

OCTOBER 5, 2021

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT CENTER – ROOM 100 (virtual and in-person)

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Matt Fuller (virtual)
City Commissioners: Jon Howard
Virtual Attendees: B. J. Fletcher, Chad Warbington, (Bob Langstaff, Jr. and Demetrius Young – virtual)
Interim City Mgr.: Steven Carter
City Attorney: Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual and in person) meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

The Clerk read the call as follows:

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

There will be a Special Called Meeting (virtual meeting and in person) on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 8:30 a.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 resolution:

1. Authorizing Applications for Governor's State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Carter
Interim City Manager

/s/ Bo Dorough
MAYOR

Notified via email
JON HOWARD, WARD I
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email
MATT FULLER, WARD II
MAYOR PRO TEM

Notified via email
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

Notified via email
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

Mayor Dorough discussed funds that will be distributed by the State with the deadline extended to October 31. His recommendations to staff regarding allocations were as follows: \$12.0 million for the CSO separation project; \$5.0 million for the Henderson Recreation Complex; \$2.0 for further renovations to the Ritz Theatre and \$3.0 million for the expansion of broadband, (with Mr. Carter requesting to increase it to \$5.0 million). He explained that he tried to keep it at \$22.0 million based on the consultant's recommendation which was to base the number on population when the application is submitted.

Commissioner Howard asked if Henderson and Bill Miller [gyms] can be divided equally. Mayor Dorough explained that Bill Miller is next on the list to avoid piecemealing the project. y and advised that Bill Miller will be on the next recreation project list. Regarding Henderson Gym, Commissioner Howard asked if Henderson will be new with Mayor Dorough stating agreeing and providing details of the design that was submitted.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if the Ritz Theater and Harlem District can be considered if there are additional funds.

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A detailed discussion followed regarding the amount of money being considered, allocations to the projects, recreation items (elevation of Henderson Gym site and schematics of the facility); the Ritz Center; broadband (benefitting east and south Albany and shovel-ready); possible support of Dougherty County, except for the Ritz Center; and the CSO project with Commissioner Warbington expressing concern on the quick turnaround and not having more information for discussion before voting today. Mayor Dorough and Mr. Carter commented on the short time left to submit the application for funds, discussions with state officials and the suggestion to submit the list as presented.

Commissioner Langstaff asked if it is possible to request just for the CSO and allocate all the funds to this. Mr. Carter stated that it will eliminate other projects and said he feels confident that the CSO will be at least partially funded with the other community items being up for consideration. He agreed with some comments of Commissioner Warbington regarding CSO and discussed splitting the money up for other projects, adding that he is more in agreement with CSO and Broadband.

Mayor Dorough commented on suggestions from the State representatives regarding the numbers and identifying projects for the application. Mr. Carter stated that the Commission already agreed to apply for the grant with this being conceptual projects and as projects are moved forward, details are then discussed.

Commissioner Fletcher stated that CSO and broadband are shovel ready, with the other recreation projects being discussed and asked if the projects must be named or can it be a general request. Mayor Dorough discussed learning about the monies at the end of June, having discussion via phone calls, and suggested needing details about the project. Additional discussion followed regarding having the projects named or having a general type of name for the initial request.

Commissioner Young also suggested setting and being clear on what the priorities are, adding that renovation of Henderson and Bill Miller have been on the table for over a year, and that he is frustrated that he has not yet received the documents he requested. He commented on health and wellness during the pandemic and not setting priorities, adding that whether or not Bill Miller and Henderson move forward, he wants to have a clear, definitive answer. He expressed frustration with the level of participation that the community has had as well as him not being in on discussions, adding that the consultant mentioned private meetings he had with Commissioners, but he was not included in them. He suggested getting the grant submitted as the first order of business and see what comes back from the State.

Mayor Dorough stated that he met with representatives and it can be arranged for Commissioner Young and any others to meet with them. There is nothing clandestine about the meetings, they are part of the survey and investigation process.

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Young.

A RESOLUTION #21-R180

Authorizing Applications for Governor's State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Commissioner Warbington offered a substitute motion to table the item and come back at the next work session with staff providing more details on the other projects.

Mr. Carter advised that the deadline is October 31 and there is not much opportunity to rework the projects. He asked for guidance from Commissioners on this matter. Mayor Pro Tem Fuller seconded the motion to table. He then asked to have input from the State level by the work session for discussion, along with additional information/guidance. Mayor Dorough stated that the members of the committee have been discouraged to refrain from discussing with local applicants, which can cause pre-judging, etc. Mr. Carter agreed, adding that it was discussed that further meetings are discouraged. Discussion followed on shovel ready projects, guidance of the process, no indication of what can/cannot be funded, perimeters to use when making application, etc.

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Commissioner Fletcher commented on the length of time it took to break ground for the bus station and how long it takes to get projects moving. She said she does not want to do anything to jeopardize CSO and broadband and that she will vote yes to move forward.

Commissioner Warbington clarified his motion, which is to have a statement of what is being asked for re: CSO, Henderson – a call to Mr. Huffman for a one-page summary of what the project will be, as well as the Ritz Theatre with cost and summary of the project; Broadband with areas to be served and what the City is committing to, adding that he wants a one-page summary only. He suggested having another call meeting to approve if staff has everything ready.

Commissioner Langstaff agreed with Commissioner Warbington.

Commissioner Young stated that he feels this level of detail is not yet necessary and discussed his reasons, adding that he is working with non-profits which are also submitting applications and the details that are being discussed today is not what is needed at this time. He asked to set priorities and move forward and suggested that he would be interested in being in on the broadband discussions to see if the school system will partner with the City, adding that he supports moving forward.

Mayor Dorough stated that he will vote against the substitute motion and suggested that additional information is forthcoming. He said the special call meeting was requested so that staff would have direction, agreeing with Commissioner Young that not much detail is needed at this time; however, a consensus of this Board regarding applications is needed. He discussed the CSO project and having engineering plans; the digital divide of broadband in distressed areas is being dealt with nationwide; having to compensate Mr. Maschke for his professional skills, which is why we must be certain what we are pursuing for him to provide a letter; major recreation projects and moving forward with the resolution.

Hearing no additional comments, and following a roll call vote, the substitute motion failed 4-3 with Mayor Pro Tem Fuller, Commissioners Warbington and Langstaff voting in the affirmative.

Discussion followed on the original motion to approve the resolution with Commissioners Howard and Fletcher speaking in support of the resolution.

Commissioner Warbington said he supports all four of the projects and believes staff will vet the process and asked again for a one-page summary document on each project.

Commissioner Langstaff suggested voting on projects one and four only today.

Mayor Dorough said that there are three categories of funds available with the City trying to submit applications for all three (adding that this is uncharted territory). He reiterated that there is a need to give staff direction due to the June extension of the deadline to October 31.

Hearing no additional comments, and following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Langstaff voting no

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK