



MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
6:00 PM

The Special-Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Fire Chief, Steve Morgan; Executive assistant to the City Administrator, Euretha Olokodana and Network Administrator, Brian Linton.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Rufus Stewart motioned and Councilmember Roger Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Stewart led the Pledge to the Flag; and Councilmember Roger Pruitt gave the Invocation.

Mayor Copeland stated that in his years of serving the City of McDonough there have two outstanding individuals who have contributed to this city more than anyone else he knows and they are John Frank Ward and Rodney C. Heard. John Frank served as Fire Chief with no pay for many years, he served on Council, and Covington Street was renamed to John Frank Ward Boulevard. Rodney C. Heard who was a visionary for the

City and contributed his gifts and talents to bring the City into the financial standing we enjoy today. Mayor Copeland would like for consideration to be given to renaming City Hall the Rodney C. Heard Municipal Complex.

Another suggestion was renaming Southpoint Boulevard and some city officials received some negative feedback about changing this name.

Another suggestion was renaming the third floor of City Hall to the Rodney C. Heard Community Development Floor.

Mayor Copeland asked Mr. Linton to show on the screen pictures of the Gloria Jones Moye Public Safety Complex referred to as First Station 52, and the Herbert Jones Municipal Complex which is known as old City Hall.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to name the City Hall Building, the Rodney C. Heard Municipal Complex. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod motioned and Councilmember Roger Pruitt seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Vincent stated that her recommendation was to name the third floor of City Hall, The Rodney C. Heard Community Development Floor. She thought more people would embrace the naming of the floor; it would be most appropriate and more sustainable and fair to the community.

Councilmember Varner liked the recommendation Councilmember Vincent just made. Councilmember Varner commented that some of her constituents did not agree with renaming City Hall, that City Hall belongs to the 26,000 – 28,000 residents of the City. She recommended as the City grows that we might want to have a Community Development Complex and to name this for Rodney.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod wanted to confirm that city hall would remain McDonough City Hall located in the Rodney C. Heard Municipal Complex and the Mayor did confirm this.

Councilmember Vincent stated a substitute motion to name the third floor of City Hall the Rodney C. Heard Community Development Floor. Councilmember Varner seconded the motion. Mayor Copeland called for a vote on the substitute motion first. The vote was two votes in favor and five votes in opposition. This motion did not pass. Those voting in favor were Councilmember Vincent and Councilmember Varner. Those voting in opposition were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, and Councilmember Stewart.

Now Mayor Copeland called for a vote on the original motion, to name the City Hall Building, the Rodney C. Heard Municipal Complex. The vote was four in favor and three in opposition. The motion passes. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Elrod, Councilmember Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, and those voting in opposition were Councilmember Vincent, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Stewart.

Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 5:14 PM.

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). The *Henry Herald* was notified on September 14, 2020; and a copy of the agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.