

OCTOBER 6, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

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

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

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Distributing information (copy on file) Marvin Mixon discussed Albany becoming a Purple Heart City and stated that other Georgia cities have already been designated as a Purple Heart City. He stated that Frances Miller and the Daughters of the American Revolution expressed their desire to have this done in Albany and explained that there would be a maximum of seven signs in Albany and noted the areas, saying that they will raise money to have the signs made (\$20.00 ea) and asked that the City approve the project and assist with digging holes and erecting the poles. He advised that Dougherty County will also be asked to designate areas and briefly discussed the receipt of the Purple Heart as it pertains to service in the military, i.e., recognizing their accomplishments, adding historical information, etc. He advised that a letter will have to be sent by the Commission to the Georgia Dept. of Transportation expressing approval.

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Mixon again discussed the location of signs. In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, he stated that there are approximately four dozen cities in Georgia, adding that a ceremony will be conducted when completed.

Commissioner Fletcher suggested having a Purple Heart on the archway and asked Ms. Subadan to advise if this can be done. Mayor Hubbard said staff will make determinations and bring back information. Discussion followed on the archway with Mayor Hubbard stating that this is a GDOT route and would also require their approval.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

Tom Gieryc explained the 'Back the Blue' program, which was started several weeks ago when he wrote a letter to the editor, resulting in citizen's support. He explained the program which supports law enforcement by showing respect and appreciation, adding that support is also given to all first responders. He asked the Commission to support this endeavor by putting the slogan on the website to assist with getting the word out, adding that he has signs at his business for all Commissioners to distribute in their respective wards.

OCTOBER 6, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

Commissioner Postell spoke in support of the program and suggested that it may stimulate recruitment in APD. He moved to support the concept, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion unanimously carried.

EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Dougherty County Superintendent Dr. D. Mosley stated that he is speaking on behalf of Dr. Dunning (ASU Interim President), who could not be here today due to being out of town. He advised that his home city of Bainbridge is a Purple Heart City, adding that this is a good endeavor. Regarding the Education Collaborative, he explained that the idea is to enhance education in Dougherty County, but without saying that education is ‘economic development’. The process includes the four institutions (DCSS, ASU, Darton, and ATC) hiring a full-time staff person, seating a 12-member board, with City/County Commissioners as board members, and devising a game plan. He advised that an organizational meeting is tentatively scheduled for later in October and distributed copies of the program’s outline (copy on file). In closing, he thanked the Commissions for working together in a spirit of cooperation that is felt throughout the city and county.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Dr. Mosley stated that the presidents of the educational institutions are on this collaborative, adding that the salary of the person will be funded by the four institutions and asked if an office space can be provided in the form of in-kind service. In addition, he stated that they are asking to have a representative on the Board of Directors.

In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Dr. Mosley stated that he needs a representative from the City as well and said information on the other representatives are listed in the handout.

Discussion followed on selecting a person, i.e., Mayor Hubbard with the consensus being to discuss further to include a timeline, etc. Commissioner Marietta expressed support for Mayor Hubbard, due to her background in education.

TRAVEL:

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

1. Mayor Pro Tem B. Coleman, GMA Training, Jekyll Island; Aug 13-15, 2015 - \$976.03

CHANGING DATES OF NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MEETINGS

The Clerk reported the options to change the work session to November 4th and December 8th with the night meeting in December changed to Tuesday, December 15th.

OCTOBER 6, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

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

COMMISSION END OF YEAR EXPENSE REPORT

The Clerk advised that this item was listed for informational purposes only.

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

COMMEMORATIVE NAMING OF PARK IN HONOR OF MARY YOUNG CUMMINGS
[MOSS]

Commissioner Postell briefly discussed the Mary Young Cummings service to Albany and the State of Georgia and spoke in favor of naming the park in her honor as an appropriate way to recognize her contributions.

Paul Forgey, Planning Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) including the process to name a public park, adding that originally it was thought to be in Ward 6, but research revealed that the park is in Ward 3. Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Mr. Forgey discussed Ms. Cummings and her accomplishments, stating that there were no City issues preventing consideration of the request.

Commissioner Postell moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Forgey advised that upkeep of the park falls under the Recreation Department. Commissioner Howard mentioned that the park needs to be cleaned, adding that Ms. Cummings maintained her residence in the area during her lifetime. He stated that this year marks 40 years of having Blacks in municipal government and that Ms. Cummings was the first Black female elected to office of the City Commission.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES:

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

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| 1. | Dry Cleaning Services, Riley Cleaners, Albany, GA | |
| | Estimated expenditure | \$45,950.00 |

BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS

HEALTH CLINIC SUMMARY

Wes Smith, Assistant City Manager, discussed information as noted (copy on file) pertaining to the clinic operated by CareHere. He reported savings the City and city employees have realized, as noted.

Commissioner Postell asked what is in place to prevent someone from fraudulently enrolling in the City's health care plan; Mr. Smith explained that reviews/audits are looked at by staff, including dependents/spouses with it being closely monitored now.

Mayor Hubbard asked the next step with Mr. Smith discussing employee's use of the clinic, monitoring no-shows, clinic being open on Saturdays, etc. Mayor Hubbard asked about employee satisfaction; Mr. Smith stated that he will report back on the study that is currently being conducted. Commissioner Marietta asked if the clinic is open to City retirees; Mr. Smith replied in the affirmative if they are covered under the City's insurance; being on Medicare does not entitle them to use of the clinic.

ITEM(S) FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Howard commented on ASU's upcoming Homecoming and asked that city entrances be cleaned up suggesting using prison labor, he mentioned areas of specific concern in E. Albany.

Mayor Pro Tem Coleman suggested developing a new policy for Code Enforcement regarding slum lords and the handling of abandoned/vacant properties, adding that he feels that a process needs to be put in place. He discussed waiving fees for those who are trying to help the community (annual events sponsored by East Towne Civic League and residents of Rawson Circle) and suggested that they are worthwhile causes and only happen once a year.

In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Ms. Subadan stated that a standard format will be presented at the first work session in November regarding agencies receiving City funds.

Commissioner Marietta asked the status of speed humps and recommended having citizen involvement on the working group; he asked that this information be provided. He mentioned

CVB's consultant's report in which it was recommended to separate the EDC, Chamber and CVB and to give them more funding, adding that the City should look at the recommendations. He mentioned SPLOST VI funding for sidewalks, in which it has been said that those funds have been spent to satisfy downtown complaints. However, sidewalks were specifically promised for Commissioner Fletcher's side of Dawson Road, as well as on Magnolia. He said he feels that funds can be found in SPLOST VI to address those problem areas. He asked the status of alley paving because the next sales tax will be here soon and voters will be asked to approve it. He also and the status of the bus station/multimodal facility. Regarding the pay raise of a large number of City employees, he suggested that responses to his question about employee satisfaction has not been as positive as he would have expected. He mentioned the Sabal Trail Pipeline, in which the last day to comment is October 11th and asked if the City Attorney will join forces with the County Attorney and send a letter asking for a 30-day extension for the comment period.

Commissioner Postell asked to meet with the City Manager and Central Services regarding the purchase of equipment that will expire and the renewal of contracts that exceeded \$300-400,000.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Davis to review cities (specifically Macon) that have a land bank ordinance as this may assist with issues with slum lords and structures which should have been demolished 20 years ago.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan stated that her two updates do not require a vote. Regarding SGRITA, she advised that this partnership is moving forward and has 'bore fruit' by providing the first test customers WiFi; connecting counties with a full scale launch is expected mid-October. SGRIA has applied to the federal government for debt relief and if granted, this will be very successful. Additional information will be brought back to the Commission for consideration before the deadline.

Discussion followed with Mayor Pro Tem Coleman expressing concern regarding receiving a profit, which is not being mentioned, adding that manpower/in-kind service cost taxpayers. He asked the projected timeline for receipt of profit. Ms. Subadan stated that information will be brought back regarding cash flow with expenses being recouped for in-kind services. She commended staff for the yeoman's job they have accomplished. Commissioner Postell advised that he was at the recent SGRITA meeting and said they have made great strides and are progressing. Mayor Pro Tem Coleman asked if AT&T provides services to customers in that area and asked what will happen, i.e., contract expire and sign on with someone else and/or AT&T making a sweet deal to retain them. Commissioner Postell explained that it is a 'multiple effort and includes entities contributing. Mayor Pro Tem Coleman asked if copies will be provided regarding the report. Mayor Hubbard stated that Jason Gauntt, TEC Director, has been instrumental in assisting SGRITA, adding that SGRITA and the counties respect what he does. Mr. Gauntt discussed the board makeup of SGRITA of the seven counties and explained the

process regarding service in each county, which include the incumbents, AT&T and Windstream. He advised that those companies offer wired connection, while SGRITA is built upon a wireless infrastructure for residential areas. He discussed the three basic levels of service with varying prices, adding that Albany will be the hub of Southwest Georgia because of the fiber ring and wireless capability. Commissioner Fletcher asked the potential number of customers; Mr. Gauntt replied that residential-wise, approximately 15,000 customers. At the present time, the system supports approximately 2,000, with the hardware to on-board 1,500 additional customers. Additional discussion followed regarding services, the system in place, revenue, etc., with Mr. Gauntt stating that the feedback from test customers have been very positive and October 15 SGRITA will be considered open on the wireless side.

Ms. Subadan next discussed the Albany Heights Building, which has been vacant for some time, adding that bidding will begin next week for developers to look at residential to include students, which will help in the partnership with the higher learning institutes.

Commissioner Postell asked the number of rooms, with Ms. Subadan stating 75 rooms (66 one bedroom and the rest two bedrooms). Commissioner Howard asked the appraised value, Ms. Subadan replied approximately \$685,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Coleman asked what the Community Development Department does since everything has been outsourced. Mayor Hubbard asked Ms. Subadan to bring back a report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:46 a.m., Mayor Hubbard stated that an executive session is needed to discuss personnel issues and a litigation matter, seconded by Commissioner Howard; the motion unanimously carried as follows:

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

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Howard moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes

OCTOBER 6, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 120

Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK