MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
SPECIAL CALLEED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – MARCH 20, 2020
10:00 AM

The Special Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Thursday, March 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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	Absent
Councilmember Kamali Varner	(Joined the meeting via telephone after the start of the meeting)
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present (via telephone)

Others in attendance were: City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; and Human Resources Director, Ms. Carla Tuck.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod led the Pledge to the Flag and Councilmember Pruitt gave the Invocation.

City Attorney Jim Elliott discussed the need for the City to consider the adoption of an emergency/disaster ordinance in light of the recent worldwide pandemic of COVID-19. He said that the Ordinance would provide that the Mayor, working in conjunction with the Henry County Emergency Management Agency, would have the authority to declare a public emergency and impose certain requirements. At a time when the emergency is determined to be over, the Council can vote to terminate the emergency status.

Additionally, emergency situations will last no more than 30 days unless removed by the Mayor.

Mr. Elliott further noted that certain powers can be given to different entities for enforcement, and he said that the City may seek injunctive relief from business owners and citizens who do not comply with emergency requirements. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Pruitt said he has received calls from citizens who were concerned about their Right to Bear Arms and he inquired as to whether or not this Ordinance will impact that Constitutional Right. Mr. Elliott said that the Second Amendment is a part of the U.S. Constitution, and that this local Ordinance would have no impact on that right. Councilmember Vincent asked that public be adequately informed that this Ordinance will not impact any of their Constitutional Rights.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Emergency/Disaster Ordinance for the City of McDonough. Councilmember Pruett motioned and Councilmember Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Stewart was not present at the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Janis E. Price
City Clerk