



MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – 136 KEYS FERRY STREET
NOVEMBER 19, 2021
11:00 A.M.

The Special Called Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Friday, November 19, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Interim City Clerk Ms. Christy Taylor called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Absent
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Administrator, Mr. Preston Dorsey; City Attorney, Mr. Jim Elliott; Interim City Clerk, Ms. Christy Taylor; Officer R. Jewel, McDonough Police Department; Human Resources Director, Mr. Nick Calhoun; Executive Assistant, Ms. Joani Clemons; Councilmember At Large Elect, Ms. Vanessa Thomas; and Councilmember Elect District 2, Mr. Jamal Burt.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda, subject to the removal of Item 7 and the postponement of Item 8, to the December 13, 2021 City Council Meeting. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem B. Pruett seconded.

Prior to the vote, discussion ensued. Councilmember Vincent asked that the items remain on the agenda, as advertised to the public. Mayor Copeland advised that he has the authority to remove items from the agenda, per the City Attorney. City Attorney Mr. Elliott clarified that according to the Rules of Procedure that were adopted in 2020, the Mayor has final authority over the Agenda. Councilmember Vincent stated that she does not support having the items removed after they were advertised on the Special-Called Meeting Agenda. She said that State law provides that only the items advertised on the agenda can be heard at a Special-Called Meeting; and that once those items are advertised as such, they should be heard.

Mayor Copeland called for the vote. The vote was four in favor and two in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Copeland, Mayor Pro Tem B. Pruett, Councilmember R. Pruitt, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent voted in opposition.

Councilmember R. Pruitt led the Pledge to the Flag; and Mayor Pro Tem B. Pruett gave the Invocation.

Mr. Jim Elliott reviewed the original lease agreement with The Veterans Support Group, which was signed October 7, 2016, and that agreement has since expired. He explained that the terms of the original lease provide for a five-year renewal of the lease upon mutual agreement of the parties. He said that the Resolution as presented would simply exercise the five-year extension of the original lease agreement.

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned and Mayor Pro Tem B. Pruett seconded.

Councilmember Vincent said that the Council had not been previously informed of the expiration of the lease, so she understands the concerns of The Veterans Support Group; however, she said the five-year extension would bind the incoming administration past the entirety of its term. She commented that the recent actions of the outgoing administration have not been operating with integrity nor operating with transparency.

Councilmember Reeves requested an opportunity for dialogue on the matter of the lease terms. Discussion ensued. He noted that the original lease set out the five-year agreement. He discussed the many benefits that the VSG provides for those in need of their assistance, which he witnessed first-hand when visiting the day before. Councilmember Vincent expressed that her desire is to allow the incoming administration to establish a relationship with this group, since it has been stated that the group should be afraid of the incoming administration. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Varner asked for an amendment to the motion to adopt the resolution, which would extend the lease agreement for a three-year term as opposed to a five-year term.

Councilmember Vincent asked to make a friendly amendment to the motion to extend the lease for a four-year period, as long as long as the incoming Council had no objection. Councilmember At Large Elect, Ms. Vanessa Thomas and Councilmember-Elect District 2 Representative Mr. Jamal Burt were both present at the meeting, and they each indicated that they would not object to the amendment of the lease agreement. Councilmember Varner agreed to the friendly amendment to the motion.

Councilmember Varner offered an amendment to the motion to approve the lease for a period of four years instead of five years, through December 31, 2025; and Councilmember Vincent seconded. After more discussion, the vote was four in favor and two in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem B. Pruett, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Varner and Councilmember Vincent. Mayor Copeland and Councilmember R. Pruitt voted in opposition.

Councilmember R. Pruitt motioned to adopt the Resolution as amended, and Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt seconded. The vote was six in favor.

7. **Lease extension for the Image Doctor
Media Museum of Photographic History
and Image Making Devices, at 369 Macon Street**

**Mayor Copeland -
Mr. Jim Elliott**

This item was removed when the Agenda was approved.

8. **Compensation of the City Administrator**

**Mayor Copeland -
Mr. Nick Calhoun**

This item was postponed to the December 13, 2021 City Council Meeting.

Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Christy L. Taylor,
Interim 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 posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law, on November 18, 2021.