be added as discussion Item 11B, as it relates to the City taking responsibility for the construction and maintenance of a dam.

Councilmember R. Pruitt offered an amended motion to approve the Consent Agenda, subject to the removal of Item 6H, which will be added as discussion Item 11B; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

7. Covid-19 Update

CM Sandra Vincent

Councilmember Vincent announced that the Walgreen's on Jonesboro Road has begun taking requests to provide Covid-19 vaccinations through their website; and she added that there are two additional locations that are seeking to become vaccination sites as well. She asked that staff provide regular updates about the steps being taken at the City to combat the spread of the virus.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price stated some updated information related to cases of Covid-19 in McDonough and throughout the County. She said that the total cases reported in McDonough for both zip codes, as of February 22, 2021, was 7,623. She noted that case numbers are starting to decline within the City, currently with Piedmont Henry Hospital reporting a total of 42 hospitalized patients with 21 of those patients being treated in ICU. Ms. Price added that Henry County EMA E911 Director, Mr. Don Ash reported that there are no unmet needs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the County at this time.

Additionally, Ms. Price also said that Dr. Lily Henson, CEO of Piedmont Henry Hospital does anticipate a fourth wave of the virus. Probably caused by people beginning to relax the protective protocols of social distancing, hand washing and mask-wearing and with persons receiving the vaccinations. She stressed the importance of remaining diligent in practicing all protective measures, as the vaccine becomes more available. Ms. Price said that the Health Department is currently looking for additional sites to provide the vaccines

to citizens, which will include the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but staffing issues are making that difficult at this time.

Councilmember Vincent thanked Ms. Price and Mr. Dorsey for providing the updated information. She said that the City should consider remote working for employees as we prepare for the fourth wave of the virus, and she stressed that there is still a need for virtual meetings at this time.

Mayor Copeland discussed the decline in the numbers of Coronavirus cases in the City of McDonough, and he said that he is encouraged to see the numbers start to go down. He noted that Moye's Pharmacy will also begin offering the vaccines.

8. Scheduled Public Comments

Mr. Eddy Smith – Tax Collections

Mr. Tony Carder – Update on lot renovations next to Scoops and Holy Smokes

Ms. Vanessa Thomas – Extended Stay Hotel

Mr. Eddy Smith was not in attendance for the meeting.

Mr. Tony Carder and Mr. Kevin Anderson discussed designing a green space area called "The Neighborhood Lot," to hold events and weekly markets for citizens, replacing the parking lot adjacent to Scoops and Holy Smokes Barbecue. Some of the plans he discussed are listed as follows:

- This would provide a green space on the square for marketplace events and for family activities.
- The lot will be included in the newly approved Entertainment District.
- The existing parking lot will be leveled and the area will be made handicap accessible.
- We would like to install a small fence around the lot to add a measure of safety for families with children.

Ms. Vanessa Thomas discussed the pending request by the Extended Stay America to add an extension to their building; and she shared her concerns that it appears that those changes to the building have already been made without the City's approval. She asked that Mayor and Council vote no on the request for the extension. She also expressed concern regarding the continuing issues with trucks parking illegally and unwanted crime in the area.

9. McDonough Beautiful Presentation

CM Sandra Vincent

Councilmember Vincent discussed the ongoing efforts to eliminate illegal trash dumping in the City. She said there seems to be a correlation between the end of the month and people moving out that lends to mattresses and furnishings being left illegally near business dumpsters. She asked if there could be additional locations for people to dump trash legally, citing concerns for public health issues that could result from these issues.

Councilmember Vincent also discussed concerns over trash entering the Stormwater system and potentially polluting the water table. She asked if there could be a schedule for Community Service workers to actively engage in maintaining trash throughout the major corridors in the City.

Mr. Dorsey explained that due to the ongoing pandemic, the City does not have many Community Service workers available at this time. He said there would need to be future discussions with Mayor and Council about providing additional dump sites for citizens.

