

MARCH 14, 2017  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

PRESENT Mayor Dorothy Hubbard  
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Marietta  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, BJ Fletcher, Bob Langstaff, Jr. (see note) and  
Tommy Postell  
City Manager: Sharon Subadan  
City Attorney: CN Davis

At 8:30 a.m., Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order and gave instructions regarding Citizen Comments and Speaker Appearance forms.

SPEAKER APPEARANCE

Johnny or Tony Williams – neither were present

TRAVEL

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

1. City Manager Sharon Subadan; Albany-Dougherty Day at the Capitol; Atlanta, GA; Feb. 21-22, 2017; \$563.08
2. City Manager Sharon Subadan; GMA 2017 Annual Convention; Savannah, GA; June 23-27, 2017

ANNUAL FEDERAL LOBBYIST UPDATE

Using a power point presentation (copy on file) Marion Turner, Federal Lobbyist with Alcade & Fay Consultants, discussed the firm and gave an update on Congress, including number of those in the Senate and House. Regarding 2017, he said that priorities are: FY 17 appropriations; changes to the Affordable Care Act; Tax Reform; Infrastructure Package; and Immigration Reform. He discussed DOT Secretary Elaine Chao; HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson, who is critical of HUD; and HHS Secretary Tom Price; EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt; and Commerce Wilbur Ross. Regarding the Georgia Delegation, he reported that the only change is Drew Ferguson's election to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and a vacancy in the 6<sup>th</sup> District due to the confirmation of Tom Price HHS Secretary. He discussed recent issues with which he has been working, including FEMA Disaster, Albany Transportation Center, SWGA Regional Airport, and his advocacy for Downtown Redevelopment. He reported on general legislation that is going on at the federal level, including appropriations, infrastructure, internet taxation, and tax reform. In summary, he briefly discussed the in-house grant department, which includes writing, monitoring, review, debriefing and congressional support.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Turner if he will be looking at various storm areas with Mr. Turner stating that he can get with the City Manager about this. Commissioner Howard said he met with Congressman Bishop, who is also concerned about the new administration and changes,

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specifically the allocation of funds, challenges Albany is facing regarding what FEMA can/cannot do as it pertains to the storms and recovery. He asked for an update with an estimation of damages from the storm to included MCLB and Turner Job Corps. Ms. Subadan said she will provide this information with Mr. Turner stating that he and Ms. Subadan will be meeting with FEMA while she is in DC next week.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked for clarification on the grant writing program; Mr. Turner explained the process in providing assistance, adding that they do not offer grant writing training, but that he can recommend someone. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Marietta, Ms. Subadan stated that there are a few grant writers on staff in various departments. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Marietta, Mr. Turner commented on programs providing grant writers, match requirements, etc.

Commissioner Postell commented on recommending grants, etc., with Mr. Turner agreeing. Regarding assistance with grants, Mr. Turner discussed the process as it would apply to specific grants, i.e., transportation, downtown, etc.

Commissioner Howard said Congressman Sanford Bishop recommended having an expert in grant writing, especially with a city of this size and due to upcoming changes in administration.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Turner discussed stimulus packages, infrastructure, rising deficits, diligently working with Congressman Bishop, who is in support of increased spending instead of decreasing in order to keep programs operative.

#### SNICKERS® MARATHON & HALF MARATHON REPORT

Chuck Knight provided an update, stating that the first marathon was held in 2007 with Albany being a consistent top ten Boston qualifier. There were runners from 40 states and four-five countries; however, registration was down approximately 8%, which could have been weather/storm related. He mentioned the 1700+ volunteers, which underscores community support for the runners. The proceeds goes to Wilson Hospice House, with over \$200,000 being donated thus far, with an economic impact of over \$700,000. He thanked APD, responders, volunteers and the City Commission for their support and thanked Rachelle Beasley for the tremendous job that they do.

Commissioner Postell mentioning the economic impact, with Mr. Knight stating that this comes from restaurants and hotels, etc.

Mayor Hubbard thanked everyone, including Ms. Beasley and her team. Mr. Knight mentioned an article in a Runner's World Magazine about a runner from Georgia who qualified.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS**

### DOUGHERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS CENTER MOA RE: MCLB

AFD/Emergency Management Director Chief Ron Rowe discussed the operations center that was affected on base by the recent storm and discussed having an agreement in place with MCLB as noted (copy on file).

There were no comments or questions on this item.

## **PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS**

### ACCEPTANCE OF SILICA DR. R/W DEDICATION

Using a power point presentation, Asst. City Manager Phil Roberson, and Engineering Director Bruce Maples, discussed information (copy on file) pertaining to the acceptance of a right-of-way for construction of cul-de-sacs.

Commissioner Postell asked the cost, with Mr. Roberson stating approximately \$4600.

Commissioner Postell moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Howard, who discussed the area including illegal activities, KADB clean-up efforts, etc.

Ms. Subadan said a final clean-up will be done after the gates are in place and the area will be monitored.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

## **PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS**

The Clerk read the following:

### MATTERS FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017, 6:30 PM, ROOM 100; GOVERNMENT CENTER BLDG. 222 PINE AVE.

1. Zoning Case #17-003 - Pankajbhai S. & Jyotsnaben Patel/Owners; George M. Dallas Hunt/Applicant; request to rezone property located at 2402 Whispering Pines Circle from R-1 to C-2. PC denied 6-1 Ward 5

2. Zoning Case #17-004 - SOWEGA Warehousing, LLC & Carl Lee Davis/Owners; Todd Davis & Carl Lee Davis/Applicants; request to rezone property located at 609 N. Slappey Boulevard & 1104 Baker Avenue from, C-1 to C-2. PC approved 7-0 (**conditional**) Ward 3
3. Zoning Case #17-007 - Council 3607, Inc./Owner; DHM Developer, Inc./Applicant; request to rezone property located at 2009 Gillionville Road & Melrose Drive from R-1 to C-5. PC denied 5-1-1 Ward 4
4. Zoning Case #17-008 - Ahsan Qaiser & Thomas S. Walden/ Owners; DHM Developer, Inc./ Applicant; request to rezone property located at 1813, 2001-2007 Gillionville Road from R-1 to C-5c. Planning Commission denied 5-1-1 Ward 4

Commissioner Langstaff was present but did not sit at the dais until this time (9:22 am).

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta noted two individuals in the audience who wanted to speak, Russell Gray 1626 N. Valencia Dr., spokesman for a neighborhood watch in the area. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked if this is a concern with Mr. Gray stating that it is a concern of the neighborhood because of the density and proposed 1-3 bedroom units. Mr. Davis stated that comments of this nature should be confined to the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta said he wanted to recognize the anxiety of the neighborhood; it has been on social media, etc., Mayor Hubbard invited Mr. Gray to come back to the public hearing.

## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS**

### FY-16 AUDIT RESULTS

Finance Director Derrick Brown discussed the process of presenting the audit to the State by December 31 and introduced Meredith Lipson to present the audit (copy on file).

Ms. Lipson discussed information as noted (copy on file) pertaining to the audit, CAFR, the auditor's discussion and analysis, expenditures/expenses in General Fund, etc.

Commissioner Postell commented on the budget and asked if Commissioners received the information and discussed with staff in advance. Mr. Brown replied that he and Commissioners discussed this last year, but the report is positive this year; therefore, he felt no need for discussion in advance of the report. Ms. Subadan explained that this is the audit/annual report from 2016 – it has nothing to do with the budget, but rather fiscal management. She advised that Mr. Brown can conduct individual discussions with Commissioners if desired.

Continuing with the presentation, Ms. Lipson noted the chart on page 9 relates to revenue and expenditures, fund balances, other funds/enterprise funds. Commissioner Postell asked to meet with her to explain the report. Ms. Lipson mentioned and explained one finding/adjustment to

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accounts receivable, which does create a concern. She commended the Finance Department for the tremendous job that they have done with keeping accounts straight.

Commissioner Postell stated that he felt the meeting was changed and that it is unfair to have this discussion when the meeting was changed at the last minute. Mayor Hubbard corrected Commissioner Postell and reminded him that this is a regularly scheduled meeting date.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta noted and commented on page 140 regarding corrective actions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Howard mentioned recent storms that devastated Albany and asked for an APD update due because of his concern about recent killings in the community, the shift in crime, and overall safety of the community. He suggested APD parking in high crime areas, etc., and asked for monthly updates, to include pie charts on enforcement to be given to the Commission.

Agreeing with Commissioner Howard, Mayor Pro Tem Marietta also asked to have a meeting of the Flood Plain Review Board regarding those who cannot get a building permit, having to raise structures above flood level, etc., and asked that they hold a special called meeting to address these issues. He asked Ms. Subadan to accommodate those who are in 'catch 22' situation to allow flexibility for those hardest hit and are rebuilding, etc.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Ms. Subadan advised that Mr. Forgey is in charge of the Flood Plain Review Board.

## **CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Ms. Subadan said that an agenda item was left off the agenda and that the item pertains to a MOU between APD and ASU.

Chief Persley introduced Rowena Daniels, ASU Chief Legal Affairs Officer, to discuss the MOU, which will assist ASU with crime. She listed other agencies that are part of addressing issues victims face after a violent crime occurs and mentioned a grant they have applied for in the amount of \$300,000 for three years, which will help fund the initiative/partnership.

Commissioner Howard asked about arrests made by ASU Police; Ms. Daniels advised that there is a full police department on campus with a partnership in place to follow the proper process as it pertains to arrests. Commissioner Howard said this is timely and goes along with his prior comments, adding that he would like to add black on black crime and addressing these issues.

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Mayor Pro Tem Marietta said that he appreciates this discussion due to escalated instances in the various wards.

Mayor Hubbard asked if the MOU is contingent on getting the grant approved. Ms. Daniels said they would like to maintain the relationship regardless of the grant award.

Commissioner Postell commented on the closing of state mental hospitals and how that affected communities; there might be a correlation and the cause for increased crime and should be considered.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Chief Persley for bringing this to the Commission's attention and said it is up for vote at the next meeting.

Commissioner Howard mentioned Moultrie and collaborative efforts with Ms. Daniels commenting on the process and what was considered with 'Turning Point'.

Ms. Subadan stated that Asst. Fire Chief Eugene Anderson will provide an update on an event.

Information was distributed (copy on file) regarding the upcoming March 25<sup>th</sup> event at the Fairgrounds which was discussed by Chief Anderson. He asked that the Commission provide names of volunteers who will be recognized at the event, adding that medallions will be given out at the event. At 2 pm, a stage will be set to recognize volunteers and present awards. He asked that constituents be invited to attend. Additional information regarding the event was distributed (copy on file)

Commissioner BJ Fletcher asked how information will be disbursed to the public, with Mr. Anderson stating Facebook and news media will be used.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Chief Anderson for his presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 am.

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SONJA TOLBERT  
CITY CLERK