

APRIL 5, 2016
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

PRESENT Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
Mayor Pro Tem BJ Fletcher
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Bobby Coleman, Roger Marietta, and Bob
Langstaff, Jr.,
City Manager: Sharon Subadan
City Attorney: CN Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

SPEAKER APPEARANCE

1. Dr. Art Dunning, President of Albany State University, briefly discussed changes in Albany regarding ASU and Darton State College, particularly the distinctions of the two institutes – one two-year degree, the other four-year degree. He mentioned that there are approximately 105-107 HBCU's across the nation and explained that out of the Civil Rights Act, the enactment of Title III created HCBU's, with ASU getting \$4.5 million annually to help build infrastructure. He gave a brief history of other institutes, adding that each campus in Albany is unique and commented on the upcoming population growth of aging baby boomers and the decision of the Board of Regents to consolidate the two institutes. He said the largest influx of students at ASU come from Darton after completion of the two-year program and policy makers (Board of Regents) made decisions based on demographic change and fiscal responsibility. He discussed the committee working on the consolidation of both institutes with people from Darton and ASU comprising the committee and explained the process of consolidating. Regarding disengagement (poverty) in the nation, he spoke of what is looked at, i.e., operational process, policy/practices, cultural traditions and the passion people have regarding learning institutions. The driving force of the Board of Regents is to help people understand that having access to learning is important.

Commissioner Coleman referred to the comment that Albany's population would not increase in 15 years; Dr. Dunning explained the information from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government that indicates that as a region we are not growing. In response to Commissioner Coleman, he explained how census information is used to make predictions; Commissioner Coleman countered that that is more of prophecy than 'a look'. Dr. Dunning stated that programs have to be created to entice young people to come/remain in Albany. Discussion followed on making the community attractive to keep people here, based on analyzed data. Dr. Dunning mentioned that college-educated young people are attracted to Atlanta, which benefits from the educational investments of other states. Commissioner Coleman reiterated that humans cannot be accurate in making predictions 15 years ahead.

Commissioner Howard thanked Dr. Dunning for the history of HBCU's and mentioned the war on poverty, etc., adding that it is different from Tennessee State and W. Virginia State University. He commented on the new mission statement and his concern of the makeup of the committee and retaining young people in SWGA. Dr. Dunning referred to the three institutions of higher-learning (ASU, Albany Tech and Darton) and the lack of activities for students, which make it attractive

and help keep young people in the city. He compared Atlanta and Birmingham during the height of civil rights activism, with Birmingham paying the price and Atlanta benefitting from the differences/social practices. He said he is trying to make wise decisions, adding that this is a community decision and discussion is needed to answer who we are and how we define ourselves.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Dr. Dunning for sharing information and invited him to return to share additional information.

2. David Diamond – displaying photos and stated that on February 24th, his car was damaged by flood waters; he asked to be reimbursed for the repairs to his car.

Commissioner Coleman said he gets calls from citizens in that area (Eighth Avenue) and asked what is being done to address those issues. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, he said he spoke with Barbara Mitchell, neighbor of Mr. Diamond, who expressed concern of a large sinkhole.

Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher asked Mr. Diamond if he has insurance; Mr. Diamond replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Marietta asked Mr. Diamond if he spoke with the City's risk manager, which initiates the process; Mr. Diamond replied that he did not. Commissioner Marietta discussed the process with Mr. Subadan explaining the of filing claims, etc., adding that it was a 100- year rain event, with sudden accumulation due to heavy rain in an eight-hour period; the airport recorded nine inches. Even if all of Albany's infrastructure was perfect, being inundated with such a huge amount of rain in such a short time span would create major issues. She recommended that Mr. Diamond file a claim and speak with Risk Manager Veronica Wright.

TRAVEL

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

1. Commissioner B. Coleman, NLC 2016 Congressional City Conference; Washington D.C.; March 4-7, 2016; \$2,249.45
2. Commissioner T. Postell, NLC 2016 Congressional City Conference; Washington D.C.; March 4-7, 2016; \$2,256.73
3. City Manager S. Subadan, Chamber of Commerce Albany-Dougherty Day; Atlanta, GA; February 2-4, 2016; \$973.47
4. City Manager S. Subadan, ECG Economic Development Summit; Jekyll Island, GA; April 13-15, 2016

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

APD QUARTERLY UPDATE

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Distributing information (copy on file), Chief Michael Persley discussed the decrease in crime, call volume, response time, reporting incidents, etc., information used to make comparisons and assessments (indicating use of resources and making changes if needed). He referred to the section regarding the quality of life as it pertains to City ordinances and crime adding that statistical data is provided by category as required by the FBI that includes percentiles. He briefly discussed recent homicides, adding that they have been cleared and closed.