10. Community Development Items

Mr. Eric Pitts

Ms. Tina Tebo

A. Preliminary Plat Review, Chapter 16.12 Procedure, Section 16.12.060 (A-D)

CC District 3: Craig Elrod

Applicant(s): Blue River Development

Development: Barrett Farms Subdivision

Address: Lake Dow Road (Parcel #123-01025000)

Request: Ratification of the Staff Approval for the Preliminary Plat

Zoning: R-75 (Single Family Residential) with conditions per ORD #19-05-02001(A)(Z)

City Council Review (2/15/21) POSTPONED

City Council Review/Approval (3/4/21)

Mr. Eric Pitts with Community Development reviewed the preliminary plat for the development of the Barrett Farms Subdivision, noting that staff recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned to approve the preliminary plat for Barrett Farms Subdivision, as presented; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor and one in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Varner. Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition.

B. Administrative Variance Request

CC District 4: Kam Varner

Applicant(s): Chad McElroy on behalf of TGC Group

Development: Extended Stay America

Address: Avalon Court

Request(s): Variance for a four (4) story hotel with an average roof surface height to be 42' 9 1/4".

CDD Recommendation: Approval (Refer to 12/22/2020 stamped documents)

City Code Section(s): 17.96.020

Zoning: C-3 w/conditions per ORD #20-01-21001(Z)

City Council Review (2/15/21) POSTPONED

City Council Review/Approval (3/4/21)

Mr. Pitts reviewed the request for an administrative variance for a four (4) story hotel with an average roof surface height to be 42' 9 1/4". He noted that the Code allows for an administrative variance of ten percent; therefore, staff recommends approval. Councilmember Varner offered a clarification for the record that it is Homewood Suites that has begun construction and not Extended Stay America, as was previously mentioned in the meeting.

The Applicant, Mr. Blake Heiman was in attendance for the meeting, and he addressed Mayor and Council about the request for variance. He said that the change would allow for a fourth-level; however, it would actually reduce the number of rooms from 85 to 84 guestrooms.

Councilmember Varner shared her continued concerns and opposition to approving an extended-stay hotel in the area.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned to approve the administrative variance for Extended Stay America, and Councilmember R. Pruitt seconded. The vote was four in favor and three in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett and Councilmember R. Pruitt. Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition.

C. Case #190205

CC District 3: CM Craig Elrod

Applicant(s): General Holdings Unlimited, LLC

Development: Campground Road Development

Address: Campground Road (Tax Parcel ID(s): 104-01065000, 104-01066000, 10401066001, 104-01066002, 104-01067000, 104-01067001, 104-01067002, and a portion of 104-01055000

Request: To annex and rezone property to R-75 (Single Family Residential), via Residential Group Project (RGP) development guidelines - City.

Existing Zoning: R-1 (Single Family Residential) - *County*

Land Lot(s): 57, 58, & 72 of the 7th District

183.18 +/- total acres per assembly of identified tract

MPC Workshop (2/11/20)

MPC Public Review (9/15/20)

MCC Workshop (3/5/20)

MCC Public Hearing (10/19/20) POSTPONED

MCC Public Hearing (11/16/20) POSTPONED

MCC Public Hearing (12/14/20) POSTPONED

MCC Annexation Public Hearing (3/4/21) and Rezoning Public Hearing (3/4/21)

This item was postponed until further notice.

D. Preliminary Plat Review, Chapter 16.12 Procedure, Section 16.12.060 (A-D)

CC District 1: Rufus Stewart

Applicant(s): Double Eagle Land Development

Development: Eagle Rest Townhomes (PH 1)

Request: Approval of Preliminary Plat

Address: Hwy. 20/81 (Parcel # M3.5-01004002)

Zoning: RTD (Residential Townhouse District) with conditions per ORD #03-02-03001(Z)

City Council Review/Approval (3/4/21)

Mr. Pitts briefly reviewed the request for approval of a preliminary plat for the development of Eagle Rest Townhomes, noting that staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Stewart motioned to approve the preliminary plat for the Eagle Rest Townhomes, and Councilmember R. Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

E. Case #210101

CC District: #4, CM Kam Varner

Applicant(s): The Residential Group

Development (Crest South Point)

Address/Location: Highway 81 W. (more specifically Parcel(s) #075-01066001, #075-01066002,

#075-01066004, #075-01066005, & #075-01066006)

Request: A petition to rezone 5 +/- acres to C-3 (Highway Commercial) and 31 +/- acres to RM-75 (Multi-Family Residential).

Zoning: RA-200 (Residential Agricultural)

Land Lot(s) 161 of the 7th District

36 +/- total acres

MPC Workshop (2/9/21)

MPC Public Review (3/9/21)

City Council Workshop (3/4/21)

POSTPONED per Applicant (4/1/21)

City Council Public Hearing (3/15/21)

POSTPONED per Applicant (4/19/21)

This item was postponed at the request of the Applicant.

