

NOVEMBER 28, 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
City Manager: Sharon D. Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

APPOINTMENTS

The Clerk read the following:

1. Three appointments - one City, one Dougherty County Circuit Bar Association, and one Dougherty County Superior Court appointment to the Board of Ethics for two-year term ending October, 2019

TRAVEL

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta moved to approve the following, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher:

1. City Manager S. Subadan; Meet w/City Manager; Columbus, GA; Dec. 1, 2017
2. City Manager S. Subadan, ECG Annual Meeting, Greensboro, GA; Dec. 10-11, 2017
3. City Manager S. Subadan; 2018 GMA Mayor's Day; Atlanta, GA; Jan. 19-22, 2018

In reply to Commissioner Postell Ms. Subadan explained that she will be visiting with the City Manager in Columbus to view their downtown and to get more information on the relationship with the university there. The next two are ECG Annual meeting and GMA Mayors' Day in January. Commissioner Postell questioned use of P-card for travel with Ms. Subadan replying in the affirmative that the card is used for travel. Commissioner Fletcher noted a typo error on the travel form.

Hearing no additional comments, the motion unanimously carried.

DECLARING 1700 S. MADISON ST. AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Davis discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding surplus property located at 1700 S. Madison St., which was formerly Coachman Park Elementary School property that was transferred to the City by the School Board. He recommended that it be put up for auction and sold. Commissioner Postell asked that this item be tabled since it is in his ward and he wants to discuss with the school board regarding parking, etc. He then moved to table, seconded by Commissioner Coleman; the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Marietta voting no.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Commissioner Postell stated that he would like to table for six months. A brief discussion followed on the length of the table with Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asking why it will take six months and Commissioner Postell explaining that the six-month length allows for him to speak with all those who are involved and concerned. He said that he may be able to have the information back in three months. Mayor Hubbard asked to call the question again to table until the first meeting in March, 2018, the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Marietta voting no.

RATIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM RE: LLEWELLYN TONY GLOVER, JR.

Mr. Davis discussed information as noted (copy on file) adding that the resolution pertains to what was discussed in the last executive session. Mayor Hubbard advised that the vote will be at the next meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

1. C & P NKS Albany LLC, d/b/a Newk's Eatery 1154; 717 N. Westover Blvd. Suite D; K. Chandler/Agent; Beer and Wine Consumption; WARD 5

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

1. Swami 1400 Enterprise Inc., d/b/a Devis Convenience Store; 1400 Palmyra Road; H. Parmar/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer from P. Patel; WARD 2
2. Swami 1515 Enterprise Inc., d/b/a Milan Food Store; 1515 Clark Ave.; G. Patel/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer from P. Patel; WARD 2
3. Neel & Dev Enterprise Inc., d/b/a MD Food Mart; 2201 E. Oglethorpe Blvd.; B. Patel/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer from P. Patel; WARD 1
4. Swami 1800 Enterprise Inc., d/b/a S & B Quick Stop; 1800 E. Broad Ave.; H. Parmar/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer from G. Patel; WARD 1

Commissioner Coleman questioned Marshal Walter Norman on whether there is a reason to not transfer the application licenses with Marshal Norman stating that there is no reason to hold these up. There were no additional comments on this item.

MONTHLY ALBANY POLICE DEPT. UPDATE

APD Chief Michael Persley introduced Major Pruinice Dice, ADDU, and Lt. Victor Camp, Gang Unit, stating that it has been an eventful year for all three agencies, from the natural disasters to the uptick in crime. He briefly discussed the 21 homicides in Albany and commented on crime statistics, asking that citizens be involved and advising that there is a plan in place to keep the citizens safe

In reply to Commissioner Postell regarding APD staffing, Chief Persley advised that currently there are less than 19 entry level vacancies. He explained assignments to other units and stated that there are eight in the gang unit with four vacancies and five vacancies in the drug unit. Discussion followed on the reasons officers leave, with Chief Persley explaining that some are terminated some return to their home in other state etc. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Chief Persley commented on the uniform patrol – those answering calls to service, etc. and the desire to avoid pulling from that unit to fill spots in specialized units.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on being short staffed and asked why vacancies are not filled, with Chief Persley explaining hiring quality personnel; limiting severance payout; hiring a massive number of people, which creates complaints/problems of not n having professional personnel and those not performing their jobs up to standards. He stated that he is concerned about all wards, from trucks in Ward 1, to areas of concern in Ward 6. He mentioned his goal to have qualified people on the force.

Mayor Hubbard commented on the criteria/standards in hiring and if the standards have been lowered, with Chief Persley stating that standards have not been lowered.

Commissioner Howard commented on the 20 plus homicides, with Chief Persley discussing the number of murders, (21 total), etc., with one being a cold case from 2015, but was cleared this year.

Commissioner Langstaff asked how the Safe City Coalition Task Force is coming along, with Chief Persley giving an update on progress, including bringing a strategy to the Commission in January. In reply to Commissioner Langstaff he stated that there will be a half way meeting in December, however, meetings have been held with individuals and in small groups. Mayor Hubbard added that there is a good cross section of the community; she thanked volunteers and those who asked people to serve on the committee.

Major Dice distributed information (copy on file) pertaining to the drug unit statistics and briefly discussed the drug seizure trend.

Commissioner Postell asked about drugs being brought into Dougherty County from other places. Major Dice advised that he does not have a number on that; however, officers have stopped a lot of those bringing in drugs. Commissioner Postell said he's been told that those from surrounding counties come to Albany to sell drugs with Major Dice agreeing that this is the case, adding that a lot of arrests are made.

Commissioner Langstaff asked for the chart to be sent to the Commissioners in color, with Major Dice stating that he will provide this information. Commissioner Langstaff referred to Major Dice's comment that drug seizures are down somewhat; however, he said he fears that this can be interpreted by some to mean that there are not enough officers working, we're not doing as good a job, etc., adding that arrests and value of drugs seized are different and/or subject to interpretation. Major Dice explained that tactics changed over the years; in the past there were more dealers on the street level/corners thus more arrests were made, as opposed to current methods/technologies being used to further facilitate their business, which requires more training

of staff to keep up with trends. He noted that street level deals are lower and they are staffed with tech savvy officers to deal with current trends. He commented on his philosophy which is to concentrate on dealers, as they are the ones putting drugs on the streets.

Commissioner Howard asked the drug of choice in the city and county; Major Dice replied that people try new things (drugs) and commented on various types of drugs currently being used, especially synthetic drugs. In reply to Commissioner Howard, Major Dice stated that the drug problem will never stop; there will always be someone wanting to try them; however, drug enforcement efforts have improved and are effective in dismantling organizations, etc., which will continue.

Commissioner Coleman asked if synthetic drugs are illegal with Major Dice stating that ‘spice’ is illegal and is a felony charge. Discussion followed regarding synthetic drugs and if they are illegal with Major Dice explaining ‘homemade/homegrown’ type drugs, i.e. extracting heroin (illegal) from oxycodone (legal with a prescription).

Major Camp said that he has been with the City for over 20 years and was transferred to head the gang unit last year. Mentioning staff, he said that some are in training, others will be trained, adding that since he’s been head of the unit, training is mandatory. He commented on working with APD units, i.e., search warrants, homicide cases, etc., adding that they work closely with the drug unit because where there are gang members, drugs are also involved. He mentioned work they do with the Dougherty County School System in educating school children to deter them; targeting gangs to reduce activities, etc.

Commissioner Howard clarified that there are approximately 28 gangs in Albany with Lt. Camp stating that this is a validated number of known gangs. In reply to Commissioner Howard, he advised that gang activity is sporadic throughout the city and gang activity has decreased in the area of Albany High School since the school closed; surprisingly, no reported gang issues the first week of school when Albany High students were divided between Dougherty and Monroe

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, Lt. Camp advised that the gang task force was established in 2008 and that he does not have exact data, however next year he will have more data to relate regarding gang activities and number of gangs, etc. In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, he advised that information is being shared with a lot of agencies regarding gang information/activities throughout the state, which includes a website, connection to the FBI’s gang task force, etc. Commissioner Langstaff commented on silos of information in the past, in which the DA, Dougherty County, etc., had information they did not share. Major Camp advised that his group shares information.

Commissioner Postell stated that he was instrumental in establishing the gang unit in Albany and discussed the history, which included having good cars, at least ten employees to operate, color schemes to identify which gang a member belonged to, etc. Lt. Camp added that today, tattoos also identify which gang a person belongs to. Commissioner Postell expressed appreciation for his endeavors.

Mayor Hubbard thanked the officers for their update.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

PHASE 1 STREET RESURFACING

Phil Roberson, Asst. City Manager, discussed information (copy on file) regarding Phase I of infrastructure projects SPLOST VII. Using power point – Stacey Rowe, Dep. Director, of Public Works, showed a map and discussed the 53 streets in Phase 1, maps with data of the streets, i.e., cracks, base failure, curb and gutter, etc., as it relates to tree roots; adjustments of manholes, grading and striping. He stated that streets are rates through certain set criteria.

Mr. Roberson explained the process, use of current technology, etc., including funding of the projects on a continuous basis that is viable, adding that dollars spent on resurfacing are preventative maintenance. He gave projected funding through LMIG, local match, SPLOST VII and contracts in the amount of \$17.5 million, as noted.

Mayor Hubbard clarified 2018 bids with Mr. Roberson explaining the bidding process, which includes Commission approval of the list of streets with the process taking 30-45 days. He advised that the target is March – November each year for street resurfacing, i.e., approval by the Commission at the end of the year, with the process beginning in the spring. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, he explained the potential for a decrease in cost as a projects proceeds, with savings being allocated to the next project.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta mentioned discussion of street resurfacing tonight and railroad crossings at the last meeting. He stated that this makes him proud to be answering concerns/complaints of constituents. He commended the City Manager for her forethought in getting this put in place.

Commissioner Howard clarified that the streets will be completed in 2018, with Mr. Roberson agreeing. Regarding which streets are resurfaced by wards, Mr. Roberson explained the process, adding that the Commission will be informed. Ms. Subadan added that additional quantities are being added in the contract for other projects, i.e., Chehaw, etc.

There were no additional comments on this item.

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

The Clerk read the following: (there were no comments on this item)

SPECIAL APPROVAL CASE #17-050

1. Rev. Lorenzo L. Heard/Applicant; Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church/Owner; request Special Approval for property located at 1112 Inverness Rd; to operate an after school and summer camp program for youth as an auxiliary ministry of

Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church in the C-R District. Planning Commission approved 7-0. Ward 2

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

REQUEST FOR LEASING OF PUBLIC FACILITY LOCATED AT 1410 S. JEFFERSON ST.

Ms. Ciceli Brown, Community Development Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file) pertaining to leasing property to Open Arms, Inc. for operating a Maternity Group home.

Commissioner Howard asked if units will revert back to fair market value after the grant is exhausted. Ms. Brown agreed, advising that the grant is for five years. She explained that it is a 15 unit property and is currently being rehabbed, but Open Arms is only leasing five of the units; the other ten units will be leased at fair market. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Ms. Brown stated that the grant expires in five years with an option to renew. There were no additional comments on this item.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

Commissioner Langstaff moved to discontinue discussions and to begin the regular meeting to continue discussions and votes on the following items, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

PURCHASES:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | Street Sweepers – Total expenditure | \$511,260.00 |
| 2. | Trees Unlimited – Estimated amount | \$135,117.00 |
| 3. | Software Maintenance/Support - Laserfiche - – Total expenditure | \$70,191.06 |

COLLECTION, ALLOWANCE & WRITE-OFF POLICY

BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS (quarterly Independent Agencies)

Mayor Hubbard immediately adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK