



MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
AUGUST 23, 2021
4:00 PM
VIA Zoom -O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(g)(2).
Website www.mcdonoughga.org



THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD VIRTUALLY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF O.C.G.A. SEC. 50-14-1(G) DUE TO THE PENDING COVID-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, AS DECLARED BY MY EMERGENCY ORDER DATED AUGUST 6, 2021.

(Councilmember Craig Elrod has vacated his seat to run for a different seat on Council. So now six votes will constitute a unanimous vote.)

The Special Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. This was zoom meeting.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The City Clerk Ms. Janis Price called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present via zoom
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present via zoom
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present joined later via zoom
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present via zoom

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Community Development Director, Mr. Charles Reese, Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; IT Director, Steve Sikes; Network Administrator, Mr. Brian Linton

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda with an amendment to add 6A- Call for Special Election. Councilmember Vincent requested to amend the agenda to vote on Mayor Pro Tem. So Mayor Copeland called for the first motion to add the vote on Mayor Pro Tem to the agenda. Councilmember Vincent motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner had not joined the meeting yet.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the agenda with the two amendments, adding item 6A-Call for Special Election and 6B- vote for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Be. Pruett motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner had not joined the meeting yet.

Councilmember Stewart led the Pledge and the City Clerk gave the invocation.

Mayor Copeland turned the Covid-19 discussion to the City Administrator Preston Dorsey. Mr. Dorsey gave the following details/statistics from the County/Cities/Public Health call from today:

- Henry County 30,510 Covid-19 Cases, deaths from Covid-19 350
- Piedmont Henry Hospital, 150 cases today, last Wednesday hospital peaked at 161-cases leading the Piedmont Hospital system over the State
- Cancelled all elective and non-emergency surgeries, staff needed for Covid
- One in the top 10 hospitals in State with cases, so Governor is deploring National Guard to help and Dr. Henson has asked for 10 to assist.
- Because visitors will not wear masks, one patient can have one visitor per day, -the same visitor all day – if the visitor leaves he/she cannot come back in.
- This past weekend, patients were threatening to Staff in ER –so now they have Police on guard
- Henry County giving vaccinations Monday and Wed. 9:00 am to 3:00 and Tues/Thurs.12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM either at Adm. Bldg. or at Red Hawk Park
- When a call is placed to 911 – more questions are asked as to whether or not person needs to go to hospital. Example for your foot is itching – no hospital transport. Sometimes have to dispatch firetruck to destination –to wait on the ambulance.
- Public Health Dept. projections from Aug. 16 to Sept. 11 – there will be 4,350 cases in Henry County – last week there were 1,012.

HR Director Mr. Nick Calhoun gave a presentation which is attached.

Mr. Calhoun advised that a fireman contracted Covid and that an entire shift of firefighters had to go home.

City Attorney Jim Elliott and City Administrator spoke with a GIRMA attorney and the attorney commented that the City is on solid ground and that GIRMA is prepared to defend the City on these issues.

Mr. Dorsey made the following recommendations: (1). that unless an employee has a medical or a religious excuse it is mandated that all employees be vaccinated by October 1, 2021, (2). Close municipal buildings to the Public on September 7 with employees continuing to work since work can be conducted by phone or through the drive-through window, (3). this would re-accessed September 20, 2021.

Mr. Dorsey spoke with the Henry County Manager and asked if this mandate is adopted and any of the City's Public Safety personnel choose to resign instead of being vaccination would they assist the City. County Manager Cherri Matthews told Mr. Dorsey that the Henry County would help in any way they could.

Councilmember Vincent asked if the City has made reasonable accommodations to spread employee work stations out to other buildings, and have we looked for some employees to do telemarketing? Discussion ensued. Also have we educated our employees about the vaccine? Are we providing incentives for employees to get the vaccinations and can we have the instant kits on site for employees to take the Covid tests? Everybody needs to continue to wear their masks and implement an educational program. Is there a possibility to have testing and vaccinations given at the Boots Welch Precinct? Councilmember B. Pruett is concerned about mandating a vaccine and more incentives should be explored before a decision is made. Mayor Copeland supports the recommendations of the City Administrator and asked for a motion for approval of these recommendations. Mayor asked for a motion the second time. Since there was no motion, Mayor stated this issue is dead today.

Mr. Elliott explained that since a Councilmember qualified to run for Mayor that this Mayor and Council need to call for a Special Election to replace this council seat. He had prepared a Resolution to Call for a Special Election to be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 2, 2021. If the City misses that election date, the next election date would be in March, 2022. Councilmember Vincent motioned to approve the adoption of the Resolution for the Special Election as presented today. Councilmember B. Pruitt seconded. The vote was four in favor. The motion passes. Mayor Copeland asked for a rollcall vote on the motion:
Councilmember Vincent – yes, Councilmember Benjamin Pruett – yes,
Councilmember Stewart – yes, and Mayor Copeland – yes.
(Councilmember Roger Pruitt and Councilmember Varner could not be heard to vote).

Councilmember Vincent nominated Councilmember Benjamin Pruett as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Stewart seconded. Mayor Copeland asked if there were any additional nominations and there were none. Mayor Copeland closed the nominations

and asked for a vote. The vote was five in favor and one abstained. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Councilmember Roger Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Benjamin Pruett abstained from voting.

Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Janis 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 was published in the *Henry Herald* on Saturday, August 21, 2021; and a copy of the agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.