F. Case #210102

District: #1, CM Rufus Stewart

Applicant(s): Patrick Perez

Development: Perez Project

Address: 317 Macon St.

Request: To rezone property to C-2 (Central Commercial).

Zoning: M-1 (Light Industrial)

Land Lot(s) 156 of the 7th District

0.240 +/- total acres

MPC Workshop (2/9/21)

MPC Public Review (3/9/21)

City Council Workshop (3/4/21)

City Council Public Hearing (3/15/21)

Mr. Pitts introduced the Applicant, Mr. Patrick Perez who was in attendance for the meeting to request approval for the property at 317 Macon Street to be rezoned to C-2

(Central Commercial). Mr. Perez plans to utilize the property for an office space for his home building business with no plans to store any large equipment on the property. Mr. Perez has a total of five employees, and he plans to utilize the space to meet with clients.

Mr. Pitts said this case will go before the Planning Commission for public review on March 9, 2021; and it will come back to Mayor and Council for the Public Hearing at the March 15, 2021, City Council Meeting.

G. Case # 210103

District: #3, CM Craig Elrod

Applicant(s): David Troy

Development: 62 Macon Street Project

Address: 62 Macon St.

Request: To rezone the property to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial)

Zoning: RM-75 (Multi Family Residential).

Land Lot(s) 134 of the 7th District

0.63 +/- total acres

MPC Workshop (2/9/21)

MPC Public Review (3/9/21)

City Council Workshop (3/4/21)

City Council Public Hearing (3/15/21)

Mr. Pitts reviewed the request in case number 210103, to rezone the property at 62 Macon Street from RM-75 (Multi-Family Residential), to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial). The Applicant, Mr. David Troy was in attendance for the meeting, and he addressed Mayor and Council regarding the proposed rezoning. Mr. Troy explained that although he purchased the property for residential use, he believes it is better suited for a commercial business; therefore, he is requesting the change in zoning.

This case will come back for a Public Hearing at the March 15, 2021, City Council Meeting.

11. Approval of the February 15, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the February 15, 2021, City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember R. Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor and two abstentions. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod did not vote because he was not in attendance for the February 15, 2021, City Council Meeting. Councilmember Varner did not vote.

11A. Unscheduled Comments Regarding Hamilton Pointe

Councilmember Vincent stated that all of Council has received several emails regarding issues at the Hamilton Pointe Subdivision. She said that the residents of Hamilton Pointe

have been in communication with the City; however, there are still questions that have not been answered. She said that what has happened in the neighborhood is a travesty, and all of Mayor and Council should share in the concerns of the residents.

Ms. Aerial Jackson and Mr. Warren Tillery, Attorneys with Smith, Welch, Webb & White Law Firm were present at the meeting on behalf of the some of the homeowners at Hamilton Pointe. Ms. Jackson cited several concerns regarding certain conditions of zoning and other criteria applicable to the properties, which are not being complied with by the current builders. She said those issues include but are not limited to exterior sizing, house sizes and colors.

Ms. Jackson introduced the following homeowners to speak about their personal properties and experiences with new builders in the development:

(1.) Mr. Alexander Garcia

- The original builders promoted a certain lifestyle and price point of \$300,000, for homes built in the subdivision.
- New builders are building smaller homes with lesser materials.
- A new house has been constructed next to my property and I believe the builders encroached on my property.
- The house next to mine is priced at \$200,000, which can negatively affect the value of my property.
- The sidewalks are going in, but there is no lighting installed so it is creating unsafe conditions in the neighborhood.

(2.) Ms. Traci Roman

- The stop build order was issued in 2/25/2021.
- Thank you Mayor Copeland, Mr. Dorsey and Councilmember Vincent for coming out to witness for yourself the issues we are experiencing.
- New Century home builders are out of compliance with size, aesthetic and color of homes.
- Please continue the stop order until the compliance issues are addressed.
- Ms. Roman brought photographs of the differences in homes that she submitted to the City Clerk.
- She said that none of the new homes have three-sides brick, as the original homes do.

(3.) Mr. Ken Salako

- Despite the stop work order, Mr. Salako witnessed work being continued.
- I asked the workers to stop and a supervisor came and instructed them to continue working.
- The supervisor stated they had a special permit from the City to continue working, but did not produce a permit to Mr. Salako.
- The police were called over the issue, and Mr. Salako was given a citation for using foul language.

Councilmember Vincent took the opportunity to stress the importance of responding back to these concerns so that the citizens do not feel that the City of McDonough does not care about what is happening to them. Mr. Dorsey clarified that when the citizen comments are

concluded, the City Attorney will make a statement since there is a potential for litigation in this case.

(4.) Ms. Desiree Tisdale

- Ms. Tisdale is a resident of Hamilton Pointe.
- Several homeowners have reached out to the City; however, there has not been any adequate response by staff.
- What is the administrative chain of command to ensure that proper communication is held by your office?
- Street lights and cleanliness of the building conditions are valid concerns since some of the construction sites have been vandalized.
- We've voiced these concerns to the company without any resolution.

(5.) Mr. Eric Faqua

- Can we also address how the yards are structured?
- I have standing water on both sides and in the back of my home as a result of construction.
- I have addressed the builder regarding these issues.
- I support upholding the stop order until these issues can be resolved.

(6.) Mr. Machele L. Holder

- We have been asking the City of McDonough to have transparency and enforce the Ordinance; so the homeowners can maintain our property values.
- Ms. Holder played a voicemail message that she received from the Mayor regarding the issues at Hamilton Pointe.
- She said that the existing homes in the neighborhood are 3,400 square feet or larger; and the new homes are being built at 1,600 – 2,200 square feet.
- Ms. Holder said that she has called and texted the City, but she has received responses.
- It is sad that we had to go get representation for the City to enforce its own Ordinance.

After the residents' comments were concluded, Mr. Warren Tillery, Attorney with Smith, Welch, Webb & White also addressed Mayor and Council regarding some of the issues at Hamilton Pointe. His comments included:

- Mr. Tillery has spoken with the Mayor and has received updates from Mr. Dorsey.
- The residents take this very seriously and that is why they wanted to come speak at the meeting.
- This subdivision like others was initially started by one developer; and it now has changed hands between numerous developers since the starting time.
- Mr. Tillery referenced Ordinance 03-12-290003(A)(Z), and he asked to be provided with any amendments or changes to the Ordinance, if any updates have been made since it was approved.

- The conditions do provide for phases in the neighborhood; however, the developer is attempting to blur some of the conditions of zoning which are not consistent with the community standard that is already there.

Councilmember Vincent stated that these are similar issues to what took place in the Overlook Community, and that something went wrong. She said these citizens have made investments and they are very concerned with what is happening. She said that as a councilmember who requested information, she is concerned that she was advised that she would need to submit an Open Records Request to receive documents due to issues with copyrights.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod said that he has experienced similar issues with his own personal property, and he thanked the residents who were in attendance to express their concerns. Mayor Copeland also thanked the residents who came to the meeting, and he said he shares in their concerns.

City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott noted that there may be a real potential for litigation in this instance, adding that he is certain that the City Administrator and his staff will be looking into this matter. He said that he is currently reviewing multiple documents to include the Ordinance which dates back to 2003, applications that have been submitted, and some approvals that have been issued by City officials since that time.

Councilmember Vincent reiterated that there needs to be interpretation as to what exactly has happened in this instance, so that there can be appropriate intervention in this case.

11B. 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.

The Applicant, Mr. Drew Camp was in attendance for the meeting, and he addressed Mayor and Council about the proposed Geranium Park project agreement. Mr. Eric Pitts reviewed proposed agreement to provide a pocket park, which would be deeded to the City of McDonough. Some of the improvements included in the proposed project are the removal of an existing above-ground sewer pipe and renovations to the pond and dam on the property.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod offered a reminder that this is approximately 12 acres, which was originally zoned for 39 homes. The developer has since agreed to reduce the number of homes to 19. He noted that an above-ground sewer pipe was installed in 1952, and part of this agreement for this project is to remove the possible liability associated with the old pipe.

Mr. Camp stated an overall review of what is being proposed, as follows:

- Project was originally zoned for 39 lots with an on-site lift station.
- The number of lots has been reduced to 19.

- We worked with Mr. Rodney Heard to come up with a plan to alleviate the aerial sewer crossing and redo the pond and dam.
- We will raise the dam, reroute the sewer line, and utilize the pond as a water feature similar to that at Big Spring Park.
- We will add sidewalks from Lawrenceville Street to create connectivity and walkability.
- At the corner of Judy Drive, we will add a gateway to the City with signage and landscaping.
- Additionally, we will quitclaim approximately four (4) acres to the City.

Councilmember Vincent shared her continued concerns about the City taking responsibility for maintenance of the dam, and she asked about the associated costs to the City as a result. Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Thompson said that it would be difficult to estimate the costs at this time, but he will bring that information back to Mayor and Council. He noted that any associated costs would be paid from Stormwater fees. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned to approve the development agreement between the City of McDonough and TRG Geranium Park, LLC, which includes Exhibit A, Exhibit B, Exhibit C, and Exhibit D; and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Councilmember R. Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor and two in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition.

12. Unscheduled Public Comments

There were no additional unscheduled public comments.

13. 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.

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

City Administrator Mr. Preston Dorsey notified Mayor and Council that he will be sending out information regarding the Henry County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Transit Master Plan, and Trails Master Plan for their review in the coming weeks. He also thanked Mr. Eric Pitts for his continued work for the City of McDonough; and he offered his personal appreciation the Department Heads and City staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

City Attorney Mr. Jim Elliott thanked Mayor and Council for excusing his absence at the meeting since he was notified that he was exposed to the Coronavirus and he is currently working from home.

City Clerk Ms. Janis Price offered condolences and sympathy to the family of Commissioner Gary Barham, adding that he will be greatly missed.

15. Councilmembers and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Vincent expressed her condolences and discussed her personal sadness over the passing of Mr. Barham after his valiant fight to overcome the Coronavirus. Secondly, she discussed ongoing issues with debris and trees growing in the Stormwater system, and she shared her continuing concerns over addressing those issues. In closing, Ms. Vincent reiterated her belief that the City should reconsider holding virtual meetings, as people continue to experience exposure to the virus.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod thanked Mr. Eric Pitts for the work he has done for the City of McDonough in the Community Development Department. He also thanked all of the citizens who were in attendance for the meeting. Mr. Elrod also shared his sadness over the passing of Mr. Gary Barham, and he said his death is a tremendous loss for McDonough and for Henry County.

Councilmember Stewart thanked everyone who was in attendance for the meeting. He also expressed his condolences to the family of Gary Barham. Mr. Stewart commented on the tremendous losses that the community has experienced during the Coronavirus pandemic, and he encouraged everyone to take it seriously.

Councilmember Varner thanked the citizens who were in attendance for the meeting, and she commended them for continued community engagement. Ms. Varner also expressed her condolences to the family of Commissioner Barham on his passing. She also expressed the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting ourselves and one another from the virus as the pandemic continues.

Councilmember Varner also made the request that the Truck Ordinance be brought back at the next Council Meeting. Mr. Jim Elliott responded that the Truck Ordinance was one of the Consent Agenda Items which had been approved during the meeting. He said there will be a follow-up Resolution to name the streets that will have limited or no parking, which should be brought back at the next Meeting.

Councilmember R. Pruitt thanked the City Administrator and the City staff for their continued hard work and a job well done. He also discussed the loss of Mr. Gary Barham, and he said that Gary will certainly be missed.

Mayor Copeland shared a memorandum that he had written, as follows:

“During the last few months I have been consistently challenged and questioned concerning my lack of leadership relative to our having City Council Meetings held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic. Virtual council meetings are to me artificial in nature and do not afford the public an opportunity to observe or participate as is our long-standing tradition in McDonough.

I acknowledge that some people, including elected officials, are not comfortable with in-person meetings. Since the Coronavirus shut down began nearly a year ago, all of our officials have had the ability to participate in meetings virtually under the existing Georgia law. In fact, on a number of occasions, several councilmembers have done so.

During my years at City Hall, it has always been and will continue to be my policy and decision to be physically present and on time in the Council Chambers for all meetings; and I am confident that we can continue this practice in a safe and secure environment for all of our citizens and for the Councilmembers. And again, any officials who choose to do so can participate by phone.

Meeting adjourned.”

Councilmember Vincent commented: Bravo, Mayor. Bravo.

(The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM).

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 30, 2020; and a copy of the schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City’s website, as required by law.