

APRIL 2, 2024
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
ROOM. 100

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Vilnis Gaines, Chad Warbington
Virtual: Jalen Johnson, and Demetrius Young
City Manager: Yvette Fields
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., followed by attendance roll call.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Johnson; the roll call vote unanimously carried.

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPEAL

1. Gillionville Grocery 3 - 9 Tejas Business Inc.; d/b/a Gillionville Grocery 1603 Gillionville Rd. T Brown/Agent; Beer and Wine Package

Commissioner Warbington moved to table for 30 days because of legalities and the need for support from the City's legal department. He spoke to the proximity including the inclusion of the soccer fields (property line issue), church vs school proximity and the need for clarification of the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Gaines. It was noted that the table is for thirty days, the roll call vote carried 5-1 with Commissioner Young voting no.

Mayor Dorough clarified with Ms. Custer that at issue is the definition of what constitutes school, church grounds and property lines; Ms. Custer agreed.

REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Appointment: Asst. Solicitor to fill an unexpired term ending January 2025

It was noted that the appointment will be changed to Solicitor (from Asst. Solicitor) and the vote will reflect that. Ms. Custer agreed that Lanisha Hayward is filling in as the interim and is willing to accept this as a permanent position. Commissioner Warbington clarified that Mr. Davis was appointed as the Solicitor and asked if there is a reason Ms. Hayward could not be appointed to that position.

Ms. Tolbert interjected that another person submitted a resume for the job; however, a discussion is needed with HR, as Ms. Hayward was hired as a part-time employee. An email was sent to Commissioners, who agreed she would be hired for the position, with the other applicant being advised that they did not get the job. She explained that when the Solicitor position became vacant some years ago, Mr. Davis was appointed as Solicitor and the Asst. Solicitor was hired to assist him, adding that there is only one Solicitor position. Mayor Dorough stated that Ms. Hayward will continue to serve in that capacity.

Commissioner Young stated that he did not understand what Mr. Tolbert said about the other applicant.

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Commissioner Warbington clarified that Ms. Hayward has been serving as needed; she was recommended by Judge Weaver and Ms. Twyman to permanently fill the position. He and Commissioner Langstaff stated that based on the recommendations, they did not feel the need to interview Ms. Hayward.

Commissioner Young asked about the other applicant and having an opportunity to review their resume. Ms. Tolbert advised that she did not receive a resume of the other applicant and HR Director Twanna Howard can provide more details.

Ms. Howard stated that an email was sent regarding the other applicant, Neal Smith, who expressed more interest in being a judge. He does not live here, and he would have to relocate. Commissioner Young expressed concern because in other appointments, the process was followed (reviewing resumes, interviewing applicants, etc.). Mayor Dorough asked that copies of the resume be emailed to Commissioners. Commissioner Young asked to have the opportunity to consider both applicants.

2. Staff Travel:

- D. Brown, CFO; AACC Washington, D.C. Fly-In; Washington D.C.; April 15- 18, 2024; \$3,209.67
- D. Brown, CFO; 2024 GMA Annual Convention; Savannah, GA; June 21-23, 2024; \$1,524.72
- M. Custer, Asst. City Attorney; 2024 GMA Annual Convention; Savannah, GA; June 21-25, 2024; \$2,891.07

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the above, seconded by Commissioner Gaines, the roll call vote unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Safety Alcohol License (New)

Anthony Donaldson, Deputy Chief, discussed the following (copy on file):

1. Stuart Express 16 - 21 2419 Stuart Ave. O Martin/Agent; Beer/Wine Package

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Donaldson clarified that this is a convenience store.

Dep. Chief Donaldson discussed the following (copy on file):

2. Second Time Around Club & Lounge 22 - 27 642 Flint Ave. R Draper/Agent; Beer Consumption

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Dept. Chief. Donaldson agreed that the license had lapsed; therefore, it was not considered as a transfer of the license.

AFD Chief Cedric Scott discussed the following regarding the agreement (copy on file):

3. Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SWMAA)

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In reply to Mayor Dorough, Chief Scott stated that this item is renewed every four years.

B. Planning/Engineering

Traffic Engineering Manager Ken Breedlove discussed information (copy on file) regarding classifications for traffic calming.

1. Highway Functional Classification (Traffic Calming)

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Breedlove described the four basic highway classifications/descriptions (principle/minor arterials, collector streets, and local streets,) and showed examples of speed tables and the list of those currently in process. He noted that collector streets ordinarily do not have speed tables to prevent a loss in response time of emergency vehicles.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Breedlove provided information regarding evaluation of pollution at intersections, as well as speed tables which are being looked at by the federal government and may influence future federal funding. In reply to Commission Howard, Mr. Breedlove commented on the process of putting count tubes down to monitor traffic speeds for seven days before permanently installing the tables. He stated that using stop signs as a traffic flowing device is discouraged and, he also discussed speeders vs non-speeders as it relates to the speed table studies.

In reply to Commissioner Young regarding collector streets, Mr. Breedlove discussed the use of traffic tables and why speed tables are not recommended.

Mayor Dorough stated that calming devices cannot be used on state routes and recommended reducing speed limits to 25 mph when speed bumps are used vs the current 35 mph (which he disagrees with). Mr. Breedlove explained state law regarding speed limits and spacing of speed tables. Discussion continued regarding speed limits on streets.

At the request of Commission Howard, Mr. Breedlove distributed information (copy on file) to assist in explaining the speed table use/classification map which are posted on City's website.

In reply to Commissioner Young, Rob Griffin, Interim Engineering Director, clarified and provided additional information regarding collector streets and the reason for not using speed tables on them.

C. Public Administration/Finance

Steve Belk, Recreation Director discussed the following (copy on file):

1. Maintenance Buildings re: Flint River Golf Course; NSCS, LLC dba Newell Construction, Albany, GA. Total exp. \$1,308,486

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Belk discussed the project overview which provides additional space for staff and equipment, with the recommendation to award the contract to NSCS.

In reply to Commissioner Young regarding funding, Mr. Belk stated that the allocation is in place.

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In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Belk advised that the Senior Citizens building is vacant. Commissioner Howard recommended that the building be demolished. Mayor Dorrough stated that a legal opinion is needed due to the conditions on the deeds stating 'recreational purposes' for properties. Mr. Davis stated that information will be forthcoming, with Mayor Dorrough asking for a presentation regarding the matter and discerning that there is no need/use for the building.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Chad Arnold, Facilities Mgmt. Superintendent, noted that the design was done by Mack Wakeford. The location of the building was discussed, and the old senior citizen building being demolished with Mayor Dorrough reiterating the reversionary clause Turner Job Corps deeds regarding the property not being used for recreational purposes.

MEMBER COMMENTS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Howard asked if the stump grinder is in operation and mentioned areas needing attention.

Mayor Dorrough mentioned 1) Eames Park Stadium and whether a structural assessment has been conducted, including the cost to repair; 2) the City paying officers who testify in state court needs review; 3) ballparks for youth baseball and a written explanation of why keys were taken from those who ran the leagues and the City now paying umpires, with the relationship explained; 4) regarding design at Henderson, he asked to be part of the meeting with Wood to reduce the cost of the project without modifying the design, size and building components of the Community Center; 5) moving forward with commissioning the statue of Ms. Quarterman at the Transit Center; 6) the CVB hiring a firm to assist with rebranding including there was no RFP and local vendors did not have a chance to bid on it. He asked that Ms. Minix provide an explanation and include entities funded by the City putting projects of this nature out for competitive bid.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS/UPDATES

Mr. Carter said this was his last meeting and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to lead the city and thanked staff.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK

NOTE: SPECIAL CALL MEETING
(Immediately following Work Session)