Commissioner Marietta mentioned the absence of ADDU cases; asking if prostitution is under their jurisdiction. Chief Persley said they are primarily responsible in prostitution/vice cases. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, he stated that the Drug Unit and Gang Task Force track their own records, but he gives an overview.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the Gang Unit not being at capacity, which is a concern; he mentioned Albany Homes, which he asserted is infested with drugs and gang activities. He asked that this area be looked at and that the Drug Unit present an update regarding drug issues within the community to the Commission. He mentioned homicides and asked about the recent death of local infants – one in his ward and one in Commissioner Coleman’s ward - Chief Persley explained the law regarding the death of a fetus/miscarriage (no charges filed) versus the death of a live child and concealing a death. He also commented on collaborations with the Drug Unit, Gang Units and other law enforcements in Albany/Dougherty County and discussed synthetic drug issues, collaboration of APD and the Drug Unit due to reduced manpower, and his efforts to reduce attrition.

Commissioner Coleman asked if Chief Persley is directing officers to focus on crime in order to prevent crime; Chief Persley replied that it is part II vs. part I crimes, with part II crimes being minor in nature and the efforts of his officers to handle situations properly and prevent escalation of a minor crime into a major one. Commissioner Coleman asked that a review of the noise ordinance be conducted and stated that senior citizens will not testify because of fear of those violating the ordinance and the problem continues. Chief Persley discussed the process and said that this is required by the judicial system, however, he agreed that something else could be looked at.

In summary, Chief Persley reported that officers are undergoing crisis intervention training regarding mental health issues/substance abusers; community partnership/community-oriented policing endeavor; and the fight the blight initiative, adding that he will bring up update regarding long/short-term goals.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

R/W DEDICATION ON LOGAN COURT

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Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, discussed information (copy on file) pertaining to accepting right-of-way dedication and recommended approval.

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

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

APPROVAL OF SUBORDINATION AGREEMENTS

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASE:

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following purchase, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

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| 1. | Portable Radios, Motorola Solutions, Inc. | |
| | Total expenditure | \$158,858.00 |

GRANT APPLICATION – GOHS

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the authorizing resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher, the motion unanimously carried.

FTA SECTION 5307 CAPITAL/OPERATING GRANT APPLICATION

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the authorizing resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher.

Commissioner Marietta referred to page 25 regarding local allocation (\$1,638, 528) asking if this amount reflect revenues from bus riders. Ms. Subadan replied in the negative, explaining the City having to match the grant; the total city allocation is \$1.8 million with about 27-28% recovered in revenue.

David Hamilton, Transit Director, stated that the match is 50% with capital being 80/20

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Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Marietta mentioned the report from the Ethics Board and asked that the recommended options be on a future agenda. Mr. Davis said he will be preparing this. Commissioner Marietta asked for an executive session at the next meeting to discuss selection of Asst. City Attorney.

Commissioner Howard asked that Mr. Maples provide information on the S. Mock Road/Cason Street railroad repairs that made the situation worse and asked for an update on the railroads. He also mentioned changing city meetings and asked that the meetings remain as they are.

Commissioner Coleman asked that status of alley paving; his ward has caved-in alleys due to recent rain. Ms. Subadan said a report will be provided on the alley paving schedule.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan reminded the Commission of GMA's Georgia Cities Week (copy on file), adding that the next work session will be in room 100 to accommodate students interested in government. This will connect with Stash the Trash and the bike race, which is coordinated with CVB. She encouraged Commissioners to participate in activities and celebrate Georgia Cities Week. She also distributed information (copy on file) regarding downtown projects, status of the ADICA/DDA restructuring, adding that a presentation is planned for a future meeting. Regarding Delta Street, she said staff is working with both parties to arrive at a solution that will benefit the entire community to address blight, etc., and added that a 'Fight Albany Blight' report is forthcoming, which includes costs, legal work and the incorporation of a land bank. She advised that alley paving updates will be provided via mail/email.

Commissioner Howard mentioned sprinklers at the new fire station and asked the opening date. Chief Rowe said in about a month; Ms. Subadan interjected that a ribbon-cutting is planned with a press release going out, etc., information will be provided. Regarding the pool, she advised that it is on schedule and updates will be provided.

Commissioner Coleman asked about Residence Street paving. Ms. Subadan said paving is progressing. Mr. Maples said there is a color-coded map on the website (Engineering Department's page), which indicates the progress of the street resurfacing program. Ms. Subadan said that a link will be provided.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK