

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

PRESENT Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, BJ Fletcher, Roger Marietta, and Tommie Postell
City Manager: Sharon Subadan
City Attorney: CN Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

CITIZEN APPEARANCE:

David Noel, Sr., said he is an Army veteran, having been honorably discharged 15 years ago and has a business degree from Albany State in Business. On June 15, he said he was driving on Oakridge when a sinkhole formed in the road beneath his vehicle and that it was an extremely traumatic experience. He said he filed a police report the next day and three days later he went to Risk Manager and spoke with Charlie Crapps about potential roadway collapses in the area. He said the form required him to fill it out; however, Mr. Crapps completed the form and he never received a copy of it. The claim was eventually denied. He went to the doctor in July and returned to Risk Management afterwards, which again denied his claim. He then appealed the decision to Veronica Wright, adding that his insurance company, Allstate, will not assist him and his vehicle is inoperable. He asked the Commission to assist him with this claim.

Commissioner Postell stated that as Commissioner of the ward, he spoke with Mr. Noel and the City Attorney, who discussed the process and denial of the claim. Mr. Davis explained that the claim was denied based on the fact that the City had no notice of the condition of the roadway prior to Mr. Noel's incident. Commissioner Postell stated that he asked Mr. Noel to come to the Board.

Mayor Hubbard asked who was given first notice with Commissioner Postell stating that Mr. Crapps was the first one Mr. Noel spoke with. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Phil Roberson stated that the City has taken steps to repair the hole in the road.

In response to Commissioner Marietta, Mr. Roberson discussed the one foot diameter hole and explained the repair process. Commissioner Marietta asked if this was a hole as found in other areas in town with Mr. Roberson explaining materials used to repair. Commissioner Marietta asked Mr. Noel how much was the cost to repair his vehicle with Mr. Noel stating estimates were \$1400 and \$2000. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Mr. Noel stated that he did not receive a blank form from Mr. Crapps and was not given an opportunity to complete it himself.

Commissioner Howard clarified the location of the hole with Mr. Roberson stating that when the material arrives it will not take long to repair; however, the hole was temporarily repaired with barriers put in place.

Commissioner Postell asked the significance of Mr. Crapps completing the form. Mr. Noel replied that he was not given the form; Mr. Crapps filled it out and gave to him. He contended that he should have been given the opportunity to fill out the form. In response to Commissioner

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

Postell, Mr. Noel said he has a form he filled out himself, with detailed information lacking on the form Mr. Crapps completed. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Davis opined that with there being no notice given to the City prior to this event the claim would have been denied regardless.

Commissioner Fletcher asked Mr. Noel what he wants/expects from the City. Mr. Noel said he wants his vehicle repaired, compensation for his pain and suffering and medical bills paid.

Mayor Hubbard asked the recommendation of the Commission. Commissioner Marietta asked Mr. Noel for an estimated number. Commissioner Postell moved that Mr. Davis make a recommendation on the feasibility and have the discretion to make judgment, since it is a legal case, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. One appointment to Stadium Authority for four-year term ending June, 2019
2. One appointment to Aviation Commission for three-year term ending July, 2018

Commissioner Postell moved to reappoint Hampton Smith to the Stadium Authority and Keith Fletcher to the Aviation Commission, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION:

Commissioner Postell moved to approve the following application, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. Billy Boy's Grille & Bar; 2236 Palmyra Rd., X. Morris/Agent; Consumption – WARD 2

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP:

Commissioner Postell moved to approve the following application, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. RM786, Inc. d/b/a Oasis; 1301 S. Slappey Blvd., F. Ulhaq/Agent; Beer Package – WARD 6. Transfer from S. Muhammad

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

POINTE N. SENIOR APTS. UTILITY EASEMENTS

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

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD OF EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

Shelena Hawkins, Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file).

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve option 1, seconded by Commissioner Howard.

Commissioner Howard asked if addresses are verified to ensure those seeking help are not coming from outside Albany/Dougherty County. Stating that the information they submit is verified, Ms. Hawkins discussed the process.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

CURRENT BIDS:

Jean Wright, Buyer, discussed the following:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Fire Station #7, PDC Construction | Estimated lump sum | \$887,687.84 |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|

Commissioner Howard moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marietta.

Commissioner Howard asked the start date of construction. Yvette Fields, Director of Central Services, stated that it will be done before a year from now. Commissioner Howard stated that 311 was called because of a concern about an upstairs house in the neighborhood that should

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

have been demolished years ago and should be done before the fire station is built. Paul Forgey, Director of Planning, said he will check the process and let him know. Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Wright discussed the following:

- | | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|----------------|
| 2. | Street Resurfacing, Reeves Construction | | |
| | | Estimated total amount | \$1,929,145.25 |

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Phil Roberson, Asst. City Manager stated that the streets are located throughout the city. In reply to Mayor Hubbard Mr. Roberson explained that the alley paving program is the only program with Commissioners choosing which alleys they want paved; the 46 streets are recommended for resurfacing citywide.

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve option 1, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

Joshua Williams, Buyer, discussed the following:

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------------|--------------|
| 3. | Software/Hardware Support, Hewlett-Packard | | |
| | | Total Expense | \$138,548.52 |

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

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

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|-------------|
| 4. | Submersible Pumps, Xylem Water Solutions | | |
| | | Total expenditure | \$53,058.32 |

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

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 5. | Vehicle Purchase, Sunbelt Ford Town, Albany, GA | | |
| | | Total expenditure | \$48,504.90 |

ENTERPRISE 1 CONSULTING SERVICES

Commissioner Postell asked for clarification with Jason Gauntt explaining the software system that is shared by the City and County. Mr. Williams provided the amount of the City/County's portion of the expense. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Gauntt explained the consulting services. Additional discussion followed with Commissioner Postell asking the expense; Mr. Gauntt explained that a committee is being formed to mitigate cost, with there being a possible change in platform.

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

Commissioner Fletcher asked if this will make permitting process easier; Mr. Gauntt agreed, adding that this will assist with a ‘one stop shop’.

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

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Mr. Williams discussed information as noted (copy on file).

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

LEGAL SERVICES

Jean Wright discussed information as noted (copy on file).

Commissioner Fletcher asked if this position would be posted/advertised to be filled. Mr. Davis advised that ads have started running to get another full-time assistant City Attorney and that information will be brought back.

Commissioner Marietta asked why this was on the agenda since outside attorneys are used regularly and are not listed on the agenda. Mr. Davis stated that we use at least two outside attorneys. Discussion followed on the agreement coming to the Commissioners, this being in the charter for the Commission to approve, etc. Commissioner Fletcher asked the amount being paid/billings, etc., legal cases for the Commission to make a decision on whether to continue this practice. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Commissioner Fletcher specifically stated attorney Don Sweat, i.e., the amount received by his office and if this can be done in-house.

Commissioner Postell asked Mr. Davis to bring a list of past payouts from attorneys assisting the City Attorney’s office for 2014-15. Mr. Davis discussed real estate closing, personnel matters, etc., that is out-sourced.

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Postell.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the volume of work in the City Attorney’s office and the potential for out-sourcing, etc. Additional discussion followed with Mayor Hubbard stating she would like to see the amount spent to out-source for the last two-three years. Comments included: code violation court cases, personnel, the budget of the city attorney’s office being low, etc. Commissioner Fletcher asked if the Commission can see information from the last five years.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

2016 EMPLOYEE GROUP BENEFITS PLAN

Wes Smith, Asst. City Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file). Commissioner Marietta moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Howard.

Commissioner Postell asked the percentage of employees who are/are not insured with Mr. Smith stating that he can provide the numbers by the next meeting. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Smith stated that Shaw Hankins has been with the City for seven year. Ms. Subadan stated that the number of employees who are not insured is a nominal number (possibly less than 10%).

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Smith stated that the updated plan begins January 1; it is on a calendar year and budgeted accordingly. Mayor Hubbard asked for an update from the health clinic, i.e., number being served and employee satisfaction.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

PURCHASE OF SYNOVUS PROPERTIES

Stephen Collier, Asst. City Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file). Commissioner Howard moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Commissioner Marietta asked from where the money will come; Derrick Brown, Finance Director, stated that the purchase of the building will come from the utility service fund, rehabbing will be approximately \$700,000, with \$1.8 million coming from the utility internal service fund and getting the other building ready to house TAC will come from the capital improvement fund (approximately \$800,000 - \$1.0 million). Discussion followed with Mr. Brown clarifying that approximately \$1.4 million is available to purchase the building, with funds becoming available to rehab and furnish the building when the time comes for those steps.

In response to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Brown explained the link between funds (City versus Utility); and clarifying the enterprise/utility fund which includes funds such as solid waste. Mr. Davis interjected that his office will close the sale of the property, with the title to the property being the City of Albany. Commissioner Marietta asked if the utility board recommended approval; Mayor Hubbard agreed.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM(S) FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Fletcher mentioned Commissioners not being present at the Chamber luncheon last week, adding that she found out two days before the event, but all tickets had been sold. She asked if a table can be purchased automatically when events of this nature happen. Discussion followed with Mayor Hubbard stating that the City was not responsible for sending the notice and that staff was there. Commissioner Marietta stated that he went last year, but this year he

AUGUST 18, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

had prior commitments. Commissioner Fletcher mentioned the sports park and said Albany is not getting a lot of softball tournaments, which fills hotels, etc., adding that 31 teams were turned down this year. She said she will share information/contact names with Ms. Subadan. Mayor Hubbard asked for a report on the sports park.

Commissioner Postell mentioned looking at a process for former Commissioner Mary Young Cummings and naming a sports park in her honor. He asked that Kenneth Florence come forward to discuss.

Commissioner Marietta asked that the skate park area be cleaned up and mentioned using the Gordon Sports Park to play ball.

Commissioner Howard asked if an update for the pool in E. Albany will be on the next agenda. He mentioned his concern regarding public safety and stated that there is a need to bring back monthly updates from the gang and drug task force(s) on hotspots/high drug areas, etc. He asked that the Police Chief re-configure the beats due to a change in demographics, etc., and mentioned his concern of convenience stores operating 24/7 being unsafe at night.

Mayor Hubbard recognized Kenny Florence, who read from a prepared statement (copy on file), regarding a request to name a park ‘the Mary Young Cummings Moss Memorial Park’. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, staff stated that there is a process in place for naming buildings and parks. Discussion followed on the process in place to name a City-owned building/park in honor of a deceased person. Mayor Hubbard asked Mr. Florence to work with staff and Commissioner Postell on this request.

Commissioner Marietta reminded the Commissioners of the meeting at noon regarding the Sabal Pipeline.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK