

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY HALL – FEBRUARY 12, 2020
5:00 PM

The Special Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

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

Councilmember Stewart led the Pledge to the Flag.

Councilmember Pruett gave the Invocation.

Attorney, Mr. Andy Welch reviewed the proposed Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Agreement with the Cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, Stockbridge and Henry County, Georgia. Some of the items he reviewed are listed below:

- This agreement has been revised based on mediation with the County.
- There will be a reduction in County taxes for citizens in the City of McDonough related to Fire Services.
- Henry County will provide Special Tax District in lieu of a rollback.
- The Special Service District of the unincorporated area will pay for Planning & Zoning, Police and other services provided.
- Tax Districts are enforceable by law and by these contracts.

After the Mr. Welch's initial review of the proposed changes, discussion ensued. Mayor Copeland shared that some of the other cities have expressed their satisfaction with the agreement by approving it and forwarding their signed copies to the County.

Councilmember Stewart asked about any changes in the agreement related to City parks. Mr. Welch said that according to the agreement the City will remit impact fees to the County as they continue to operate and perform capital maintenance in the City parks, which was agreed upon at mediation.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod asked about the effective dates of the new agreement. Mr. Welch said that the agreement is set for ten years with a tentative expiration of February 28, 2030, depending on when the agreement is officially enacted. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod asked when citizens should see a change in their taxes, and Mr. Welch said the impact of the changes should be recognized on citizens' next tax bill.

Councilmember Pruitt asked about the services that are provided for senior citizens within the agreement. Mr. Welch said that the County will continue to provide transit services and program centers for senior citizens in the community. Councilmember Pruitt asked if this agreement would affect the City building the new fire station. Mr. Welch responded that the agreement will not affect the City's building a new fire station, which will also be beneficial to the County.

Councilmember Vincent thanked Mr. Welch all of his hard work and his presence at the meeting. She then stated for the record that no policy document should ever be rubber stamped by Mayor and Council without going through this process; and no councilperson should ever be made to feel that they are in error by asking questions. She said that while Henry County Water Authority is a separate entity, water and sewer rates vary throughout areas of the City with some citizens paying more than others; and that is her reason for asking questions regarding water. Mr. Welch said that there is authority in the Code Section that speaks to differential water rates, which allows those rates to be challenged in a separate process outside of the SDS Agreement.

The discussions continued. Councilmember Vincent posed questions regarding funding for EMS services, park maintenance, the responsibilities of different authorities, funding and responsibility for road projects, and other issues relative to the agreement. Mr. Welch continued with his discussion and explanation of the details of the agreement. Some of the items discussed are listed as follows:

- Fifty percent of the impact fees will be remitted back to the County for the maintenance for City parks.
- Each City provided a list of parks to be included in the agreement.
- There are no changes in local development authorities that are funded by the City of McDonough from the previous SDS.
- There is no specific maintenance agreement for the Jonesboro Road Park.
- There are no changes to the agreement regarding Elections.
- The County will work with each Public Works Director to identify streets for funding for resurfacing; and Mr. Dickerson has a designated list of streets for the City of McDonough.
- The agreement pertains to street and road maintenance, and it does not include sidewalks or beautification projects.

- The purpose of the document is to approve the City of McDonough's position regarding service delivery.
- The County will have to approve the entire agreement.
- The final agreement will be filed with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and will be made available online.

After the discussion was concluded, Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt a joint Resolution of the Cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, Stockbridge and Henry County, Georgia, approving a new Service Delivery Strategy as required by the Service Delivery Act, O.C.G.A. § 36-70-20. Councilmember Vincent motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Janis E. Price
City Clerk

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This is a special called 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 sent to the *Henry Herald* on February 10, 2020; and a copy the agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.