

NOVEMBER 16, 2021
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual and in-person Meeting)

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Matt Fuller
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, BJ Fletcher, Chad Warbington (Bob
Langstaff, Jr., virtual)
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis
Interim City Mgr.: Steven Carter

Mayor Pro Tem Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING (Zoning Matters)

1. Zoning Case #21-060 – Lanier Engineering/Applicant; Sawtooth Farms, Inc./Owner; request special approval to construct a self-storage facility at 2212 Gillionville Rd.

Using a power point presentation, (copy on file) Paul Forgey, Planning Director, noted that the request is for special approval to construct a self-storage facility. He showed maps of the property, surrounding zoning and discussed special approval criteria. He commented on the map regarding access, off street parking facilities, the amount and location of open spaces for parking, outdoor lighting, surrounding land uses, future land use map, planning considerations and advised that the Planning Commission recommended approval.

There were no questions, and no one signed up to speak.

2. Zoning Case #21-061; LaShava Lamar/Applicant; Tomeka Hardaway/Owner; request special approval to operate a childcare facility at 958 South St.

Mr. Forgey noted that the request is to operate a childcare facility; showing an aerial map of the location, he discussed the zoning history, surrounding zoning, special approval criteria, hours of operation, future land use map, surrounding land uses/map and advised that the Planning Commission recommended approval.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Forgey clarified his comments regarding this item, which is only for females aged 12–18.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Forgey advised that the State agency determines the number allowed, adding that the zoning regulations recommends six only. He explained that the Planning Department oversees the initial process with the state board going in to confirm the actual number.

There was no one present desiring to speak; therefore, Mayor Pro Tem Fuller closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

TRAVEL

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

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1. Steven Carter, Interim City Manager; 2021ECG Annual Meeting – Savannah, GA; December 5-7, 2021; \$1,410.89 [see below for location correction]

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, the Clerk stated that travel is voted on in the work session due to it being an administrative item regarding appointed officials' travel.

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

1. Alma Nobles was not present; however, Will Davis spoke on behalf of the Police Civilian Review Board and explained what the board does, i.e., attending public safety meetings, being an outlet for citizens, etc., and asked how they can assist the police department with crime, etc. Tom Gieryic stated that he wants to assist APD with employee shortages and commented on the hurdles due to the number of vacancies and asked what can be done. He gave suggestions on retention regarding salaries and Mr. Davis commented on pay increases to assist with retention.

Commissioner Howard thanked Messrs. Davis and Gieryic for their comments; Commissioner Fletcher commented on Board members not attending the meetings, adding that Messrs. Davis and Gieryic cannot do this by themselves and thanked them for their service.

Mr. Gieryic stated that he has been on the board for five-six years and that not many attend the meetings. He asked that the Commission choose people who will serve on the board.

Commissioner Warbington thanked both for attending and bringing solutions and stated that this topic will be up for discussion at the next retreat. Regarding recruiting police officers, he commented on the recruitment process and asked for suggestions. Mr. Davis suggested taking advantage of activities/events within the city and setting up a booth to promote recruitment. He mentioned having a presence of officers at events and said they will ponder additional ideas.

2. Lula Davis distributed information (copy on file) and discussed revitalization of the Harlem District, listing businesses that were and/or in the Harlem District.

Commissioner Howard thanked Ms. Davis for her comments and stated that the younger generation should be involved as they are the future leaders. Commissioner Fletcher mentioned the many activities that Ms. Davis is involved in within the community, discussed conversations they have had and agreed with Commissioner Howard's comments regarding engaging younger citizens. Commissioner Warbington also thanked Ms. Davis for her comments.

RULES OF PROCEDURES/COMPORIMENT ADOPTION

Barry Brooks, Asst. to the City Manager, gave a brief overview of the process, including individual meetings with each of the Commissioners, and suggested changes that have been incorporated into the document.

Each of the Commissioners thanked Mr. Brooks, Ms. Tolbert, and Mr. Davis for their work on the document and the process. Commissioner Warbington stated that he feels this is needed and commented

on the decision-making process of the Mayor and Commissioners when at public meetings and how they need to conduct themselves. Commissioner Langstaff stated that he sent an email (copy on file) regarding the area of telephonic/virtual calls. Mr. Brooks advised that this will be brought back as an amendment before the vote next week and advised the Commission that these are their rules and that a process is in place that allows for revisions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY ADOPTION

Mr. Brooks commented on the policy regarding public participation and gave a brief overview. Commissioner Howard confirmed that both items will be on the retreat next year with Mr. Brooks agreeing and adding that charter matters will be discussed as well.

Commissioner Warbington noted the new timer in front of Mayor Pro Tem Fuller, which is a direct result of the policy and is a tool that will help everyone abide by the policy, adding that specific items in the rules regulating behavior/tone of speakers and setting rules/guidelines will help to keep meetings respectful and productive. He thanked staff for their diligent work and agreed that there may be tweaks to the policy moving forward.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION:

1. NYSE Hookah Bar; 2203 E. Broad Ave. M. Daniels/Agent; Liquor, beer & wine consumption – WARD I

Chief Deputy/License Inspector Anthony Donaldson discussed information (copy on file) regarding the above noted application. In reply to Commissioner Howard, Deputy Donaldson reported that this item complies with proximity regulations.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Deputy Donaldson stated that the establishment was always a night club and is considered a smoker's club. Marshal Walter Norman, Code Enforcement Director, noted Albany's clean air ordinance and explained the perimeters.

ANNUAL ALCOHOL LICENSE 2022 BLANKET RENEWALS

Marshal Norman discussed information (copy on file) and noted that this will be brought back for consideration at the next work session (in December) for vote at the regular meeting in December. He showed maps of the location of establishments by ward and reported the number of licenses in each ward and briefly discussed the process of approving annual licenses, number of calls received for various establishments, performance checks that were conducted, etc.

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In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding private parties, Marshal Norman explained the regulations regarding alcohol at private parties. Commissioner Howard noted a party behind Pic-n-Save during ASU's homecoming with Mr. Norman stating that he will verify.

In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding the recent denial of the alcohol license on Clark Ave., Mr. Davis advised that the applicant did not respond to having a hearing which now closes this application.

Commissioner Fletcher noted that Food for Less is not on the list, with Marshal Norman confirming that they are not open yet.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Marshal Norman noted the three licenses that were under review last year and explained the process regarding gun violence activity at that time, which required additional monitoring, adding that compliance was accomplished and the numbers indicate that there are no issues at this time. Commissioner Warbington commented on recent (medicated Skittles)/TNC candy) and suggested that this be a policy for the Commission to address, i.e., limiting sale to minors, etc. Marshal Norman stated that he will review and check with other law enforcement entities and bring back for recommendation if there are concerns.

APD: 2021 SPEED DETECTION DEVICE PERMIT RENEWAL

Chief Michael Persley discussed information (copy on file) regarding submission of an application to the GA State Department of Public Safety for speed detection devices, which is done every four years. He advised that the request is approval to submit the application.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Chief Persley stated that this renews existing streets only. Regarding alleys, Chief Persley stated that they are not on the state list and do not fall into criteria for adding devices, etc. He commented on various ways to promote cautious driving in alleys.

[Note: The Clerk advised that there was a typo on the travel for Mr. Carter and advised that he is going to Lake Oconee instead of Savannah.]

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES

Joshua Williams, Buyer, discussed the following (copy on file):

1. TAC: Maintenance & Technical Support – Est. exp. \$98,837.66

Mayor Pro Tem Fuller asked if there was an increase from last year, with Mr. William agreeing. John Dawson, IT Director, provided technical information, adding that a credit will be received.

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Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file):

2. DCED: Temporary Labor Services – Total exp. \$145,584.00

There were no comments or questions on this item.

Mr. William discussed the following (copy on file):

3. Rental Work Uniforms – Total exp. - \$92,406.60

There were no comments or questions on this item.

Kimberly Allen, Buyer, discussed the following (copy on file):

4. SPLOST VII Sidewalk Project – Total exp. \$539,235.00

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Ms. Allen advised that the company provided services for the Transit Department.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, stated that this is the gap sidewalk project that fills in gaps and bring sidewalks into compliance with ADA requirements.

Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file):

5. Consulting Services/Pay Study – Total exp. \$49,000.00

Commissioner Warbington clarified that the study will look at all classifications within the City with Veronica Wright, HR Managing Director, agreeing and explaining the process regarding job description/classifications. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Ms. Wright explained that there is no obligation once the study is conducted; however, information provided will be helpful in moving forward (and is a decision of the Commission). She also noted the process of the data going to the City Manager for review, which will be forwarded to the Commission, etc., with Commissioner Warbington noting the cons listed on the agenda item. Mr. Carter discussed the process with the consultant, with the report to be brought to the Commission for review.

Chinyere McKenzie Amadi-Ejim (on the zoom call) clarified information for Commissioner Howard regarding the pay study, i.e., gather/ provide data, ascertain how competitive the City is, recommendations, with there being no obligations. In reply to Commissioner Howard, she advised that she has been with the company for three years.

Ms. Allen discussed the following (copy on file):

6. Roadway Striping & Marking Project – Total exp. \$115,188.50

There were no questions/comments on this item.

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AFD: FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS GRANT

Chief Cedric Scott discussed information (copy on file) regarding the grant as noted and asked for approval to apply and accept the grant if awarded.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Chief Scott advised that the washer/dryers expand capabilities and as monies are available, the hope is to have a quick turnaround with cleaning uniforms.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Fuller, Chief Scott noted the costs and explained that the \$5K will cover a dryer or washer.

BROWNFIELD LOAN RE: HOTEL GORDON

Mr. Forgey discussed information (copy on file) regarding the request to approve the loan. He gave a brief history of prior funding, adding that this will fund brownfield cleanups (asbestos/lead-based paint) regarding the Hotel Gordon and discussed the agreement.

Commissioner Fletcher clarified that the money is coming from EPA and noted the cons of losing monies with Mr. Forgey explaining the process.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mr. Carter stated that the written update will be provided and noted the decrease in COVID cases. He said information is forthcoming regarding citywide mask mandates in City-owned buildings.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

Commissioner Howard noted Dougherty High School Trojans football being in the playoffs and encouraged them to defeat their upcoming competition. He mentioned ASU hosting W. GA Wolves in the playoff and asked if public works could clean the medians in E. Albany before the game. A brief discussion followed regarding the issuance of a proclamation with Mr. Carter commenting on the process. Commissioner Howard asked the City Clerk to contact Mayor Dorough.

Commissioner Fletcher recalled asking for crime stats at the last meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:13 a.m., Commissioner Warbington moved to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation and real estate matters, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

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| Ward I | yes |
| Ward II | yes |
| Ward III | yes |
| Ward IV | yes |
| Ward V | yes |
| Ward VI | absent |
| Mayor | absent |

At 11:12 a.m., Commissioner Howard moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

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| Ward I | yes |
| Ward II | yes |
| Ward III | yes |
| Ward IV | yes |
| Ward V | yes |
| Ward VI | absent |
| Mayor | absent |

At 11:17, Mayor Pro Tem Fuller reconvened the meeting, announcing that no action was taken regarding the items discussed in executive session.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

CITY CLERK
SONJA TOLBERT