

JANUARY 8, 2024
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Chad Warbington
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Jalen Johnson, Vilnis Gaines 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 Iman Salahuddin Hanif, Masjid of Al-Islam), which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION

Mayor Dorough advised that Section 3-D of the City Charter states that at the organizational meeting, elections results are declared.

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

A RESOLUTION NO. 24-R100

Declaring the results of the City Election held on November 7, 2023 for Mayor and Commissioners for Wards I, IV and VI

OATH OF OFFICE

Superior Court Judge Willie Lockette administered the oath of office to the following elected officials:

Ward I Commissioner Jon Howard
Ward IV Commissioner Chad Warbington
Ward VI Commissioner Demetrius Young

Judge Lockette also administered the oath of office to Mayor Kermit S. Dorough, Jr.

Barbara Turner, Morehouse School of Medicine, presented Commissioner Howard with an award from the Morehouse School of Medicine and Health Promotion Resource Center, under the direction of Dr. Mary Langley for his community leadership, advocacy and commitment in providing training for young people. Commissioner Howard discussed the benefits Morehouse School of Medicine has provided this community and reported that Dougherty County was awarded \$1.0 million in grant money.

2024 MAYOR PRO TEM

In reply to Mayor Dorough, the Clerk advised that this is on the agenda for information only and agreed that the Mayor Pro Tem, by Charter, is rotated annually. Mayor Dorough advised that Bob Langstaff, Jr., is the Mayor Pro Tem this year.

REMARKS

Commissioner Howard discussed voter apathy/lack of participation, adding that out of 45,000 registered voters, only 8,000 voted. He commented on the statistics of those voting for the Mayor's race and Wards 1, 4 and 6 and mentioned the E. Albany redevelopment plan that was not adopted due to COVID, adding that E. Albany has approximately 69% renters. He discussed homicide stats, poverty and the need for jobs.

Commissioner Johnson congratulated all those who were reelected and asked that we focus on the positive moving forward.

Commissioner Gaines also congratulated all and recognized Commissioner Howard as being the longest serving Commissioner.

JANUARY 8, 2024
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

Paraphrasing scripture (Mark 10:42, 45) Commissioner Warbington stated that ‘Jesus called his disciples together stating that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord over them, the high officials exercise authority over them, but not so with you (speaking to disciples), instead who wants to be great among you must be your servant, whoever wants to be first among you be a slave to all, for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many’ and stated that he is challenging himself to serve the needs of the citizens, adding that he is committed to serve.

Commissioner Young congratulated all who were reelected and stated that it has been a pleasure to serve his first term, which is no small matter for him to be here, in part due to his family history. He mentioned COVID in 2020, rebuilding communities and said despite all that has been done, there is still work to do. He then thanked his family and friends for their support.

Mayor Dorough read from a prepared statement (copy on file) and thanked the citizens who supported him, adding that he will serve all the citizens of Albany with his intention to work every day to make Albany a better place, recognized his wife and thanked her for supporting him, thanked friends who helped with his campaign, discussed recreation investments, generating solar power, increase number of sworn APD Officers, the CSS project, downtown Albany projects and, thanked City employees and his colleagues.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK