POST AGENDA
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY HALL – MARCH 30, 2020
10:00 AM

1. Call to Order **Mayor Billy Copeland**

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 (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 (via telephone); Police Chief, Mr. Preston Dorsey; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Downtown Development Authority Chairman, Mr. Jay Mercer; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Human Resources Director, Ms. Carla Tuck; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; and Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. 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 Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the vote.

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Stewart led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Roger Pruitt gave the Invocation.

6. Discussion of financial assistance to local businesses — **Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod**

Mayor Copeland discussed the need to provide financial assistance to local businesses during the current Coronavirus pandemic, to help ensure that businesses in the City can survive. He said that there have been ongoing meetings to discuss options for providing assistance through the Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod explained that the proposed assistance would provide a total of $150,000 from the General Fund to be transferred to the Downtown Development Authority, with 60 percent of those funds allocated for businesses in the Downtown District and 40 percent to businesses outside of that district. He said that individual loans would not exceed $3,000 per person, and could potentially provide assistance for 50 local businesses. He also discussed eligibility requirements that businesses would have to meet in order to apply for assistance, which are listed below:

- Business must hold a current 2020 City of McDonough Occupational Tax Permit.
- Business must have one full time employee or independent contractor in addition to the owner.
- Business is not owned by the City's Governing Authority, the Downtown Development Authority; or any immediate family member.
- There would be some type of requirement to remain open on a full or part-time basis during this emergency period.
- Business must not be delinquent on any revenues currently payable to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod also noted that a local bank has agreed to administer the loan on behalf of the DDA, at no charge as a service to the community.

Discussion ensued. Councilmember Vincent asked how it was determined that the funds would be split 60/40. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod said that since the DDA provides services to the Downtown District and there are so many businesses downtown, that the majority of the funds should be allocated in the downtown area. Councilmember Vincent shared her concerns that the money should be shared equally throughout all areas of the City and not focused on any particular area over another. Councilmembers Varner and Stewart echoed Councilmember Vincent's concerns over there being a 60/40 split of the funds, with businesses in their districts falling outside of the boundaries of the DDA. Discussions continued.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt the resolution as presented with filling in the blanks under number three, that the loans shall not exceed $3,000 for any single recipient and shall accrue interest thereafter at the rate of 3 percent. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Vincent asked for a friendly amendment to the motion, to remove the

60/40 split from the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod commented that it is important to remember that the DDA requested the 60/40 split and has agreed to provide this service to businesses outside of their boundaries. There was no second to amend the motion.

Mayor Copeland called for the vote on the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The vote was five in favor and one in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition. Councilmember Varner did not vote.

7. 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)

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel, O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(2). Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go back into the Special Called Meeting. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned to approve moving forward with the two names as finalists for the position of City Administrator to be released, as required by state law; and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

8. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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 given to the H*enry Herald* on March 27, 2020; and a copy the agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.