

DECEMBER 12, 2017

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

PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy Hubbard  
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Marietta  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Bobby Coleman, BJ Fletcher, Bob Langstaff,  
Jr., and Tommie Postell  
City Manager: Sharon D. Subadan  
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and called for a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She then instructed the audience on the policy to address the Commission, whether through Citizen's Comments or Speaker's Appearance Forms.

Commissioner Postell moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following purchases/bids, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Marietta; the motion unanimously carried.

- |    |  |                       |             |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Well #9 Rehabilitation, Donald Smith Company; Headland, AL           |                       |             |
|    |  | Total expenditure     | \$75,630.00 |
| 2. | Probation Services, Judicial Corrections Services; LLC; Norcross, GA |                       |             |
| 3. | Local & Long Distance Telephone Service AT&T                         |                       |             |
|    |  | Estimated annual exp. | \$62,400.00 |

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following Alcohol License Applications, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Marietta; the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. Alumni's Bar & Grill LLC, d/b/a Alumni's Bar & Grill; 1905 S. Madison Street Suite 8; E. Green/Agent; Liquor, Beer, and Wine Consumption
2. Fred's Store of Tennessee Inc., d/b/a Fred's Store #1025; 1001 N. Slapppy Blvd.; L. Lynn/Agent; Beer and Wine Package

ORDINANCE

Commissioner Fletcher introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 17-118

Amending Ordinance 17-114 re: changing time of January 8, 2018 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Albany, Georgia (from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm with the swearing in beginning at 7:00 pm)

Commissioner Fletcher then offered the ordinance and asked for consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried.

Detailed discussion followed regarding speed tables with Commissioner Postell stating that Wards 1 and 6 have no speed tables. Ms. Subadan explained the process, which begins with the initiation of the process starting with homeowners in the neighborhood submitting a petition. Information for a speed study is then conducted to make a determination on whether or not a speed table is warranted.

Bruce Maples, Director of Engineering, advised that they receive requests for traffic calming devices, but many do not meet the criteria. Ms. Subadan explained that the ordinance as written requires citizens to initiate the study and that the majority of homeowners must want traffic calming devices installed. She added that those signing the petition have to be homeowners and not tenants/renters.

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In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Davis explained the way it was originally drawn up (roads must have a speed limit of at least 35 mph, certain percentage of homeowners wanting traffic calming measures, funding, with speed tables now being paid through the City's budget, provided the funds are available) etc. He reiterated that the initiation of the process must begin with property owners.

Commissioner Postell questioned the allocation of funds stating that he does not like the fact that his allotment went to another Commissioner. Ms. Subadan explained the funding, which was put in one pot and is not allocated by wards, as noted in the breakdown on page 22 of the agenda item (copy on file). She advised that no request has been turned down due to funding allocations and stated that there is a significant amount of funds still available.

Commissioner Langstaff stated that not everyone wants speed bumps and this is a situation that requires buy-in by property owners. He asked the percentage of homeowners who must buy-in. Ken Breedlove, Traffic Engineering Manager, explained that on streets with a speed limit over 40 mph there must be 60 % and streets between 35 and 40 mph must have 80% of property owners signing the petition. Mr. Maples added that a lot of the requests fall through due to not getting enough signatures from property owners. Commissioner Langstaff suggested a review of whether those signing the petition are homeowners or renters, with Mr. Maples advising that they verify the signatures on the petition.

Commissioner Coleman expressed his concern regarding the fact that everyone is a taxpayer whether they rent or own and this should not be a concern; renters deserve the same protection as homeowners.

Commissioner Howard asked that another study be conducted on the 100 block of Lexington Drive, the 1000 block of Netherland Lane and 1400 block Estelle St.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta stated that there are a few citizens from the W. Alberson area who are present and want to speak on this item. Representing the group, Rachelle Bitterman spoke in favor of the speed tables and said they are willing to assist other neighborhoods with the process.

Commissioner Langstaff noted that if the two speed tables are approved, there will be \$100,000 remaining for the other wards.

Commissioner Postell again commented on Wards 1 and 6, adding that he agrees with the comments of Commissioner Coleman pertaining to renters vs. homeowners and asked why renters are not permitted to sign a petition since both are taxpaying citizens. He stated that he hopes this is not a racial matter, but it does appear to segregate renters from homeowners, which creates a division.

Mayor Hubbard clarified that petitions are signed by homeowners and not renters, with Mr. Maples explaining that property owners have a vested interest, especially since it impacts their ability to sell their property. He discussed industry standards as it relates to traffic calming measures and the resale value of properties.

Commissioner Coleman countered that public safety trumps everything else and this is a public safety issue.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on the process that is in place and asked that racial matters not be involved in this. Mr. Maples again mentioned that lack of follow-through is one reason the process fails; additionally, many homeowners do not want to sign the petition. He stated that when citizens request information on traffic calming devices they are fully informed of the process.

Mayor Hubbard asked if the Commissioner of the ward is notified when people inquire about speed tables, with Mr. Maples advising that information is distributed to all, including the City Manager.

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Mayor Pro Tem Marietta said he has helped all wards to get speed bumps when he is asked and that his ward has also been rejected for various reasons. He offered to assist Wards 1 and 6 with the process.

Commissioner Coleman stated that the Commission sets policy and there is no ‘one size fits all’; he reiterated the importance of public safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta stated that he would like this revisited on a future agenda to change the ordinance and allow lease holders to sign the petition, as well as considering a margin of error with radar readings and have plus and minus to the speed limit (mph); suggesting that the policy be modified.

Commissioner Langstaff moved to adopt the following resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 17-R181

Approving installation of Traffic Calming Measures in the 1800 block of Pineknoll Lane

A RESOLUTION NO. 17-R182

Approving installation of Traffic Calming Measures in the 2400 block of W. Alberson Drive

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 17-R183

Approving acquisition of Aerial Ortho and Oblique Images for the entirety of Dougherty County, Georgia

Commissioner Howard thanked City staff and the elected officials for their service during 2017 and extended best wishes over the upcoming holidays. Addressing Albany Police Chief M. Persley, he asked that everyone have a safe holiday season as well.

Mayor Hubbard also wished everyone happy holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST

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CITY CLERK