

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

PRESENT Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
City Commissioners: Bobby Coleman, BJ Fletcher, Roger Marietta, Bob
Langstaff, Jr., and Tommie Postell
Interim City Manager: Tom Berry
City Attorney: CN Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

ESTABLISHING QUALIFYING FEES FOR 2015

The Clerk advised that pursuant to state law [O.C.G.A 21-2-131-(a) (1)] qualifying fees are required to be published; this year's will be posted on February 1, 2015. She added that fees are the same as prior years.

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

CONCERT SERIES PROPOSAL RE: THREEFORTY CREATIVE GROUP

Mayor Hubbard advised that the matter was pulled by the City Manager pending additional information.

RECERTIFICATION AS GEORGIA CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS

Mr. Davis discussed information (copy on file) as it pertains to being recertified as a GMA City of Ethics. Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

TRAVEL:

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

1. Mayor D. Hubbard, Chamber Eggs & Issues Breakfast, Atlanta, GA; Jan. 12-13, 2015; \$443.45
2. City Clerk S. Tolbert, Clerk's Training Conference, Athens, GA; Feb. 15-17, 2015

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE MATTERS

TRANSFER TITLE TO VEHICLES

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Stephen Collier, Asst. City Manager, explained that titles will be for vehicles that are purchased. Commissioner Postell moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Marietta stated that he and Commissioner Fletcher have been discussing tweaking the rules governing fencing of properties and asked to look at the matter, especially rules governing fences for commercial property.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

MODIFICATION TO TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

Ken Breedlove, Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file). Commissioner Marietta moved to adopt Option 1, seconded by Commissioner Postell. Commissioner Marietta voiced support for this, which concerns quality of life and safety issues especially regarding pedestrians.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Breedlove discussed increased costs, etc.

Commissioner Postell agreed with Commissioner Marietta, adding that ducks/geese in the area are being killed by cars, kids playing there, etc., as it pertains to public safety and asked to be updated from 2009 to the present. He also asked how this will be done as it pertains to costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked if residents are responsible for costs; Mr. Berry explained that having the authority to waive costs for residents is necessary and this provides that authority. Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked what would happen if 100 residents rushed in requesting this in their neighborhood. Mr. Berry replied that this will be monitored and evaluated as it is not currently funded, adding that this will be brought to the Commission for decision.

Commissioner Postell urged that cost factors not override safety issues; this needs to be evaluated by the Engineering Department and this body with priorities set because everyone will not qualify. Mr. Berry added that items will be brought back next month for approval.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

GDOT'S DESIGN OF WESTOVER EXTENSION

Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, discussed information regarding design of Westover Extension, in which GDOT requests a letter stating the option with which the City wants to proceed. Chris Rideout, Transportation Department Manager with Croy Engineering, displayed both options for Westover Extension and discussed the roundabout versus signal, adding that both work about the same. He commented on the advantages/disadvantages of both and said the roundabout requires a lot less maintenance. In reply to Mr. Maples, Mr. Ryan stated that funding is flexible with the plan to open for traffic in 2020, adding that there is no immediate cost to the City.

Commissioner Postell questioned the life expectancy of the roundabout with Mr. Ryan explaining it is no different from a signal being installed – typically 20 years. In reply to Commissioner Postell, he advised that Ledo Road will be four-lane. Commissioner Postell mentioned that he read where one option has the road going under the bridge another other option going over the bridge. Mr. Ryan replied that nothing will be going over the bridge and explained that the bypass will be raised and the road will go under the bypass.

Commissioner Marietta asked if this allows pedestrians to walk beside it. Mr. Ryan replied in the affirmative and used a map to show the area. Commissioner Marietta commented on widening Nottingham Way and asked if this will be abandoned. Mr. Maples said this is still being pursued with Commissioner Marietta suggesting eminent domain to take care of this.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked the ballpark cost, with Mr. Ryan stating that the entire project is approximately \$12.5 million. Mayor Pro Tem Howard commented on the traffic count, in which Walmart is the anchor tenant in the area and asked if the traffic count will decrease in the future due to the East Albany Walmart. Mr. Maples explained prior concerns adding that traffic counts were used to monitor traffic flow which showed a balance of traffic coming/going into Lee County with Nottingham being overloaded.

Discussion followed on the timeframe of completing projects. Mr. Ryan stated that roundabouts are typically safer when it comes to accidents.

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve Albany's first roundabout, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked Asst. City Manager Phil Roberson if inmates are still being used to pick up trash; Mr. Roberson explained that labor is used from Lee Correctional Institute four days a week, eight-ten hours a day. Mayor Pro Tem Howard commented on the four entrances coming into/out of the city, adding that he is appalled at the way it looks – some areas look like a city dump. He asked if those areas can be spruced up. Mr. Roberson mentioned the Solid Waste

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

Committee and asked that each Commissioner appoint one person from their ward to serve on the committee to assist with cleanup.

Commissioner Marietta mentioned trash blowing off trucks and asked if we can amend the solid waste ordinance to require inspections of sanitation vehicles to make sure they are covered and work properly to include having APD or Code Enforcement on the bypass checking for compliance. Mayor Hubbard agreed that trash is thrown on the backs of trucks and when driving, it flies off the truck, adding that this should be discussed.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the following, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard voting no.

1. Lucky 4 Food Mart, Inc., d/b/a JMD Food Store, 1800 E. Oglethorpe Blvd; M. Mansour/Agent. Transfer from U. Sabir – WARD 1

ITEM FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Berry mentioned Commissioners discussion to have a command center vehicle available for the Commission to look and said it will be located at APD after the next work session.

Commissioner Postell asked to look into the Code Enforcement department being off on weekends and suggested that there are more violations on Saturdays/Sundays because the public knows they do not work those days. He relayed an incident in his neighborhood this past weekend, in which police officers assisted, but said he feels it was a code issue. Mr. Berry said this will be looked into. Commissioner Marietta agreed with Commissioner Postell adding that code violations should be looked into and someone patrolling.

PUBLIC FUNCTIONS MATTERS

MATTERS FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015, 6:30 P.M., ROOM 100; GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING, 222 PINE AVE

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

1. Zoning Case #14-094 – 2536 Dawson Corporation/Owner; LeCraw Engineering/Applicant; request to rezone property located at 2536 Dawson Road from C-1 to C-2. (PC approved 8-0). WARD 5

GRANT APPLICATION TO GA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Paul Forgey, Planning Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) and asked for approval to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Postell asked the amount of the grant last year. Mr. Forgey replied that the grant is \$25,000, with a \$10,000 match; the City received \$15,000 and was awarded another \$4,000 due to performance. In reply to Commissioner Postell, he said they are requesting \$25,000 from the state, which include a \$10,000 City match. Commissioner Postell asked for clarification on older structures, with Mr. Forgey explaining that it will apply to those structures 50 years old or older. Additional discussion followed on the older structures with Mr. Forgey stating that the survey will only indicate whether or not the structure is historic. Mr. Berry stated that becoming dilapidated has no bearing on the survey. Mr. Forgey explained the process of demolition of buildings, etc., with the Preservation Commission having the power to prevent demolition in historic districts, but they have also approved some as well. Commissioner Postell asked that the 700 block of Madison Street be looked at.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if there are guidelines/policies regarding land use, i.e., areas becoming commercial. Mr. Forgey stated that there are zoning policies that affect land use and explained the process, adding that it is flexible with the Commission and Planning Commission being allowed to deviate. He suggested reevaluating the policies since it is coming up to the ten year mark. Discussion followed regarding being business friendly with larger companies and smaller mom/pop businesses.

Commissioner Postell asked for a list with the names of members on the Preservation Board.

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

ITEM FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Postell asked the status of lighting on Westover Road from Gillionville to Oakridge. Mr. Berry stated that there is a proposal ready for Commissioner Postell to look at and get his thoughts before putting it on an agenda. Commissioner Marietta agreed with Commissioner Postell about the need for lighting.

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

Mayor Pro Tem Howard mentioned pro football players, Ricardo Lockett and Deion Sanders hailing from Albany and the recognition Albany will receive for two native sons being professional ball players.

CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE

Mr. Berry stated that this morning Sharlene Cannon will make a presentation regarding ADICA. Ms. Cannon distributed and discussed information (copy on file) regarding goals and objectives. In addition to the handout, Ms. Cannon also discussed the deteriorating condition of the Albany Theatre and its effect on adjacent properties. She commented on the potential to rehab the front of the building to use as classrooms/community rooms/residential and mentioned the historic aspect of the Theatre if it is lost and the effect the loss will have on downtown. She asked the Commission to get on board with ADICA to come up with funding sources to assist with the rehab of this building.

Commissioner Postell mentioned a donor who had offered \$1.0 million for the Albany Theatre and asked the current cost to rehab. Ms. Cannon stated that there is a Theatre Committee, which volunteers its time with sketches and ideas being looked at and discussed; however, ADICA has to make a definite commitment to save the building, but she said she feels that will not be an issue.

Commissioner Fletcher stated that she walked through the building two years ago when it was rentable and, she walked through again two months ago to find it in horrible condition due to weather and vandalism. She suggested that something has to be done quickly to halt the deterioration.

Commissioner Marietta suggested that this could be a future SPLOST project.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard mentioned his recent NLC trip to Austin, TX. He said traffic is congested late at night in Albany and suggested having something similar to Austins’ ‘6th Street’, which is a designated street that is blocked for pedestrians on Friday nights.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – property acquisition & personnel matter

At 9:47 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Coleman; the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes

JANUARY 20, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – ROOM 120

Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

At 10:30 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK