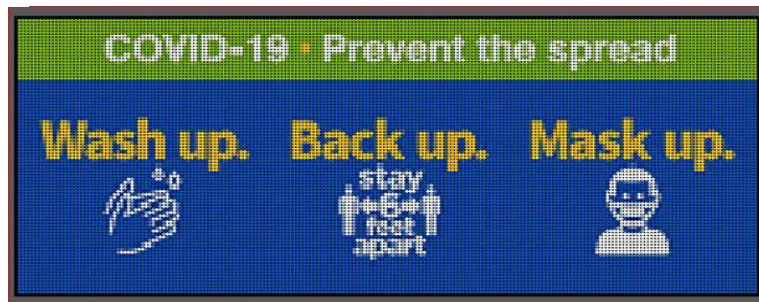




MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
6:00 PM



The Regular Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, 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 Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Absent
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Police Chief, Mr. Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; Community Development Director, Mr. Charles Reese; Finance Director, Mr. Mike Clark; City Planner, Ms. Diane Johnson; and Open Records Officer, Ms. Kathy Story.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Vincent asked that Item 12 be moved to Item 8A. Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda, subject to moving Item 12 to Item 8A. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Reverend, Dr. Bert Neal, Senior Pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

6. Consent Agenda

Community Development

- A. Approval to purchase for the Community Development Department two 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 trucks at a cost of \$28,725.00 each. The total cost of \$57,450.00 will be paid from the General Fund and each vehicle was budgeted accordingly in the Building Department and in the Code Compliance 2021-2022 Budget.

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

7. Scheduled Public Comments

Ms. Martha O' Kelley - Compliments for Police Department

Ms. Martha O'Kelly was not present for the meeting.

8. Proclamations:

Southern Crescent Women in Business
Mike Haney - Disc Golf
Mrs. Gladys Haliburton
Mr. Don Ash Day
Ted Chancey

Councilmember Vincent read and presented the Proclamation for Southern Crescent Women in Business. Ms. Ariel Shaw, Founder/President of Southern Crescent Women in Business offered her appreciation for the recognition and support from the City of McDonough.

Councilmember Vincent read and presented the Proclamation for Mike Haney – Disc Golf. Mr. Haney was in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

Mayor Copeland discussed the Proclamations for Mrs. Gladys Haliburton and Mr. Don Ash Day; and he read the Proclamation for Mr. Ted Chancey.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to make the Proclamations for Southern Crescent Women in Business; Mike Haney – Disc Golf; Mrs. Gladys Haliburton; Mr. Don Ash Day; and Ted Chancey a part of the official Minutes of the meeting. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

Councilmember Vincent discussed the possibility of holding a drive-by Christmas parade after the decision was made to cancel the 2021 City of McDonough Christmas Parade. She asked that an alternative event be discussed and considered. Mayor Copeland reiterated the ongoing concerns relative to COVID-19, and he said that the decision to cancel the parade was made out of concern for citizen welfare and safety. City Administrator Mr. Preston Dorsey stated also the safety concerns for the citizens and of the city employees who would be required to work at the parade, and agreed with the Mayor regarding the decision to cancel the parade.

Councilmember Vincent restated that what she is suggesting is an alternative parade, which would allow attendees the opportunity to drive past the stationary floats in lieu of standing in groups on the streets. Mayor Copeland said that his concern is the health and welfare of the employees and citizens of McDonough, and that the City will not be participating in or hosting the Christmas Parade this year.

Councilmember Vincent asked the City Administrator if there is anything that would prohibit citizens from organizing and putting on their own Christmas parade. Mr. Dorsey said he knows of no prohibitions that would prevent citizens from holding a parade as long as public safety is not an issue. Ms. Vincent asked for clarification on whether the Sheriff's Department could assume the duties of the Police Department for the parade; and Mr. Dorsey said to his knowledge, that would not be an issue.

9. Community Development Mr. Charles Reese
Case #210618 (Rezoning) District 3
Applicant: Michael Burdette for the Copeland House
Address: 94 Macon St.
Request: To rezone property to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial)
Zoning: RM-75 (Multi-Family Residential)
Land Lot(s) 134 of the 7th District 0.7135 +/- total acres
MPC Workshop (8/10/21) MPC Public Review (9/14/21)
MCC Workshop (9/20/21) MCC Public Hearing (10/7/21)

Community Development Director Mr. Charles Reese reviewed the request in case number 210618, to rezone the property at 94 Macon Street from RM-75 (Multi-Family Residential) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial). According to Mr. Reese, Planning and Zoning made a recommendation to deny the rezoning; however, they indicated that they would have approved a recommendation of O/I to Mayor and Council. Mr. Reese noted that at the next meeting, the staff will recommend that the zoning modification be modified to Office O/I.

The Applicant, Mr. Michael Burdette was in attendance for the meeting, and he addressed Mayor and Council. He said that his plan for the property is to rent it out as professional office space. Discussion ensued. Mr. Reese verified that there are two to three properties that are zoned O/I in the surrounding area.

Councilmember Vincent requested the position of the Planning Commission. Mr. Reese said that after several discussions, it was determined that it makes more sense for it to be zoned O/I. The

Applicant expressed that he preferred a C-1 zoning to O/I, as it would provide him with more options. Discussion continued. Councilmember Vincent explained that the O/I zoning designation would maintain the integrity of the office space for that area. Mr. Burdette added that he would like to build a garage on the property with an overhead apartment to be used as a bed and breakfast.

Mr. Reese reiterated that the conditions would not allow for the property to be used as a dwelling. Mr. Burdette clarified that he was considering future uses for the property and he wanted to leave his options open.

The Public Hearing will be held at Thursday, October 7, 2021, City Council Meeting.

10. Unscheduled Public Comments

Ms. Vanessa Thomas

- Ms. Thomas wanted to follow up on a proposed order that dealt with a moratorium on apartments and townhomes.
- Secondly, she questioned the status of the Community Center, stating that nothing has transpired. She asked that the discussion of the Community Center be brought back on an agenda.
- Finally, she said that any decision to cancel the Christmas Parade should have been discussed with all of Mayor and Council. She asked that Mayor and Council at least consider Councilmember Vincent's suggestion to hold a drive-thru parade.

After Ms. Thomas' comments, Councilmember Vincent said that the Community Center was discussed at the retreat. She said that the site for the Community Center has been selected, in District 1, adjacent to the Camera Museum. Councilmember Stewart said that he is working with the Community Development Director to discuss moving the Community Center forward.

Councilmember Vincent discussed the McDonough 101 Junior program, which will focus on how to engage young people between 6 and 14, and how to plant seeds for ongoing community service. This initiative is a two-fold benefit to the Girl Scouts, as it will provide them an opportunity to obtain a specific badge, and it is also for the purpose of establishing this specialized McDonough 101 course for young people in the community.

Ms. Shaun White, Troop Leader with Troop 15005 introduced members of the troop who presented information about the details of the program. Some of the items discussed are listed below:

- The purpose is to educate youth ages 6 to 14 on the function of local government.
- This will offer a sneak peek behind the scenes of how the City runs.
- Administrative Staff, Council and Mayor, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and Water Works will each present information specific to their departments.
- One two-hour class will be taught by the Girl Scouts on Community Service and why it is important in the community.
- Snacks will be served for all attending students.

Mayor Copeland thanked the troop for their presentation, and he offered to meet with them at any time to discuss the history of the City of McDonough. Councilmember Vincent thanked the troop for their attendance and for their hard work on the project.

12. 2021 Christmas Parade

Councilmember Vincent

This item was moved when the Agenda was approved.

13. Approval of September 2, 2021 Workshop Minutes

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the September 2, 2021, Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

**14. 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). Mayor Pro Tem Pruett motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Pruitt motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem Pruett, Councilmember Pruitt, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Vincent. Councilmember Varner was not present for the meeting.

There were no action items to report.

The City Clerk Ms. Janis Price provided a Covid-19 update, as requested by Mr. Dorsey. Ms. Price said that Dr. Williams Watkins with Piedmont Henry reported that cases are improving, with a current total of 111 Covid patients in the hospital. He said that both the oxygen supply and equipment is sufficient at this time; however, there still remains a staffing shortage among healthcare workers. She noted that a list of 33 locations to receive vaccinations was provided to Mayor and Council and added to the City's website for informational purposes.

Mr. Dorsey said he that after a request by Councilmember Vincent, he has put together some information about having a vaccine location which he will provide to Mayor and Council tomorrow. He noted that as of today, all City buildings have been reopened to the public; and he

asked that they remain open unless there is a spike in Covid cases. Lastly, he thanked the City staff for the great job they have done in dealing with the pandemic.

Councilmember Vincent echoed the sentiments of the City Administrator concerning the efforts of City staff. She said that the Walk to End Alzheimer's was a successful event, and she encouraged having the parks opened going forward. Mr. Dorsey said he would take his direction from Mayor and Council on reopening the parks. He said that the restrooms have to be sanitized frequently, but he is open to reopening the parks. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett said he would like to see the parks reopened.

Councilmember Vincent recognized former District 3 Councilmember Mr. Craig Elrod was in attendance at the meeting.

Councilmember Stewart thanked Councilmember Vincent for having the Southern Crescent Woman in Business as well as the Girl Scouts in attendance at the meeting. He also commented on the deaths that are a result of Covid-19; and he encouraged all citizens to get vaccinated and protect themselves from the virus.

Councilmember Pruitt welcomed the visitors who were in attendance at the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Dorsey and the City staff for a continued job well done.

Mayor Copeland commented on the number of people on the square last Saturday night, and he said he could not remember a time when there was so much activity. He said the Neighborhood Lot seems to be doing a good job of keeping people safe while they enjoy the new business, and that most patrons he saw were wearing masks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Janis E. Price
City Clerk

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This is a regularly scheduled 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 published in the *Henry Herald* on December 30, 2020; and a copy of the schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.