

AUGUST 22, 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 6:04 p.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

#### APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta moved to approve the following, seconded by Commissioner Postell, the motion unanimously carried.

1. Nathan Davis, City Attorney, 64th Annual Institute for City and County Attorneys; Athens, GA; Sept. 13-15, 2017

#### COMMISSION 4th QUARTER EXPENSE REPORT

The Clerk advised that the 2016-2017-year end Commission Expense Report was put in the notebooks for review.

#### SETTLEMENT OF WORKER'S COMP CLAIM RE: STANLEY RUFFIN

Joyce Clark, Risk Management Sr. Administrator, asked for approval of the \$55,000 settlement for Stanley Ruffin, Firefighter, who injured his back in 2016. There were no comments on this item

#### FEE AGREEMENT WITH SMITH, WELCH, WEBB AND WHITE, LLC

Mr. Davis briefly discussed (copy on file), and, there were no comments on this item.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS**

#### ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIPS

1. Zarkava Enterprise Inc. d/b/a Z2 Foods; N. Shahidin/Agent; 1801 W. Gordon Avenue; Beer package and Wine Package; Transfer of Ownership from K. Butt; WARD 6
2. FMS Investments 786 Inc. d/b/a Royal Express; M. Shafi/Agent; 1701 E. Oglethorpe Blvd; Beer Package; Transfer of Ownership from W. Jones; WARD 1

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In reply to Commissioner Postell, Anthony Donaldson, Chief Deputy stated that the owners reside in Dougherty County and gave the address of the establishment, advising that it is only a transfer; the store is currently open.

Additional comments followed on the location/wards of both transfers of ownership and if the licenses transferred are yearly as it pertains to obtaining alcohol licenses, i.e., if the transfer is within the 12 months, the new owner pays only for a license for the rest of the year, which ends December 31 of each year.

## **PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS**

### AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 11-R-158 re: MODIFICATION OF WINDSTREAM KDL'S FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOOTAGE WITHIN CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Bruce Maples, Director of Engineering, discussed information (copy on file) and asked for approval to modify the resolution as noted as it pertains to updating payments. There were no comments on this item.

### UNUSED PROPERTY SALE Re: FIRE STATION #6 PROPERTY AT 2521 MEREDYTH DR.

Mr. Maples discussed information, (copy on file) and asked for approval to sell the property to abutting property owners. There were no comments on this item.

### 2300 BLOCK OF FRIAR TUCK LANE SPEED TABLES

Mr. Maples advised that a traffic study was conducted and discussed information as noted (copy on file) and asked for approval to install concrete speed tables at a cost of \$12,400.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Maples explained the difference in cost of rubber vs concrete speed tables, adding that the concrete speed tables will last longer and are resilient.

Commissioner Fletcher said she is happy to see the concrete speed tables being installed.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Maples explained that \$100,000 was allocated in the current budget and the costs of the speed tables will be deducted from the \$100,000. Commissioner Postell asked that each Ward be treated fairly with the installation of speed tables.

### 3200 BLOCK OF AUTUMN DRIVE SPEED TABLES

Mr. Maples discussed the request to put speed tables on Autumn Drive, as noted (copy on file) and asked for approval. There were no comments on this item.

## **RECREATION MATTERS**

### RE-NAMING OF JACKSON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

Joel Holmes, Civic Center Director, discussed information (copy on file) and asked for approval to change the name.

Mayor Hubbard advised that the vote will be in the next meeting. There were no comments on this item.

## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS**

### PURCHASES

Mike Trotter, Procurement Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the following:

1. Federal Lobbyist Renewal of a contract with Alcade and Fay, LTD  
Total expenditure \$94,240.00

In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Ms. Subadan discussed items that the Federal Lobbyist assisted with over the last year. Mayor Hubbard stated that a report is also received from the Lobbyist.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked if the Federal Lobbyist assisted with FEMA reimbursements during the storm recovery. Ms. Subadan replied in the negative and explained the process of working with FEMA and obtaining reimbursements, which is a time consuming process that is worked through with staff, FEMA and GEMA.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Ms. Subadan stated that approximately \$4.0 million was received to date with approximately \$17.0 million submitted for reimbursement. She mentioned the weekly report from the lobbyist, which provides updates on news from Washington, grant opportunities, etc. Commissioner Postell asked the rate of return the lobbyist's contract provides the City. Ms. Subadan stated that the firm helped the City secure a \$500,000 grant last year; they are currently working with the City on a \$1.3 million problem and they continually assist the City with various challenges. Additional discussion followed on reimbursing the lobbyist for traveling to Albany to give reports, etc. Ms. Subadan advised that if he does not come to Albany the money is not spent.

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

2. ESRI Software Maintenance  
Total expenditure \$164,130.00

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, Mr. Maples stated that the County pays a 30% fee. There were no other comments on this item.

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

3.	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	Total expenditure	\$247,944.40
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There were no comments on this item.

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

4.	Paratransit Bus	Total expenditure	\$151,619.00
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In reply to Commissioner Postell, David Hamilton, Transportation Director, stated that the City has a total of nine CNG Buses currently in use. Additional comments were on buses that are replaced/surplus, etc. Commissioner Postell asked the amount received for the last buses that were surplus and sold with Mr. Trotter stating that he would provide the information.

Mr. Trotter discussed the following (copy on file). There were no comments on this item.

5.	Omni Switches	Total expenditure	\$103,700.00
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## **BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS**

### QUARTERLY REPORTS OF INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Mayor Hubbard stated that the information is in the agenda packets for review. Regarding the pool at Thornton Gym, Commissioner Howard questioned when the pool opened for the summer. Mr. Holmes said as far as he knows, it opened on time, but that he will check. Commissioner Howard questioned enrollment numbers with Ms. Subadan stating that the numbers are accurate and said she will get a comparison from last year and the target. Mayor Hubbard commented on funding.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Ms. Subadan said there is no tie to the pool being opened in concurrence with the Dougherty County School System.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on the reports from the Chamber and asked if she is missing 2016 information. Ms. Subadan stated that the reports run behind schedule, etc.

## **CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE**

Ms. Subadan mentioned the Byrne Grant that APD applies for yearly and advised that the deadline is before the next Commission meeting. She asked that approval be given so that APD will be able to meet the September 6 deadline and advised that the item will be on the next agenda for ratification.

APD Chief Michael Persley explained the process as it pertains to getting approval in advance of applying for the grant.

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Subadan stated that ASU’s transit began Saturday, Aug. 12 with over 8,000 passenger trips to date. She mentioned use of the new app and commended Transit for working with ASU to assist students. Commissioner Postell commended Ms. Subadan for assisting with bringing transportation to ASU.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta commended Chief Persley and APD for recent arrests on homicides with Chief Persley providing additional information on the recent arrests.

Commissioner Howard asked Chief Persley to invite the Gang Unit, Drug Unit and Juvenile Judge Solomon to speak at the next meeting and asked Chief Persley to enforce the curfew.

Commissioner Fletcher asked for an update on the new website and briefly discussed blight and the meeting she attended last week on this issue. She noted high grass in areas owned by the City/County and school system, suggesting that the three entities should be setting an example for our citizens. She asked Ms. Subadan if this can be taken care of, adding that she spoke with other cities regarding the handling of these type concerns. Regarding un-kept properties, she asked if a lien can be placed on properties when the City mows grass on private properties. She mentioned LED lighting and asked if the same process for funding speed tables, etc., can be implemented as a funding source to assist each ward. The citizens can then see the benefit/improvement they make and hopefully, buy into the idea which could help in attracting businesses to Albany. She suggested that non-profits be approached to adopt an area and maintain it; since they don’t pay taxes, this could be their contribution in exchange for the services they receive. She asked that Chief Persley and Code Enforcement come to the next meeting to give stats on citations and how many cases are going to court, suggesting that hitting the pocketbooks of violators is highly motivating, not to mention the embarrassment.

Commissioner Coleman commended the Fight Albany Blight initiative and said meetings are held regularly and suggested that Commissioner Fletcher is evidently not aware of how active this initiative is. Commissioner Fletcher countered that the City cannot tackle this problem alone; citing offenders and/or putting liens on properties is a major piece of enforcement. She suggested

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that lawn maintenance workers blowing debris, which eventually ends up in the sewer, should warrant a \$1,000 fine. Citizens could help curtail the problem by submitting pictures they take of violators which would encourage results if this is implemented.

Additional discussion followed on debris, etc., with Mayor Hubbard commenting on the Mayor's Call to Service and explaining the many neighborhoods and organizations that have been involved for the last five years. She said she is happy to hear that this is something of interest, adding that there are people willing to volunteer their time and efforts in participating. She suggested connecting the community and organizations and agreed that businesses and industries will not come to Albany if this issue is not addressed.

Commissioner Coleman agreed and suggested that Code Enforcement be proactive and not reactive. He stated that this department is out in the community every day and can see the high grass/ trash, etc.

Commissioner Postell suggested that citizens have to assist in cleaning up as well and commented on the release of mental patients when the hospital in Thomasville closed. Many violators are mentally ill and the City is not able to stop what they do.

Commissioner Howard asked that Public Works and Code make sure that the grass is cut, starting at Pine Bluff Rd., to Oglethorpe before the ASU football game.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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SONJA TOLBERT  
CITY CLERK