

JANUARY 3, 2023
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 8:00 am, followed by attendance roll call.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rance Pettibone, invited the Commission to the Martin Luther King Celebration and discussed the parade and banquet during the weekend. He asked Mayor Dorough to bring greetings and asked that the City sponsors/purchase five tables, adding that the speaker will be Senator Warnock

In reply to Commissioner Young, Rev. Pettibone gave the location of the parade and time that it begins.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Rev. Pettibone stated that they will be changing their name from Albany Baptist Ministers to Albany Ministers and explained that all denominations are welcome to be a part of the organization.

REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK

A. Qualifying Fees

The Clerk discussed information (copy on file) regarding the upcoming municipal elections and setting qualifying fees. She advised that the amounts are the same this year and will change for the 2025 elections. In reply to Mayor Dorough, she explained that the City Attorney will add the amounts in the authorizing resolution which goes to the Election Superintendent.

B. Travel

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

- S. Carter, City Manager; 2023 Cities United Summit; Jan. 19-23, 2023; Atlanta, GA; \$2,443.75
- S. Tolbert, City Clerk; IIMC Region III Conference; Feb. 14-17, 2023; Isle of Palm, SC; \$1,974.54

- S. Kelly, Asst. City Clerk; IIMC Region III Conference; Feb. 14-17, 2023; Isle of Palms, SC; \$1,410.79

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Safety

Chief Persley discussed information (copy on file) regarding the agreement between APD and ASPIRE.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Davis stated that this is an automatic renewal contract as noted.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Chief Persley clarified that the City is providing one officer and ASPIRE will provide two; a licensed clinician and treatment specialist. Discussion continued regarding training, number of clients currently being seen and anticipated future numbers, expansion of the existing program, incarceration vs treatment, etc.

In reply to Commissioner Young regarding funding from Senator Ossoff, Chief Persley explained that having a co-responder team is required and the funding in question is geared toward Federal funding available for law enforcement or the mental health provider; however, this is a grant that was obtained by ASPIRE. Commissioner Young questioned whether the grant was competitive with Chief Persley explaining that it was competitive, reiterating that ASPIRE applied for and received the grant.

Mayor Dorough expressed concern regarding the co-responder being part of state law and asked Mr. Carter to provide an explanation of the law and how the program will be funded once the grants run out. He expressed concern also at the high number of clients needing support daily. Discussion followed regarding current calls that are received from people who are in some type of crisis and the process before and what is in place now. Mayor Dorough asked to also have information regarding how much this cost is for ASPIRE annually.

B. Public Works

1. Acceptance of GDOT/LMIG Grant

Stacey Rowe, Utility Operational Director, and Don McCook, Deputy Utility Operations Director discussed information (copy on file) regarding the request to apply for the grant.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Rowe explained the resurfacing process, including funding sources and advised that the resurfacing list will be brought back for approval. Commissioner Howard commented on heavy trucks going into residential areas, with Mr. Rowe stating that if this happens, it is reported to Code Enforcement. Commissioner Howard stated that in his ward, semi-trucks park over the weekends and asked that Code look into this. Mr. Carter advised that there is an ordinance that addresses this.

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Mayor Dorough commented on funding to include TSPLOST, with Mr. Rowe explaining the required match for the grant (30%) that comes from TSPLOST. Discussion continued regarding the amount of money it takes for 20+ miles and the two contractors (Oxford and Reeves) who are working on the roads.

Mayor Dorough asked for a list of streets and roads that have been paved, with Mr. Rowe noting the map on the website that has this information.

OTHER ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

A. Asbestos Abatement Contract

Corey Gamble, Materials Specialist, discussed information (copy on file)

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Anthony Jenkins, Code Enforcement Officer, commented on continuing the contract with AHERA Response Services, Inc., etc. Mayor Dorough asked for a list of projects AHERA worked on within the past two years.

B. 2023 Vehicle Title Transfers

Yvette Fields, Asst. City Manager discussed information (copy on file) which is a resolution that is annually adopted.

There were no questions/comments on this item.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gaines commented on panhandlers asking for money in the Pretoria Fields/The Flint area and asked Chief Persley to look into this matter.

Commissioner Warbington commented on the need for a panhandling ordinance, asked that Redistricting be on the next agenda to be voted on at the end of the month and discussed pay for law enforcement, i.e., a 5% pay raise for the rank of captains and below. He discussed having a high starting pay (step 2 or 3) and suggested making step 2 the starting pay that will be published for the public. Regarding staffing, he noted that APD is still short on officers and suggested having a staffing agency to recruit applicants. Mr. Carter said he will get with Chief Persley and the Chief Finance Officer to look at funding. Commissioner Warbington asked to have information on the next agenda.

Mayor Dorough stated that this is a national law enforcement problem/crisis with money being only one factor and asked to see the exit interviews. He commented also on 1) people riding bikes at night and asked that warnings be issued if no lights are on the bikes; 2) asked if Mr. Benedict's equipment has been removed from the Gordon Hotel; 3) commented on tractor trailers and whether the current ordinance excludes certain neighborhoods; 4) mentioned the 'clean as a whistle' initiative that other cities have, especially businesses, and taking pride in how the city looks, suggesting that the business community be engaged.

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Commissioner Warbington commented on the CSO (Community Service Officers) project, which has been successful with those positions being filled. Mr. Carter noted that some from the CSO project has been promoted to full time officers. Mayor Dorough mentioned that since he has been on the Board, public safety has received four pay raises, which indicate to him that pay is not the primary issue of police officers. Discussion continued on retention of officers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel Matters

At 9:26 a.m., Commissioner Howard moved to enter executive session, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

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

At 10:04 a.m., Commissioner Howard moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Warbington, and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

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

At 10:07, Mayor Dorough stated that no action was taken in executive session regarding personnel matters that were discussed and adjourned the meeting.

SONJA TOLBERT, CMC
CITY CLERK