

OCTOBER 26, 2021

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,
GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

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

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., and the invocation given by Pastor Patrick Sebesta, Sherwood Baptist Church was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Alcohol License Applications:

Marshal Walter Norman, Business License Director/Interim Code Enforcement Director, discussed the following alcohol license application.

1. SAI Sonee 1 Inc; d/b/a Albany Mart; 2121 Radium Springs; D. Moore/Agent; Beer and wine package

Discussion followed with Commissioner Young commenting on the location, which is across the street from New Birth Church, adding that emails were sent to the Commission asking to vote in opposition to the license. He listed concerns of the proposed repairs to the building, detriments/effects on the neighborhood and questioned renovations being limited due to being in the flood plain. Mr. Forgey explained flood plain regulations and commented on the costs to renovate including installation of gas pumps, upgrades, etc.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Forgey advised that at this time, they only have work/electrical permits and briefly discussed requirements regarding repairs/upgrades of the building, flood-proofing if necessary, etc.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Marshal Norman explained that the establishment is over 1100' from the church and meets the criteria.

Commissioner Young moved to deny the application, seconded by Commissioner Howard.

Commissioner Warbington offered a substitute motion to table, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fuller.

A brief discussion followed after Commissioner Fletcher asked to hear from the applicant and Commissioner Young asked to allow people from New Birth to speak as well, with Mayor Dorough ruling that no one will be allowed to speak. Commissioner Warbington suggested tabling for sixty days and putting the item back on the work session agenda, which would allow speakers. Mayor Dorough expressed concerns regarding the request to table as it pertains to the applicant making renovations.

Hearing no additional comments and following a roll call vote, the motion to table carried 4-3 with Mayor Dorough and Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

Marshal Norman discussed the following alcohol license application.

2. One Life Liquor Inc.; d/b/a One Life Liquor; 1515 Clark Ave; J. Patel/Agent; Liquor, beer and wine package

Calling a point of order, Commissioner Warbington moved to deny the application based on the general characteristic of the neighborhood, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and following a roll

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call vote, the motion to deny carried 5-2 with Mayor Dorough and Commissioner Langstaff voting no.

Commissioner Howard asked to make comments with discussion following on whether to allow. In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Davis opined that he feels the decision will be appealed and will then yield comments. Commissioner Young called a point of order and asked that standard procedures are followed, with a chance for Commissioners to discuss. Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Davis for clarification on Section 6.109 of the City Code with Mr. Davis explaining that a quorum is required at the denial hearing and the legal process regarding rescinding votes.

Marshal Norman discussed the following alcohol license transfer of ownership application.

3. Greg Ventures, LLC; d/b/a R&M #2; 2401 MLK Jr., Dr.; G. Daniels/Agent; Beer package

Following comments regarding the location and whether the agent is a resident of the City, Commissioner Young moved to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

ORDINANCES

Commissioner Fletcher introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 21-133

Amending Article II of Charter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Albany to provide for the Regular Meeting to be moved from December 28 to December 21, 2021

Commissioner Fletcher then offered the ordinance and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Warbington introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 21-134

Amending the Zoning Ordinance and map of the City of Albany to change the status of property located at 1004 Newton Road from R-3 to C-5

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 and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Yvette Fields, Central Services Director, discussed the following resolution regarding the request to submit a grant application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for public safety officials and First Responders Supplemental Grant.

Mayor Dorough noted that volunteer firefighters will also receive the \$300.00 extra pay.

Commissioner Warbington moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R181

Authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant; should the grant be awarded to the City, such grant is accepted

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Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt the following resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R182

Changing the First Work Session in November 2021

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R 183

Designating the C.B. King Law Office at 502 S. Monroe St., a Historic Landmark

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R184

Authorizing acceptance of Grant Award from the US Dept. of Health and Human Services re: Health Literacy Grant

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R185

Authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the Georgia Recreation and Parks Assn; should the Grant be awarded to the City, such Grant is accepted

A RESOLUTION NO. 2-R186

Accepting the Bid of Visions Soulutions Counseling Services

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R187

Adopting the Five-Year Comprehensive plan Update and Community Work Program

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R188

Authorizing the purchase of three CNG Buses for the Albany Transit System

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R189

Approving contracting for Engineering Services for the CSO Project

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R190

Approving the 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant Award to the City's Dept. of Community and Economic Development

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R191

Authorizing the filing of an application with the Dept. of Transportation; United States of America, and the Georgia Dept. of Transportation for a grant under Title 49 U.S.C. Sections 5307 and 5303

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R192

Authorizing Railroad Crossing Renewal Agreement between the City of Albany and Georgia & Florida Railway, LLC re: Clark Ave., Railroad Crossing Upgrade; authorizing use of TSPLOST Funds

Ken Stock, Asst. City Manager, discussed information regarding the request to approve the contract with A. West Enterprise.

A brief discussion followed with Ms. Fields advising that she had not heard back from A. West regarding minority subcontracting. Commissioner Howard stated that he is in favor of having a minority procurement office; Commissioner Young asking to identify opportunities with it being

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the responsibility of the Commission to assist minority businesses; Commissioner Fletcher questioning the makeup of the Central Services Department with Ms. Fields stating that there are 11 employees in her department; two white employees and the rest are black, adding that she will work on diversity within her department.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Howard and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R193

Authorizing the use of SPLOST VII Funds for construction of Underground Utilities (Sandy Bottom Circuit); Approving contract with A. West Enterprise, LLC

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

1. Utility Tractor; John Deere & Co., Cary, NC
Total expenditure \$75,687.07
2. Construction rock; (1) Oxford Const. Co., (2) AAA Concrete Products; (3) Reeves Const. Co.; Albany, GA
Est. expense (split award) \$79,887.50

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Warbington discussed having the vacant property information move forward, with Mr. Carter advising that he will provide a recommendation for vote. Commissioner Warbington commented on the request for the City to appoint three members and participate in a joint City/County/School Board redistricting committee. A detailed discussion followed regarding the number of Commissioners to serve, concerns on the committee making a redistricting recommendation without Commission input, who will draw the redistricting lines and having the appointed Commissioners report back to the full Commission after meetings. Mayor Dorough asked to have this put on the next work session agenda.

Mayor Dorough asked to have an update on the Hotel Gordon, a review of the application submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget and to send letters to the separate entity's which submitted letters of support for the City's application that was submitted.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Howard asked for a report of the new speed control devices in school districts to include locations for all and adding flashing lights for all school with the devices in operation. APD Chief Michael Persley stated that APD runs the program and that monies received from citations will be used to upgrade flashing lights. He advised that this program has been very effective in slowing traffic in school zones; adding that getting citizens to abide by the law and saving lives is a force multiplier.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on traffic concerns from citizens in the Whispering Pines/12th Ave., area, which include cars not stopping at stop signs. Chief Persley agreed that this is a concern and Mr. Carter commented on placing 'slow down' signs in neighborhoods.

Commissioner Young referred to Commissioner Howard's comments regarding citations/lighting, stating that we have had too many deaths within the last few days, mentioning a young man killed on MLK riding a dirt bike. Albany has a serious traffic problem with drivers not obeying traffic laws. He requested that residents in his ward stop calling him about camera citations; they need to slow down and practice safe driving habits.

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Mayor Dorough briefly discussed a minority procurement office with Ms. Fields commenting on the disparity study. Mayor Dorough asked to put the disparity study on the agenda to include cost, goals, requirements, etc. Regarding County/School Board participation, he advised that he received no response from either regarding the letter he sent. Ms. Fields advised that a disparity study is not necessary to create that office, explaining that the study is only necessary when goals are instituted. Mr. Carter stated that he will provide information.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK