

FEBRUARY 14, 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 and  
Bob Langstaff, Jr.  
City Manager: Sharon Subadan  
City Attorney: CN Davis

At 8:32 a.m., Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order and gave instructions regarding Citizen Comments and Speaker Appearance forms.

She advised that representatives from FEMA and SBA are present to provide information and updates.

Jim Woodard, Intergovernmental Affairs - Federal Emergency Management Agency, addressed the Commission and discussed how to apply for assistance from FEMA. He explained the process of how homeowners, who have insurance, would make claims for assistance by registering with FEMA by phone or online and advised that homeowners and renters can apply for assistance as well as grants that do not have to be re-paid. Rental assistance is available through local resources, grants for repairs, other needs assistance grants, i.e., medical, funeral, etc. He mentioned partners who are involved and then asked Burton Boone with the Small Business Administration to speak on what assistance they offer.

Mr. Boone provided information pertaining to the Small Business Administration, in particular that which applies to assistance for homeowners and businesses. He said that they work with FEMA pertaining to grants and explained how to register, etc.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Boone gave information regarding the economic injury loan for those who did not sustain damage, and advised that it does not cover loss of revenue, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked the location of both agencies. Mr. Woodard, said there are two FEMA centers in town; 1721 E. Oglethorpe and inside the Mall next to Penney's. The SBA resource center is downtown, on Pine Avenue, and they have reps at all locations. He gave the number for disaster relief including the process and advised that the last day for registration, for both declarations, is March 27<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked if it's correct that homeowners with insurance do not qualify for assistance; Mr. Woodard explained that there may be grants available for those who are uninsured/underinsured, adding that just having insurance does not preclude assistance. He advised that the type of coverage will affect qualifying and stated that by law, FEMA cannot duplicate funds from another source (insurance), adding that the assistance helps with gaps in insurance. He discussed a Letter of Determination from the insurance company; Letter of Eligibility from FEMA, then explained the 60-day appeal process.

Commissioner Howard advised that Mr. Woodard agreed to attend his next Town Hall meeting this month (location to be determined). The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and correct misinformation that is circulating within the community. He mentioned areas in Dougherty County that will take months/years to recover and asked that a press release go out and includes all City/County employees to advise them of this meeting. Mr. Woodard added that even though registration ends March 27, FEMA will still be in Albany working with citizens. He advised that approximately \$3.4

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million has been disbursed to the City of Albany. Commissioner Howard asked about the tornado that hit in January; Mr. Woodard explained that it is not a good practice for him or anyone else to rate and/or compare one disaster against another. Commissioner Howard asked to have a City/County-wide meeting to improve public relations and let citizens become aware. Mr. Woodard mentioned that recovery is a long process and again stated that FEMA and volunteer agencies will be active after he leaves Albany.

Mayor Hubbard thanked both reps for providing the information.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Wright distributed information (copy on file) and discussed SPLOST reallocations and alley paving as noted on today's agenda. He suggested a SPLOST oversight committee, which would receive a stipend; he discussed benefits as referenced and commented on the Ritz Cultural Center, Civil Rights Museum, etc., asking how they can continue to function without proper funding. Regarding alley paving, he mentioned the area of the Westtown Alley, which is not on the list. He again suggested establishing an oversight committee that would mitigate issues.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Two joint City/County appointments to Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals for three-year term expiring October 2019
2. Commission appointment to Flood Plain Management Review Board for three-year term expiring October 2019

There were no comments on this item.

TRAVEL

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the following, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Marietta; the motion unanimously carried:

1. Mayor D. Hubbard; GMA 2017 Mayor's Day Training; Atlanta, GA; Jan. 20-23, 2017; \$1,362.31
2. Commissioner J. Howard; GMA 2017 Mayor's Day Training; Atlanta, GA; Jan 20-23, 2017; \$1,511.90
3. Commissioner B. Coleman; GMA 2017 Mayor's Day Training, Atlanta, GA; Jan. 20-23, 2017; \$1,613.24
4. Commissioner R. Marietta; GMA 2017 Mayor's Day Training; Atlanta, GA; Jan. 20-22, 2017; \$951.52
5. Mayor D. Hubbard; Albany-Dougherty Day at State Capitol; Feb. 21-22, 2017
6. Mayor D. Hubbard, Annual Chamber Mtg w/Federal Delegation; Washington, DC; March 20-22, 2017
7. Sonja Tolbert, City Clerk; Annual IIMC Conference; Montreal, Canada; May 20-24, 2017

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8. City Manager S. Subadan; Albany-Dougherty Day at State Capitol; Feb. 21-22, 2017
9. City Manager S. Subadan; Annual Chamber Mtg. w/Federal Delegation; Washington, DC; March 20-22, 2017

SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY EXTENSION

Mr. Davis advised that the County approved the joint resolution and asked for approval by the Commission, which extends the deadline to June 30.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked for additional information; Mayor Hubbard advised that it will be discussed in executive session.

There were no additional comments on this item.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS**

SPLOST VI REALLOCATIONS

Derrick Brown, Finance Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) as it pertains to reallocation of funds.

Commissioner Howard noted that rebuilding Broad Avenue Bridge was approximately \$0.50 million under-budget. Ms. Subadan stated that the bridge was built using mostly federal/state funds and advised that the original allocation was moved to other projects listed on the ballot. She explained that funds can only be moved to categories that were originally on the ballot. Commissioner Howard expressed concern and said he felt more money could have been allocated to alley paving city-wide, especially Delta Street.

PURCHASE

Mike Trotter, Procurement Manager, discussed the following (copy on file).

1. SPLOST VI Alley Paving - Phase IV, HTS Construction, Inc.  
Est. Expenditure \$760,766.39

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked the status of alley paving by HTS. Phil Roberson, Asst. City Manager, reported that they had a seven month contract with 210 days to complete the job. Mayor Pro Tem Marietta asked the status of Westtown Alley. In response to Commissioner Coleman, Mr. Roberson clarified the 210 days to complete.

Commissioner Howard suggested having someone monitor SPLOST monies. Ms. Subadan said she has staff actively working on SPLOST funds, with both Finance and Engineering working together on SPLOST VII; she mentioned incomplete projects in previous SPLOSTs. In reply to Commissioner

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Howard, she said she has confidence in staff and will be implementing ways to educate the public, having a plan and bringing updates so that the Commission is confident on project implementation.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Coleman asked to have the railroad crossing at Swift Street repaired.

#### CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan discussed sewer line emergency repair as noted (copy on file) in the amount of \$229,432.50 and asked that we move forward with the repair.

Commissioner Howard asked the Ward with Mr. Roberson stating that it is in WARD 2.

Using a power point (copy on file), Ms. Subadan gave an update of damages from both storms that occurred in January, including total costs (\$6.4 million just in utility); while FEMA reimburses at 75%, it is hoped to receive 10% reimbursement from the State; however, the City will have to fund a minimum of 15%.

Commissioner Coleman asked for a copy of the presentation.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the refund for those who lost power for longer than three days and said he has been receiving questions from his constituents. He stated that the process did not seem to be well thought out and suggested that sending customers to the Civic Center to stand in line is akin to the food stamp process. Ms. Subadan said it was her decision to offer assistance, which is consistent with helping people who were impacted; it was the most 'painless' process she could devise. The credit was merely a mean for the City to demonstrate concern for what its citizens had been through and the credit is not connected to 'truing up' bills when meters are back up and running. Albany lacks the sophisticated tools to pinpoint with certainty who was without power and for how long. She listed other incentives being offered, i.e., no disconnect/ waiving fees, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Marietta said he took elderly people to sign up for the \$50.00, which was a seamless process. He mentioned that AT&T gave him a \$30 credit, which did not compare to the length of time he was without service. He said he felt staff did a good job and commended them including the explanation provided by the City Manager in the news article, adding that he felt it was a good gesture.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

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SONJA TOLBERT  
CITY CLERK