

MARCH 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
Tommy Postell
City Manager: Sharon Subadan
City Attorney: CN Davis

At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order and instructed the audience on the process as it pertains to giving comments, i.e., use of the Citizen Comments and Speaker Appearance forms if they desire speak at meetings.

TRAVEL

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the following travel, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

1. Commissioner B. Coleman – NLC Congressional City Training Conference; Washington, DC; March 10-12, 2017 - \$2,558.39
2. Commissioner T. Postell – NLC Congressional City Training Conference, Washington, DC - \$526.90
3. City Attorney CN Davis; GMA Annual Training Convention; Savannah, GA; June 23-26, 2017

MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Clerk advised of the meeting changes as (noted copy on file). Commissioner Postell moved to accept the recommendation to change the meetings as recommended, (June 27 to June 28, having only one during the months of July and December [July 25 and December 12]), seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

APD UPDATE

APD Chief Michael Persley gave an update that included crime stats/trends, arrests; number of personnel including vacancies and those in training.

In response to Commissioner Postell; Chief Persley said that when the State closed mental health facilities, a large number of people with mental health issues and/or addictions came to Albany because of its resources. He explained the process of referring those individuals to the proper agency (Aspire, etc.) for assistance; adding that it is not a form of incarceration, but rather a form of treatment. However, if a crime has been committed, charges will be made. In reply to Commissioner Postell, he advised that he does not have statistics, but officers receive crisis intervention training to understand substance abuse and mental

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health issue which teaches methods to effectively handle those situations. He explained that stats are not kept because a lot of the information is confidential.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Chief Persley agreed that officers are continuously trained to deal with mental health issues, adding that the National Association of Mental Illness has a crisis intervention for youth, and is initiating a national program in Albany because APD is a good steward and because of the training that is provided.

Commissioner Howard referred to an incident on March 4 and asked if it was gang related. Chief Persley advised that he is cannot respond due to the ongoing investigation, however, he said drugs were involved. Commissioner Howard mentioned vacancies (entry levels) and asked what it will take to get officers trained through the academy and on the streets, adding that this is a priority of his due to the shift in demographics and populations. Chief Persley explained that he just lost a few officers (one Federal and two State positions) with the possibility of losing another due to having to commute; retention is a priority, adding that he recently attended a recruitment fair in Alabama. Commissioner Howard asked that Albany State, MCLB, and other entities be looked at when recruiting. In reply to Commissioner Howard, Chief Persley explained that exit interviews are conducted and that there are a variety of reasons are given by public safety personnel when leaving this field.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked if every officer has a bullet proof vest and how much funding should be budgeted. Chief Persley explained that APD is participating in a program in which every five years the vests are changed out; every officer has a vest, which is custom fit.

Commissioner Postell asked the minimum age to qualify to be an officer. Chief Persley stated that in the state of Georgia it is 20, but APD prefers that they be 21. A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Postell discussing his recommended minimum age to hire new officers.

Mayor Hubbard congratulated Chief Persley and APD officers for being re-certified at the Mobile, Alabama conference on March 5th.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

SEWER EASEMENT ACCEPTANCE – STONEBRIDGE VILLAS

Charles Clark, Civil Engineering Superintendent, discussed information as noted (copy on file) pertaining to acceptance of a sewer easement at Stonebridge Villas.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES

Yvette Fields, Central Services Director discussed information as noted (copy on file).

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| 1. | Transit Buses, Gillig Buses, Heywood, CA | |
| | Total expenditure | \$1,501,641.00 |

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked the reason for an RFP rather than a straight bid; Ms. Fields explained that Albany did not do an RFP, but are buying off an RFP/contract through the Athens/Clark County consortium. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Marietta, she agreed that we are getting the best price.

Commissioner Postell questioned page 28 and the handwritten notes. Ms. Fields stated that it was on Athens/Clark County's information when they submitted it and it is not about the bid, but rather the filed back-up information. Commissioner Postell expressed concern and asked that additional information be provided for clarification on this item. Ms. Fields stated that she would provide the requested information.

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, Ms. Subadan stated that she is in discussion with Albany State University regarding route expansion, etc. Commissioner Langstaff questioned buses not being full/ridership with David Hamilton, Transportation Director, reporting that during peak hours buses are fuller. Regarding funding, Ms. Subadan stated that the City's portion of funding this is 10%.

In reply to Commissioner Coleman, Ms. Fields advised that the City will surplus the old buses and post GovDeal.

