

JUNE 24, 2021

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual Meeting)

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Matt Fuller (virtual attendee)
Commissioners: Jon Howard, Chad Warbington and Demetrius Young
Interim City Manager: Steven Carter
City Attorney: Nathan Davis
(Virtual participants: BJ Fletcher and Bob Langstaff, Jr.)

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed the attendance of those on the virtual conference call.

Commissioner Warbington called a point of order and noted that media in the audience has not registered, expressing concern about the them moving freely around the auditorium. After a brief discussion, APD Deputy Chief Smith advised that he would need a policy/guidelines prior to having the authority to take action. Commissioner Warbington stated that he is uncomfortable with the meeting being in progress and people walking about filming; they should join the other media in the gallery. Commissioner Young countered that there is no media gallery, it is the area that the media traditionally sets up in and without a formal policy, the Commission cannot impose ad hoc rules. Mayor Dorough asked that those videoing the meeting to stay stationary.

Legislative Liaison Que Hicks read the following call:

Mayor and Board of City Commissioners
P.O. Box 447
Albany, Georgia

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

There will be a Special Called Meeting (virtual meeting and in person) on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., in room 100 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and/or approve the following ordinance and resolution:

1. [Second Reading] Fiscal Year 2022 Budget (Ordinance)
2. Amendment to MOU – J Car Development (Resolution)

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Carter
STEVEN CARTER,
INTERIM CITY MANAGER

/s/ Bo Dorough
BO DOROUGH, MAYOR

/s/ Jon Howard
JON HOWARD, WARD I
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Matt Fuller
MATT FULLER, WARD II
MAYOR PRO TEM

/s/ BJ Fletcher
BJ FLETCHER, WARD III
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email
CHAD WARBINGTON, WARD IV
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email
BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Demetrius Young
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

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A brief discussion ensued regarding allowing a citizen who had submitted a Speaker Appearance Form to speak; the meeting not being a public/budget hearing, the consensus was to not allow him to speak.

Commissioner Young moved to allow those in the audience who wish to speak, to sign up and be allowed to do so; the motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Carter advised that he is presenting the final version of fiscal year 2022/23 budget and he is asking that the Commission approve the \$291, 927, 793.00 budget. He briefly discussed his fiduciary obligation in presenting the budget, municipalities required by State statutes to pass a balanced budget on/before last day of the previous fiscal year, etc.

Commissioner Young stated that he takes exception to the perception that someone has said something to make staff feel that Commissioners believe someone has done something improper; that is not the case. He discussed the Commission's responsibility, and what the budget represents, saying that this is not a great community for all the people, which should be a goal and putting resources where we should.

Commissioner Warbington introduced:

AN ORDINANCE NO. 21-119

Adopting budget and appropriations for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Commissioner Warbington then offered the ordinance and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Commissioner Howard stated that he will continue to vote his conviction; the allocation of the American Rescue Act funds as well as the solid waste contract result in his no vote.

Commissioner Young stated that he has a brief video of a Senate hearing in which he and Sherrell Byrd spoke regarding the American Rescue Plan; he feels that most do not understand the Plan and its objective.

Commissioner Warbington objected; Mayor Dorough asked if Commissioner Young will yield the floor to Commissioner Warbington. Commissioner Young stated that he will not yield, Commissioner Warbington can rebut subsequent to the video. Mayor Dorough stated that if the video is only two minutes, he will allow it to be shown. Commissioner Young countered that his time representing his ward should not be limited.

Mayor Dorough said to begin the video.

Commissioner Young summarized the video, advising that we have options as well as guidance from Senator Warnock. He briefly discussed the need of Commissioners to listen to others, meetings becoming contentious, etc.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-2 with Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Davis to provide an update regarding the amendment to the agreement with J Car Development.

Mr. Davis advised that it concerns the schedules attached to the resolution; if the resolution is approved, he asked that the Mayor is not authorized to execute the resolution until his (Mr. Davis) office receives signed documents from J Car and 207 Pine LLC.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the \$3.0 million cost to move from 207 Pine to 211 N. Jefferson Street. Mr. Carter explained that the building was purchased, the front section

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renovated for the CareHere Clinic; the \$3.0 million budget includes all aspects surrounding this project, not just the move.

Commissioner Howard moved to approve, but to withhold authorizing Mayor Dorrough executing the resolution until the documents from J Car have been executed and in the City Attorney's office, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Davis clarified that the signed documents are the revisions (3A and 4A) and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Fuller abstaining.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R150

Approving the revision of Schedules to the Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Albany, J Car Development LLC, 207 Pine, LLC and the Downtown Development Authority of Albany, Georgia (re: Gordon Hotel)

Commissioner Howard asked that APD be authorized to post an announcement on the local public access channel to alert the public of the new rules regarding setting off fireworks as July 4th is quickly approaching. Mr. Carter interjected that it might be more beneficial to have the PIO office put out a public notice to the media/citizens about the procedures.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if there is a certain size limit or number of fireworks that can be set off. Mr. Carter stated that the recently adopted resolution addresses sound, not size.

Commissioner Warbington reiterated the need to set a standard policy regarding meetings. He said that he is hypersensitive to movement in Commission chambers and explained his position on that, using a video to make a point during the middle of a vote, etc.

Commissioner Young recalled the mask mandate meeting in which there was pounding on the windows, with a person being removed; the increased police presence during these recent meetings, the objection to people moving around the room, which is unheard of. He does not understand the uproar over his video being played as it provides Senator Warnock's expectations regarding the use of the money (American Rescue Plan). He will not be limited, time-wise, and will not continue to be interrupted; he expects the same courtesy that he extends to all other Commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

ASST. CITY CLERK