



MINUTES  
CITY OF MCDONOUGH  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET  
JULY 20, 2020  
9:00 AM

The Special-Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 9:00 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   | Absent              |
| Councilmember Sandra Vincent  | Present (via phone) |

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott (via telephone); Acting Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; Technology Services Director, Mr. Steve Sikes; Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer; Executive Assistant, Ms. Euretha L. Olokodana; and Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Roger Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart 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 and Varner were not present.

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

Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark discussed the 2020 Millage Rate. He said that the request is to set the millage rate at 3.806, which is the same it was in 2019. He also noted that 3.806 is the rate used in the preparation of the 2020-2021 Budget.

Mayor Copeland opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor; and no one spoke in opposition. Mayor Copeland closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dorsey thanked Ms. Lynn Carty with the Henry County Tax Assessor's Office for her attendance at the meeting. He stated that the second public hearing on the millage rate would be held at the 6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting, later in the evening.

Mr. Dorsey also notified Mayor and Council that the air conditioner at City Hall requires a repair, and employees will be leaving City Hall at 10:00 a.m., to allow time for the repair. Employees will call in starting at 1:00 p.m., to see if they should return to work for the day. Further, he recommended that if the air cannot be fixed prior to the 6:00 p.m. scheduled meeting, that all items other than the Millage Rate Public Hearing and the Public Hearings related to Community Development items be postponed and rescheduled for another meeting.

Councilmember Vincent shared her opinion that with the air conditioning situation, City Hall should be closed and employees should begin the rotations that are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, July 21, in response to the growing numbers of Covid-19. She also said she doesn't believe it is fair to pick and choose what items would be heard with all others cancelled without a unanimous decision to do so. She shared her concerns about meetings being continually cancelled, and she reiterated her belief that the agenda items regarding virtual meetings and the monument are topics of high priority at this time. Lastly, she recommended that Mayor and Council be allowed to remotely conduct the scheduled meeting in lieu of cancelling any of the agenda items.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod confirmed with Mr. Dorsey that all Public Hearings, including those regarding Community Development items must be held in-person per State Law, and cannot be conducted remotely; and Mr. Dorsey agreed. Mr. Dorsey also commented that the City's technology system does not offer the option to hold Zoom Meetings and live stream simultaneously. Councilmember Vincent said that there is other technology that would allow for both live streaming and holding virtual meetings that the City could utilize, and she would be happy to assist with any issues or training regarding those technological requirements.

Mayor Copeland asked for suggestions from the other Members of Council. Mayor Pro Tem Elrod said he believed it was too early to make a decision, based on the repair of the air conditioning system. The City Clerk Ms. Price said that at the City Attorney's direction and having given notice of the meetings to the County, the meeting is required. She said that the County has a deadline to get the rate to the State for the publication of tax bills, and that the public meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m., and the meeting to set the Millage Rate on July 27, 2020, have been advertised in the newspaper and on the City's website. After the discussion, Mr. Dorsey recommended that everyone attend the meeting in-person as advertised, and move forward with the agenda as published; and Councilmember Vincent agreed.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Roger Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Elrod seconded. All stood in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Janis E. Price, City Clerk