Ms. Fields discussed the following (copy on file).

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| 2. | Web Design Services, Vision, El Segundo, CA | |
| | Total expenditure | \$55,180.00 |

Commissioner Coleman commented on the three finalist who bid and asked the difference in the bids. Steve Carter, IT Director, explained that Vision was in the middle and their business is specific to municipal and county websites.

Commissioner Langstaff stated that he wondered why we had to go to California to get web design, adding that he understood after doing a Google Search of Vision – they are topnotch and they have done a lot of work; citizens should appreciate it.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Carter discussed the current web provider, etc.

Ms. Fields discussed the following (copy on file).

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| 3. | Alarm System, Etc., Inc., Albany, GA | |
| | Total expenditure | \$75,277.13 |

Commissioner Langstaff asked whether this was a bid or professional services. Ms. Fields explained that it is a continuation; Alarms, Etc., currently provides services at the drive-thru at the new building and was retained to provide services at the new building as well.

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In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Facilities Maintenance Director Tripp Swilley said this is for installation and, in reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Swilley explained the other systems in place, etc.

BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Ms. Subadan stated that these are provided for Commission review.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta mentioned Chehaw, which asked to be considered for a new five-year budget plan, etc., and said he was impressed with the RiverQuarium report, as well as the other reports, which were extensive and avoids the Commission having to request additional information.

Commissioner Postell commented on the Chehaw report and said an extension was made over six years ago with the request that they downsize their budget, etc.

Mayor Hubbard asked that this request be brought back under items for other business and asked the Clerk to make note.

Commissioner Fletcher agreed with comments from Commissioner Postell on providing additional information.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan discussed debris removal with the maximum level of reimbursement being submitted to FEMA, adding that debris collection will continue throughout the community with a reimbursement of 75% for anything picked up over the next 90 days.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the City will try to recoup 90% of the money expended the first 90 days of pick-up. Ms. Subadan clarified that the maximum, allowable reimbursement amount is 80%.

Commissioner Howard asked when the new lights will be installed. Ms. Subadan explained the process and said utilities were authorized to replace existing lights that are out and upgrades will be made when LED lights come in. Commissioner Howard said he will provide a list of lights that are currently out.

Commissioner Postell mentioned lights that are out, with Ms. Subadan stating that the Commission authorized her to bring back more information on LED lights.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked about the bid and FEMA repairing street lights. Ms. Fields advised that labor bids came in yesterday and lights are being bought from state contract and will be brought back at the next meeting with poles being bid now. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta suggested having a special called meeting to expedite the process. Discussion followed on having a special called meeting with Mayor Hubbard

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asking that a vote be taken. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta moved to have a special called meeting before the next scheduled meeting. Hearing no further comments, the motion carried 5-2 with Commissioners Langstaff and Postell voting no.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Howard mentioned budget discussions and said that from 2013-2017, almost one million dollars have been outsourced from the City Attorney's office. He asked that the vacant position be filled soon, i.e., advertising for the Asst. City Attorney and asked that this be included in the budget.

Commissioner Fletcher distributed information (copy on file) pertaining to the City Attorney's office and asked Mr. Davis if he needs help in his office. Mr. Davis said he quit handling mitigations in-house and does not litigate. He suggested having one more attorney to assist with outside cases.

Commissioner Postell asked Mr. Davis if he needs another attorney; Mr. Davis agreed.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on cleanup with over 700 root balls in the community. The City cannot legally go on private property; however, she asked if there is anything that can be done to assist homeowners with this problem.

Commissioner Coleman said he asked about speed humps five/six months ago and the criteria for putting these in neighborhoods. He asked for information on what the state will/will not allow and mentioned a constituent who said she called and was told there would not be a speed hump in her neighborhood. He asked about the test that is conducted to determine whether or not speed humps can be placed. Ms. Subadan said she will provide information, adding that there has to be a certain number of neighbors agreeing to have a speed hump installed in the area. Commissioner Coleman said everyone on the street (25 or so) signed a petition to have speed humps. He also mentioned having a Veterans Day Parade in November and asked for volunteers to assist. Commissioner Postell volunteered to assist and asked Commissioner Coleman to contact the American Legions in the city and get them on board by providing names of veterans, etc.

Commissioner Marietta said Paul Murray, who has facilitated veteran events would be willing to assist.

Mayor Hubbard asked that the Chehaw request for additional funding be brought back under items for other business and asked the Clerk to make note.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK