

JUNE 7, 2022  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual and in-person Meeting)

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough  
Mayor Pro Tem: Vilnis Gaines  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Jalen Johnson and Chad Warbington  
Virtual Attendee: Bob Langstaff, Jr. and Demetrius Young  
City Manager: Steven Carter  
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 8:32 am, followed by attendance roll call.

## **AGENDA ADOPTION**

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING RE: FY 2023 BUDGET**

William Wright distributed information (copy on file) and mentioned having sent the City of Atlanta's budget to compare and analyze Albany's budget. He suggested that the Auditor did not discuss GASBE during the audit presentation with four matters not complying with the law. He referenced matters that were noncompliant, including the general and utility funds as noted in his information (pgs. 1- 2).

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### SPEAKER APPEARANCE

1. William Wright – Juneteenth Commemoration

Mr. Wright stated that it is not a 'celebration' but rather a commemoration, adding that he will be providing the public with educational information and that he will bring back information on the adoption of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1991 Civil Rights Act to see their impact on the quality of life in America regarding civil rights. He referred to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Civil Rights Act in relation to obtaining federal contracts.

In reply to Commissioner Young, Mr. Wright advised that he will bring additional to clarify law, and compare the City of Albany vs the cities of Augusta and Savannah regarding their budget requirements, etc., model cities that use local government dollars and federal funds in the same manner, i.e., 'Best Value'. In reply to Commissioner Young, he noted the training that he will be presenting during the summer months.

2. Charles Howe – Firefighter pay inequity/Human Resources (absent)

## **REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK**

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VOTING DELEGATES – 2022 ANNUAL GMA CONVENTION

The Clerk advised that information needs to be submitted to GMA regarding the Flag Bearer and Voting Delegate. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Warbington volunteered to be the Flag Bearer and Commissioner Johnson volunteered to be the voting delegate. The consensus was to submit the form to GMA and ratify the vote via resolution at the June 29 business meeting.

STAFF TRAVEL:

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

1. S. Carter, City Manager; GMA Annual Convention, Savannah, GA; June 23-28, 2022; \$3,745.41
2. S. Tolbert, City Clerk; GMA Annual Convention, Savannah, GA; June 24-27, 2022; \$2,145.33
3. S. Kelly, Asst. City Clerk; GMA Annual Convention, Savannah, GA; June 24-27, 2022; \$1,891.08
4. R. Scoccimaro, Associate Judge; Georgia Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, Jekyll Island, GA; June 14-18, 2022; \$1,561.25

CORRECTION TO MAY 31, 2022, SPECIAL CALL MEETING

The Clerk advised that per a text she received from Mayor Pro Tem Gaines immediately following the meeting on May 31, it was noted that he was in fact on the [zoom] call when the vote was taken for the two Asst. City Managers and that his vote was yes for both. He advised that he was muted, which is why his vote was not heard, making it a 5-2 vote rather than 4-2.

There were no comments on the amendment to the minutes.

**REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

CHARTER REVISION re: Municipal Court

Mayor Dorough recognized William Wright to speak on this matter.

Mr. Wright distributed information (copy on file) and discussed other matters rather than funds for the recorder's court and commented on constitutional rights, suggesting that the court is not an assembly line, but rather a place where justice should be served via due process of law. He suggested decriminalizing marijuana, and treating charges connected to it as recreational and having more than one attorney and using funds from the school red speed initiative.

Mr. Davis discussed information (copy on file) regarding structural changes to the court. He referenced page 30 with the court becoming full time i.e., full time judge, staff, etc., administrative actions.

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In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Carter suggested that the vote not be taken along with the budget at this time, adding that allocations for a full-time judge is in the budget. Commissioner Howard asked if the investigation from two years ago have been completed, with Mr. Carter stating that the investigation is not closed and is with the GBI. He advised that the decision of the court is up to the Commission.

In reply to Commissioner Johnson, Barry Brooks, Municipal Court Director of Administrations, explained that the audit of the firm resulted in suggested changes that will be reviewed, adding that the Municipal Court Task Force Committee met as well to discuss processes/procedures in the court. He advised that the Charter would need to be revised, along with the judiciary function via state law, adding that standard operating procedures have been and continue to be updated.

In reply to Commissioner Johnson regarding the vetting process/approval, Mr. Brooks explained that the document is not ready, with more meetings needed to answer questions before bringing back to the Commission for action and advised that the Municipal Court task force committee has not met collectively at this time. He also explained the process regarding combining municipal court via the charter review. Commissioner Johnson commented on resources, moving forward with positions, etc., suggesting that the court needs to be strengthened sooner than later, the charter should be revised, etc. In reply to Commissioner Johnson, regarding why the information is not ready, Mr. suggested that the Task Force members meet and recommend changes to the Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaines commented on discussing the charter revision and moving forward.

Commissioner Warbington clarified that the court is meeting three times a week with Mr. Davis agreeing and Mr. Brooks explaining the scheduling of current sessions. Commissioner Warbington commented on having a five-day court, i.e., full time with Mr. Brooks agreeing, adding that weekend court, virtual court, etc., are being looked at for flexibility. Commissioner Warbington clarified that the court staff is appointed by the Commissioner with Mr. Brooks agreeing and Commissioner Warbington commenting on how the Commission manages court appointees with them not being present as the other appointees are. He mentioned having evaluations, etc., for full time vs. part-time employees and questioned if the Commission wants to have a full-time or part-time court as it creates complexity with attorneys, suggesting looking at other options, i.e., paying the judge per session. In reply to Commissioner Warbington regarding a back-load, Mr. Brooks agreed that these type questions should be ironed out in the task force and explained the existing process of being approximately three months out at this time with a month being more reasonable. Regarding the recommendation, he noted that this is within the proposed charter/ordinance with the Commission having the final decision. Commissioner Warbington stated that the Commission first needs to decide on a part-time vs. full-time court with the public safety committee also being part of decisions, i.e., evaluations, etc.

Commissioner Langstaff agreed that the question is whether to go to a full-time judge with the missing piece being what cases Municipal Court handle, i.e., having an arrangement with state court handling criminal cases, etc., adding examples of cases handled in municipal court vs. state court. He suggested that this is information he needs to decide whether the court should be full-time vs. part-time as well as determining which cases go to which court (i.e., blight in Municipal Court; DUI cases in State Court)

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and if more is spent for certain cases, with the fees received not justifying those cases being tried in that court.

Commissioner Young commented on the Commission should deciding whether to have a full-time judge, adding that Commissioners are policy makers and suggesting that evaluations, etc., should go through Human Resources. Regarding the charter, he suggested that Municipal Court's administration should fall under the umbrella of the City Attorney's oversight and commented on court funding with the court dispensing justice and providing due process for all, suggesting that it should not be viewed as a revenue stream. He commented on discussions during the former City Manager's tenure and comments from Commissioner Langstaff regarding the types of cases tried in both courts, especially shoplifting matters, adding that he thought these changes had been discussed. Mr. Brooks explained the process, adding that he feels it is a state law, adding that there is a choice on a ticket whether an individual goes to state court or municipal court. It has been surmised that APD officers felt that they were not getting justice through Municipal Court and were sending tickets to State Court. Regarding data, he said Municipal Court is the 5<sup>th</sup> busiest in the state of Georgia with the majority being speeding tickets (95%), adding that he can provide data by the end of the month, including costs.

Mayor Dorough stated that the City functions daily with an outdated charter, red speed revenues cannot be used to budget the court's operations and, the Commission must decide how the court will be operated, taking into considerations the GBI investigations, etc. Regarding the consultant, he suggested not making any long-term decisions until the GBI releases the results of their investigation. He mentioned the former City Manager giving the judge a raise without going through the Commission and thinks evaluations should be made by the Commission and, automatically renewing the judge's contract with no decision being made until the two-year contract expires, adding that the Commission should advertise for the position if it is full-time. He said he spoke with Phil Cannon and Gerald Williams and their recommendations regarding losing monies, i.e., not paying court costs, even with having administrative expenses. He mentioned a letter received from Judge Scoccimaro with recommendations and other recommendations regarding having court at different times at the jail, etc., officers not being in court when summoned and matters that are relatively easy to address, including indigent defendants and fines that are imposed and being fair. Regarding staffing, he suggested the Commission appoint an administrative person over clerical staff in the court.

Commissioner Howard agreed having discussions when the budget is finalized to include Municipal Court and charter revisions, etc.

Commissioner Johnson agreed with Commissioner Howard and Mayor Dorough regarding court functions, including having an appointed person as Administrator of Municipal Court. He asked to receive information regarding the next steps. In reply to Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Carter agreed that the process will be after the budget is adopted.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Gaines regarding the former City Manager, Mayor Dorough explained that he brought up the issue regarding the former City Manager raising the salary of the judge, which is improper; that position is one of nine appointments made by Commissioners.

Commissioner Warbington asked if the report from the consultant was received with Mr. Brooks replying affirmatively and advising that he will provide the document to the Commissioners.

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Commissioner Warbington asked for a financial report regarding the courts with Mr. Brooks advising that he is pulling data and that a quarterly report will be provided including financials. Commissioner Warbington commented on 1) the future of Municipal Court and 2) the charter revision, suggesting putting out a bid for a charter review.

Commissioner Langstaff mentioned Commissioner Warbington's comments regarding Municipal Court not being a profit center and suggested reading GMA's information pertaining to Municipal Courts, adding that revenue is the only logical reason to have a municipal court, other than handling code enforcement. He mentioned having to pay Dougherty County for DUI cases that are in State court which is a duplication of services to have Municipal and State Court trying the same type cases.

Mayor Dorough commented on staffing with Judge Scoccimaro proposing to handle all arraignments leaving Judge Weaver to handle matters of Municipal Court and having discussions with the Public Defender regarding staffing Municipal Court, etc.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **I. Community & Economic Development**

#### **Adoption of Urban Redevelopment Plan**

Mayor Dorough recognized Mr. Wright to speak on this matter.

Mr. Wright distributed information (copy on file) noting that funds are not appropriated for this item and suggested ways to get federal appropriations and guidelines.

Lequrica Gaskins, Downtown Manager, along with Beka Shivers, Economic Dev./Transportation Planner with the SWGA Regional Commission, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding an Opportunity Zone. She noted the regulations in the 1955 Act and having power to improve public services and infrastructure, eliminating blight, etc., as referenced in the GA Redevelopment Act Sec. 36-61-1 with the request to develop the plan.

Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Ms. Shiver discussed the downtown business area in NE and SW Albany (Harlem District and Front Street market area/Flint Street/Washington St) including addressing slum/blight.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Ms. Gaskins explained that the downtown areas cannot be further south and east because the Dept. of Community Affairs was looking at specific, target areas and small parcels regarding the Opportunity Zone, adding that the fear was lack of DCA support. She noted the competitive process and the smaller area was more inclined to be accepted with other smaller pockets being considered. Ms. Shiver stated that there can be more than one urban redevelopment area and explained the plan impacts: Historic Preservation, relocating displaced residents, access to affordable housing, covenants, restrictions on properties, leveraging private recourses, needed public infrastructure, etc. In reply to Commissioner Howard, she advised that the urban redevelopment plan is separate and

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must be created; opportunity zones, i.e., tax credits delineated within the urban redevelopment plan, etc. Commissioner Howard asked the time frame, with Ms. Shiver noting that there is no due date for submitting plans.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaines questioned the Harlem District losing a grant with Ms. Gaskins stating that Paul Forgey, Planning Director, would have this information. Mayor Dorrough stated that the information will be provided.

Commissioner Warbington clarified information as noted on pages 44, 48 and having powers as a Commission that are not being utilized, i.e., imminent domain, addressing blight/slum, strategies, etc., with Mr. Davis explaining the process. Commissioner Warbington noted the tour of Carver Gym, as noted in the maps (pg. 44), whereby money will be invested and asked if the boundary can be extended to include two more blocks or if this can be done later. Ms. Shiver advised that if it is adjacent to the area, she feels that it can be included. Commissioner Warbington commented on Driskill Park and creating a redevelopment plan for this area, suggesting that Commissioner Howard can suggest other areas.

In reply to Commissioner Young, Ms. Gaskins advised that the plan is for the City of Albany with DDA and ADICA acting as managers with Commissioners making decisions. Commissioner Young commented on empowering citizens to redevelop their own properties and asked what resources are available. Ms. Gaskins stated that it is not a financial tool and will not provide funding; it is an incentive for new developers and those in the designated area can take advantage of credits as well.

Mayor Dorrough noted beneficial reasons for adopting the plan, to offer the incentives. He mentioned the Downtown Master Plan, which notes that Albany/Dougherty County will continue losing population until 2030, suggesting that the Commission must be more assertive/involved if that trend is going to be reserved as the plan requires affordable housing for middle-class families in the city.

Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Phyllis Brown, Deputy Community & Development Manager, along with Kimberly Mitchell, Mosaic Community Services, and David Blackwell, Chairman of the Homeless Coalition, presented information (copy on file) regarding HOME-ARP allocation plan with \$1.7 million allocated to the City of Albany, adding that once approved by this Board, the plan will be submitted to HUD for approval. Ms. Brown noted eligible activities: Development and support of affordable housing, tenant based rental assistance, supportive services, and shelters, etc., adding that approval of the plan is requested.

Using a power point, Ms. Mitchell discussed the proposed project and noted qualifying populations (homeless/those at risk of homeless, victims of domestic violence, those needing supportive services, veterans meeting any of the above criteria), project framework (non-congregant shelter units), use of funds (acquire 29 non-congregant shelter units) and an administrative allowance of \$270,000, which will be outsourced to a non-profit. She advised that these projects were selected based on feedback from service providers.

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Ms. Brown stated that there are updates to the report and explained that additional information was emailed to the Commission and staff regarding tiny homes, etc., people who were on calls regarding shelter housing. She added that the budget is fluid at this time, with the process beginning in March and specifics being clarified, including administrative costs (15%), etc., with challenges being to find an experienced nonprofit to address homelessness. She explained the 5% (less than \$90,000) of the administrative fee going to the non-profit's operating expenses, adding that the unsheltered homeless will be the focus of this project.

Commissioner Howard clarified that dilapidated hotels are not being considered, with Ms. Brown agreeing. Regarding the number of homeless, Mr. Black noted that they do not have current numbers from DCA at this time, adding that Albany is challenged due to COVID, etc. In reply to Commissioner Howard, he explained the difficult process of counting homeless people, adding that there are more currently encampments throughout all of Albany than he has ever seen.

Commissioner Warbington clarified the locations with Mr. Black stating that it will be centrally located in the Central Business District. Discussion followed on the number of shelters, entities having room for expansion, increasing shelter spaces/non-congregate shelters, definition of non-congregate vs. congregate and rehabbing of existing dilapidated hotels.

Commissioner Langstaff expressed concern regarding the plan: 1) once investing monies, will we attract people from other communities with Mr. Black explaining that this is already happening due to Albany being the hub of SWGA, with no shelters/services in surrounding counties; their homeless individual are referred to Albany, also included are previously incarcerated people from different areas coming out of lock-up to Albany. Commissioner Langstaff commented on 2) who has the final say on location, with Ms. Brown explaining the process, including working with Planning to ensure proper zoning etc., requirements, adding that there are two properties being looked at. Commissioner Langstaff said that there is a concern of 3) the location being in the downtown area, with Mr. Black agreeing with this concern and, additional discussion continued regarding the location, with Mr. Black stating that the City of Macon, Savannah, Augusta etc., will be visited to hear their experiences. Commissioner Langstaff stated that the Commission should have the final say regarding location in order to prevent shelters adversely impacting downtown redevelopment plans. He explained his reason to support using the funds to rehab a blighted property/hotel, even if the City had to provide funds, it would be a case of killing two birds with one stone.

Commissioner Young thanked everyone for the presentation and asked where discussions are with funding/building tiny homes considerations. Mr. Forgey explained that they have looked at tiny home ideas including kitchen, bathroom and/or separate bathroom, etc., depending on what is most cost-effective, etc. Commissioner Young commented on those with mental issues, etc., with Ms. Brown noting the funding allocated for those type services, including childcare, etc., wrap-around services will be at the discretion of those who have experience in outreach and will be at the table for discussions.

Mayor Dorough agreed with Commissioner Langstaff regarding the use of the \$1.7 million to provide housing, while addressing slum/blight conditions; other communities not having homeless accommodations; having an operational cost when the units are built; wear/tear on the units; domestic

disturbances; etc. In reply to Mayor Dorough regarding the useful life of the units Ms. Brown explained that participants will not pay utilities with Mayor Dorough asking the ongoing expense of the program.

Commissioner Howard asked that stakeholders include the City/County, mental health/public health entities, etc., due to most problems being caused by poverty.

Commissioner Warbington clarified that the information will be brought back for Commission review with Ms. Brown agreeing. Commissioner Warbington asked if the Commission will be involved in who manages with Ms. Brown agreeing and explaining the process once the RFP is received. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Ms. Brown and Mr. Black explained ‘temporary housing’ which includes up to two-four years and then transitioning into permanent housing. Discussion continued on the temporary housing process.

## II. Public Administration & Finance Matters

APD Chief Michael Persley and Joshua Williams, Central Services, discussed the following (copy on file):

- |    |                           |              |
|----|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Tasers; Axon Enterprises: | \$319,733.36 |
|----|---------------------------|--------------|

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Gaines, Chief Persley noted that the current tasers will be taken back by the company.

Commissioner Warbington clarified that red speed funds will be utilized, with Chief Persley agreeing, adding that this is the second time those funds are being used.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, it was noted that the old tasers are via a one-to-one buyback, which is a credit to the original cost.

Mr. Williams and John Dawson, TAC Dept., discussed the following (copy on file):

- |    |   |             |
|----|---|-------------|
| 2. | Software Maintenance; Contract Renewal - Oracle USA, Inc. |             |
|    | Total exp.  | \$96,335.57 |

In reply to Mayor Dorough, it was noted that the funds come from TAC’s operating budget and that this is a sole contract. Mr. Carter stated that at some point it will be migrated to something else.

Corey Gamble, Buyer 1, and Dale Henry, Fleet Asset Supervisor, discussed the following (copy on file):

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|----|--|-------------|
| 3. | Police Cameras; Motorola Cameras: Total exp. | \$69,400.00 |
|----|--|-------------|

In reply to Commissioner Warbington and Mayor Dorough regarding replacing the old cameras and radios (the next item) was explained.

Mr. Gamble and Henry discussed the following information (copy on file):

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|----|---|-------------|
| 4. | Police Radios; Motorola Solutions: Total exp. | \$41,009.50 |
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Mayor Dorough noted that money was saved by using state contract.

Mr. Williams and John Hawthorne, DCED Director, discussed the following (copy on file):

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|----|--|--------------|
| 5. | Property Maintenance; James Unlimited, Albany, GA. |              |
|    | Estimated exp.                                     | \$134,735.00 |

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Hawthorne noted that Mr. James will provide all services and will be available on weekends (emergency calls only), adding that additional information pertaining to the properties will be provided.

Commissioner Warbington questioned the number of units (176) with Mr. Hawthorne agreeing and Commissioner Warbington suggesting that the cost is reasonable.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Williams confirmed that 24 DBEs were solicited with only one response.

David Hamilton, Transportation Director, and Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file):

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|----|---|-------------|
| 6. | Passenger Boarding Bridge Repair; Aero BridgeWorks: |             |
|    | Total exp.  | \$63,983.00 |

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Hamilton commented on the principals, the process and stated that the item did not go before the Aviation Commission.

Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file) [Charles Clark, Civil Engineering Superintendent and Bruce Maples, Asst. City Manager, were available for questions]:

- |    |  |              |
|----|--|--------------|
| 7. | Subsurface Utility Engineering Services; Inframap, Marietta, GA; |              |
|    | Est. annual exp. (up to):  | \$200,000.00 |

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Clark explained the progression regarding utilities and the map/underground locations. Mr. Maples provided additional comments regarding mapping utility locations and the challenges faced due to the number of Engineering locators having quit.

Regarding the next item, Jason Wiggins, CEO Concrete Enterprises/Express Disposal, provided information (copy on file) regarding the request to add fuel surcharges to their contract due to recent surges in fuel costs.

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|----|---|--|
| 8. | Fuel Surcharge re: Request from Concrete Enterprises to adjust contract |  |
|----|---|--|

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Yvette Fields, Asst. City Manager, agreed with Mr. Wiggins' comments. Mr. Wiggins introduced Clint Eudy, General Manager and Jerry White, CFO, with Express Disposal, a part of Concrete Enterprises.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Carter stated that the contract allows them to request additional funding, while other contracts already incorporate (fuel/etc.) increases.

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In reply to Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Wiggins stated that he cannot anticipate how long the cost increases will last, however, this is why the formula was used, which is updated each Monday.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Wiggins commented on looking at March-June trends and stated that this will go into effect in July. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Carter stated that an increased cost was factored into the budget, adding that trends are being looked at as well.

Commissioner Langstaff asked Mr. Carter to make a recommendation, as he is familiar with their performance, adding that he has not gotten any complaints, which he historically receives when there is a problem. He stated that he would like to keep them as a provider, which would signal the City's good faith in the relationship moving forward with the company. He asked if their fuel contract can be shared with the finance director for review regarding the rising costs and questioned bid proposals, including fuel estimates, asking them to be transparent about their bid and that what they put in their budget was actually put in their budget. Mr. Wiggins stated that he has information and they are looking at this as a five-year contract with increasing fuel prices being considered, adding that fuel at the beginning was \$2.16 per gallon. Mr. Carter stated that Concrete Enterprises have done a good job performing and asked that staff sit with them to negotiate the fuel charge and bring back information for vote at the end of the month. Mr. Wiggins stated that they do not have a fuel contract with the provider, Lanier Oil, and that they pay for gas every 15 days.

Mayor Dorough stated that the City will need to increase the monthly fee by more than the CPI, adding that they also received a bonus. He noted that the media indicated prices will not go down by Labor Day. Discussion followed on retail/fuel cost, calculations for the Gulf Coast region, knowing the number they are paying, with Mr. Wiggins stating that he will provide the information. Mayor Dorough agreed that something should be done and asked if he is asking to go forward from July or seeking retro compensation, with Mr. Wiggins explaining the information that was provided and adding that it is up for discussion at this time due to unforeseen costs. In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Wiggins explained that they are asking for compensation prior to July. Discussion continued regarding the process, being fair, subsidizing and negotiating. Mayor Dorough suggested staff meeting with Concrete Enterprises and bringing a recommendation to the Commission.

The consensus was to move forward as noted. Mr. Wiggins stated that they did not get a bonus when they renewed the contract and explained that they have been paid in full for their exact bid price throughout the contract.

At this time, the Commission took a break before continuing with budget discussions. Mayor Dorough reconvened the meeting at 1:25 and confirmed that all were present.

#### 9. Continued Budget Discussion

Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Mr. Carter discussed the budget as follows: current assumptions (sales tax returning to pre-COVID numbers) 3% net COLA, increased fuel/contractor costs, citywide budget of \$298.0 million, general fund revenue/expenses, special funds revenue, supplemental enterprise funds (revenues/expenses) with the general fund subsidizing \$1.6 million (Transit), utility enterprise funds, and capital improvement plan and changes since the first presentation. He noted that

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per Commissioners questions, additional information was provided this morning (copy on file) with changes to the budget. He referenced having additional discussion on June 21 with the budget adoption scheduled for June 29.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Carter advised that no services will be cut; however, some modifications might need be made and regarding the pay study, he agreed that it will be ready in the fall and if there are any major changes to salaries, there will be a budget amendment.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Gaines, Mr. Carter stated that there are projected fuel charges in the budget.

Commissioner Warbington asked if there is a list of proposed changes for final review. Mr. Carter explained the process and proposed that all agree on the budget as presented today with modifications made between today and the June 21 meeting (next work session). In reply to Commissioner Warbington regarding ending the year with a surplus in the budget, Mr. Carter agreed and explained the process of using those funds in the next FY, etc. Regarding the question of unused SPLOST funds for other projects, Mr. Carter explained the process of reallocating those funds.

Commissioner Langstaff suggested that any Commissioner proposing a change to the budget that was presented by staff, that it is made by motion and voted on individually.

Commissioner Young asked if changes include gym renovations at Henderson, Bill Miller and Turner, with Mr. Carter stating that funds are available, but Commission direction is needed on how to proceed with each gym. In reply to Commissioner Young, Mr. Carter stated that there are no set-aside funds, however, if there is a proposal to allocate funds to the projects, that would be a Commission decision with funding through SPLOST. Discussion continued regarding not pushing projects to the side/prioritizing projects and moving forward with funding. Regarding public safety's camera surveillance system, Commissioner Young asked if this is a priority. Mr. Carter stated that there is money set-aside in SPLOST for recreation and, the cameras are included in the proposed budget.

Mayor Dorough commented on a letter he sent identifying recreation projects, sequences and funding sources, with staff bringing a master plan for adoption. He agreed with Commissioner Young that the budget has whatever funding is available in recreation with the Commission deciding what projects are to be funded; Mr. Carter agreed. Mayor Dorough asked Commissioners to submit their suggested projects soon due to rising construction costs. He stated items that he proposed to the budget includes: a COLA, employee contributions to the pension fund, etc., adding that he can agree with the longevity expense, which increases yearly as employees hit the benchmark. He expressed concern of reclassifying positions prior to the pay study and gave examples of issues. Mr. Carter clarified that filled positions were not proposed for reclassification; however, he has made it clear that there will be no promotions through budget approval. Discussion continued regarding the number of employees in previous years and currently, having less than 900 employees with 1362, including utility employees, in prior years. Mayor Dorough commented on the population, people not looking for employment, attracting new employees, etc., challenges. He asked Commissioners to respond to his letter regarding moving forward with recreation, which includes other funding sources. Mr. Carter stated that he will reach out to Commissioners via email with options re: budget proposals and asked that all respond.

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Discussion included: receiving additional CARES Funds this month (Commissioner Howard); having a list of proposed changes, as noted by Commissioner Langstaff, and providing the proposed changes by the next work session (Commissioner Warbington); keep it simple (re: proposed changes(Mayor Dorough); \$10 million ARP Funds not included, with Mr. Carter clarifying that it is allocated to the sewer with a budget amendment (Commissioner Warbington); GA Public Web budget amendment/spending the funds (Commissioner Warbington); list sent to City Manager from Mayor Dorough and sharing proposals of how to spend the monies.

## **CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

Mr. Carter noted the Government 101 class that was held last night with the next class being next week at the Micro Business Center with DECD presenting.

## **MEMBER REQUEST / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Gaines suggested lifting the HS diploma requirement, (for employment) with Mr. Carter advising that this can be an agenda item. In reply to Mayor Dorough regarding the policy, Veronica Wright, Risk Manager/HR Director, discussed the process which is a requirement.

Commissioner Warbington referenced an RFP for a charter review with Mr. Carter stating that this will begin with the Commissioners having final approval. Commissioner Warbington asked if the SWGA Regional Commission can draft a plan for Driskill Park with, Mr. Carter advising that if it is outside of his spending limit, he will bring it back. Commissioner Warbington asked that an ordinance be provided to allow for eminent domain.

Commissioner Young expressed condolences to Dr. Anthony Parker's family and commented on the impact he had on the region.

Mayor Dorough asked to consider a plan for the Broad Ave., sidewalk project, withdrawing from the Drug Unit and reestablishing a combined unit and the sidewalk situation on Magnolia pertaining to a restraining wall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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SONJA TOLBERT, CMC  
CITY CLERK