

DECEMBER 12, 2017
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – 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 (arrived at 9:12 am)
City Manager: Sharon D. Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

ELECTION CERTIFICATIONS (Wards 3 & 5)

The Clerk advised that certifications were provided by the Board of Elections declaring Commissioners Fletcher and Langstaff elected to their respective wards. There was no discussion on this item.

JANUARY 8, 2018 CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS TIME CHANGE

The Clerk advised that the Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018 and that currently the time is set for the meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m., but after consideration, it was determined to be more advantageous to have the work session and regular meeting begin at 6:00 p.m., with the swearing in of elected officials to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta agreed with the proposed time change to allow citizens and families to attend the swearing in. There was no discussion on this item.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS

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; WARD 6
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; WARD 3

There was no discussion on these items.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

PINEKNOLL LANE SPEED TABLES

Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, discussed information (copy on file) regarding the 1800 block of Pineknoll Lane, stating that the speed study indicated that a speed table was warranted and asked for approval in the amount of \$12,386. There were no comments on this item.

W. ALBERSON DR. SPEED TABLES

Mr. Maples discussed information (copy on file) and asked for approval in the amount of \$16,408 for four speed tables.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the City still operates under the past policy in which ‘x’ amount of funding is allocated to each ward for speed tables. Ms. Subadan, noted the breakdown on page 19 showing all approved tables, stating that this in this program there is a running total rather than a dollar amount per ward. The intent is to make it equitable to speed table/street per ward because of the differences in street size (shorter streets require fewer speed tables). She explained that the running total is used instead of cutting it off every fiscal year. Commissioner Coleman stated that speed tables are needed in Ward 2, but the study constantly comes in under 34 mph with 35 mph being the benchmark. He suggested dropping criteria in the study to 34 mph since it is basically the same speed. He suggested that people living in areas where speeding is a problem at 34 mph should get the same consideration as those where speeding is 35 mph.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked that constituents be allowed to make comments. Phil McColley said he is a resident of Pineknoll and expressed concern of people speeding in the area; he asked that this item be considered for approval.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Maples explained the process of determining the basis (radar detection) of the 35 mph consideration that is used when determining whether speed tables are beneficial. Commissioner Howard asked how many times a study can be conducted, with Mr. Maples stating that additional studies can be considered again. There were no additional comments on this item.

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

LONG TERM RECOVERY PLAN

Using power point, Paul Forgey, Planning Director, briefly discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding long term recovery (provided by Tetra Tech) when there are storms/natural disasters. He mentioned identifying the impact to the private/public sectors, determination of the

foundation for recovery, projects and programs that could fund rebuilding the community, data used to identify the priorities in the communities and an outline addressing future storms. He noted the costs of both tornados that occurred in January, 2017 including the amount of damages of both storms; various groups, which were involved in recovery, specific projects and funding that were identified. Explaining unmet needs, which amounted to approximately \$32.0 million, he added that funding from the Individual Assistance Program through FEMA was historically low and mentioned the steering committee, work groups (City/County staff, non-profits, etc.), that were involved in the recovery and briefly outlined projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta mentioned monies to assist and questioned downtown redevelopment in the amount of \$50.0 million. Referring to the Comp Plan and Trail System (\$27.0 million) he asked if this includes putting the trail in. Mr. Forgey replied in the affirmative and explained the process of the proposed trails, stating that the information is to determine investments, etc. He also stated that the plan assists in moving the community forward and identifies needs, funding sources and generating discussion. He added that the goal is to identify specific storm recovery and, while the Trail system had nothing to do with the storm, it was included since it will improve the community. He briefly discussed the Trails Master Plan, explaining that the bullets indicate the benefit of the investment and advised that the checklist helps guide all entities in the event of future disaster(s) by identifying responsible parties and coordinating all entities.

Commissioner Coleman commented on the low amount for unmet needs and asked the reason. Mr. Forgey explained that he does not know, adding that there were other storms at the same time, causing funding to be distributed elsewhere, which could be why it was funded at such a low rate. He said funds are few and it will be a long term recovery effort to rebuild the community without being able to fund some projects specifically.

In reply to Ms. Subadan, Mr. Forgey clarified that the FEMA Program for Individual Assistance funded approximately 20% of applications (funding to individuals) leaving 80% unfunded, with the funding in other communities being higher. Mayor Hubbard stated that people who were not funded were encouraged to reapply, with Mr. Forgey mentioning small business loans that were also available, etc. There were no additional comments on this item.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES:

Kimberly Allen, Buyer, discussed the following (copy on file): There was no discussion on this item.

1. Well #9 Rehabilitation, Donald Smith Co., Total expenditure \$75,630.00

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PROBATION SERVICES

Joshua Williams, Buyer II, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the contract with Judicial Corrections Services to provide general probation supervision services, etc., to Municipal Court.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Municipal Court Judge Willie Weaver discussed probation costs as noted in the agreement. In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding a waiver for those unable to pay, Judge Weaver stated that judges have the authority to waive probation fees and explained the state statute.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Judge Weaver commented on the prior contract, which was in place for four years, advising that the old company purchased this company and the request is to approve because it is a law to have a contract. Mayor Hubbard commented on the contract for one year with a four- year renewal with Judge Weaver elaborating on the details of a special clause within the contract, which provides a 30-day notice for the City to put out an RFP if it wants to look for another provider. There were no additional comments on this item.

Ms. Allen discussed the following (copy on file) and there was no discussion on this item.

- 2. Aerial Ortho and Oblique Imagery – Total expenditure (City) \$54,308.30

Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file):

- 3. Local & Long Distance Telephone Service. AT&T – Total est. amt. \$62,400.00

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Davis concurred that there was an error in the amount listed.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Marietta, Ms. Subadan explained that the caller ID feature is not a function of the service, but rather a function of the City’s phone system; it will be brought back to the Commission for discussion, along with other items that will update the system. There were no additional comments on this item.

BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS

CVIOG REPORT ON GOVERNANCE OF CVB

Ted Baggett, Associate Director; Strategic Operations and Planning Assistance with CVIOG, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the relationship of the Commission with the CVB. Regarding the report and key findings, he advised that: 1) the CVB appears to be doing well, 2) the financial arrangement between Chamber/CVB pertaining to the Hotel/Motel Tax shows funds being spent appropriately, 3) funding for the CVB has remained flat even though

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there has been an increase in revenue from the Hotel/Motel tax, with a recommendation of percentage based funding for the CVB, and 4) operate independently as a 501(c)-6 (non-profit organization). He discussed best practices which includes the Chamber being an independent organization and the CVB focused on tourism; in terms of what is good for Albany and he mentioned Savannah's tourism as an exception of the general rule, adding that there are advisory committees that can be considered. He commented on other cities similar to Albany adding that if Albany makes a change, the question is what will the CVB look like (composition of its board) and any alignments as opposed to being independent.

Regarding page 26, Commissioner Howard asked the pros/cons of the recommendation to have an elected official on the board. Mr. Baggett said the pros of that is the elected official(s) will act as an ambassador; however, he cautioned against elected officials having a majority of the stake in the CVB. Commissioner Howard asked his recommendation with Mr. Baggett stating that the best model is to be independent, becoming a 501(c)-6 and contracting with the City.

In reply to Commissioner Coleman regarding an extra level of bureaucracy and politics entering into the mix being more detrimental, Mr. Baggett said that there will be a governing Board and agreed that details matter, but careful thought should be given to how the Board is designed to avoid problems.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Marietta, Mr. Baggett said he thinks there will be enough time to implement before June 30 since the contract runs in conjunction with the fiscal calendar; Mr. Davis agreed that there is time to terminate.

Commissioner Postell arrived at this time (9:12).

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Davis for his opinion as to whether it will be good to follow the recommendation. Mr. Davis explained that becoming independent, the CVB would have to incorporate, with the main objective to remain in compliance with state law, adding that his office can draft any documents in support of the Commission's decision. Commissioner Howard asked how many elected officials should sit on the board with Mr. Baggett stating that some cities prohibit elected officials from being on the board and the option can be one elected official. He advised that some cities have the city manager and/or having no officials/staff with his suggestion of leaving the number low.

Mayor Hubbard asked if members are appointed by the Commission or the Committee. Mr. Baggett said some are appointed by the elected officials, some by non-profits, etc., with the requirement being that they are involved in tourism, i.e., restaurants/hotels, etc. He mentioned that a hybrid would be some seats appointed by the Commission and some are self-perpetuating by the Board itself.

There were no additional comments on this item.

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CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

1. Ms. Subadan stated that the City's new website will launch next week with the new web address of www.albanyga.gov. She advised that email addresses will also change; however, the old email will remain in effect for a while longer.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, she stated that discussion occurred when she first came on as City Manager, advising that the current website is outdated, etc.

2. Ms. Subadan advised that Albany Fire Chief Ron Rowe will be retiring effective January 1, 2018. In recognition of his impending retirement, Mayor Hubbard thanked Chief Rowe for his service to the citizens of Albany, and presented him with a letter of appreciation and certificate of retirement.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Fletcher commented on the new website, the CVB/Chamber, etc., and asked that this be on the next agenda to move forward. Discussion followed with Commissioner Fletcher being advised that this is the last meeting of 2017 with the consensus to place this item on the agenda in January.

Commissioner Howard wished staff and elected officials happy holidays and asked that everyone remain safe.

Mayor Hubbard also wished everyone happy holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK