

DECEMBER 12, 2023

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

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

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and advised that the invocation is being given by Mayor Pro Tem Chad Warbington, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the roll call vote unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS (Retirement Certificate)

Mayor Dorough and Mr. Carter presented a retirement certificate to Velvet Scurlark and thanked her for her 30 years of service.

OBJECTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Howard to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gaines, the roll call vote unanimously carried.

A. Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R215

Joint City/County establishing an Albany/Dougherty County Special Investigative Unit to address illegal firearm possession, illegal drug activity and gang violence

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R216

Authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development for the Lead Hazard Reduction Capacity/building grant; should the grant be awarded to City, such grant is accepted

RESOLUTION NO. 23-R217

Authorizing submission of a grant application to the US Dept. of Energy for the Grid resiliency and Innovation partnership program; should the grant be awarded to city, such grant is accepted

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R218

Authorizing the City Manager or his designee to transfer title to vehicles

B. Purchases:

1. Vehicles: Wade Ford, Inc., Total exp. \$312,617.00
2. Police vehicles: Wade Ford, Inc. Total exp. \$375,062.00

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Pro Tem Warbington moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of the three conditional resolutions that were added, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the roll call vote unanimously carried.

DECEMBER 12, 2023

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Alcohol License Applications:

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the following application, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, the roll call vote carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. Thai Noodles & Sushi 1 LLC; d/b/a Thi noodles & Sushi Cuisine; 111 Dawson Rd., A. Pinkum/Agent; Beer and wine consumption

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the following application, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, the roll call vote carried 5-1 with Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

2. Flint River Hospitality LLC; d/b/a Red Roof Inn & Suites, 1400 Dawson Rd., T. Kubar, Owner/Agent; Beer/wine consumption

RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the motion carried 6-0-1 with Mayor Dorough abstaining.

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R219

Approving TSPLOST Funds for the 2nd Ave., and Harding St., Drainage Project

Regarding the following resolution, Mr. Davis provided comments regarding settlement processes, stating that the first two settlements are one incident; J. Guilford's claim settled for \$40,000 and T. Robinson's settled for \$25,000. The claim of K. Monroe settled for \$150,000.

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt the following resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the roll call vote unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R220

Authorizing settlement of Jaiden Guilford's Claim

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R221

Authorizing settlement of Tiara Robinson's Claim

A RESOLUTION NO. 23-R222

Authorizing settlement of Kiwanis Monroe's Claim

MEMBER COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Due to guests coming to Albany, Commissioner Howard asked that public works clean areas near P&G and Miller/Coors.

Commissioner Gaines referenced the crowd of citizens in the audience at the meeting and asked APD Chief Micheal Persley to address concerns regarding recent shootings in Albany.

Chief Persley commented on the recent violence, with the continuation of enforcing the law and moving forward with arrests, adding that more community education is needed, along with intervention of children ages 3-5. He noted that domestic violence is on the rise and prevention and intervention is needed, adding that state and local partners (GBI/State Patrol) and the combining of the gang and drug units will help in taking people to federal court. In closing he advised that the overall stance is that the community must heed the call regarding prevention/intervention otherwise, his only choice is to enforce the law to the best of his ability.

In reply to Commissioner Young regarding gun enforcement, Chief Persley stated that guns are everywhere now and this must be addressed on the legislative level. He advised that illegal gun

DECEMBER 12, 2023

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

owners who are caught will go through the criminal justice system and that changing the mindset of citizens and getting them involved in explaining to family and friends the seriousness of guns will also help. He briefly discussed the newly formed SIU (Special Investigative Unit, a merger of ADDU and the Gang Task Force), which will assist in federal cases. Additionally, former, reformed gang members who are willing to go into the communities to help educate the youth is another avenue regarding prevention/intervention.

Discussion continued with Mayor Pro Tem Warbington thanking Chief Persley for his comments and for keeping the Commission involved in decisions to assist with the issues. Commissioner Young also thanked Chief Persley and mentioned the difference of domestic vs gang violence, conditions that are faced by citizens including mental health issues, poverty, and the need to get citizens involved with young people to assist with conflict resolution and getting guns off the streets.

Mayor Dorough mentioned issuing RFPs for Carver Gym, Calvin Malone Park, and the Ritz Theatre by the end of the month and advised that annual appointments will be on the January agenda, adding that a GMA letter was received regarding ARPA funding obligations. He mentioned that nothing can be resolved tonight (re: gun violence), however, we must stay on top of issues as these are long range challenges. He encouraged citizens to assist with combating community issues and thanked all for attending the meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK