

OCTOBER 20, 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 8:59 am.

KADB ANNUAL REPORT

Judy Bowles, Executive Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) and briefly reported the number of volunteers, tree planting, recycling, value of volunteer hours (over \$2.5 million), etc.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Ms. Bowles stated that the cost is approximately \$500 to plant a tree, with only one elementary school selected yearly as a recipient. Commissioner Postell recommended choosing three schools each year and asked that she look into that. In reply to Commissioner Postell regarding funding, Ms. Bowles stated that funding comes from fines from the tree ordinance violations.

Commissioner Marietta said he will sponsor a tree at an elementary school and challenged the Commissioners to sponsor a tree as well. Mayor Hubbard said her challenge is to assist with shredding as was discussed by Ms. Bowles who will be doing this in all elementary schools. Discussion followed with Mayor Hubbard asking the cost to shred. Commissioner Marietta asked if he can sponsor Lake Park Elementary School since it is in his ward.

Commissioner Postell commended Ms. Bowles' endeavors and for the job that she has done in keeping Albany/Dougherty Beautiful.

Commissioner Howard thanked Phil Roberson, Asst. City Manager, for the litter that was picked up on E. Oglethorpe and mentioned Ms. Bowles' educational work, adding that enforcement is badly needed. Referring to E. Albany, he suggested that there are areas/situations that KADB cannot handle, adding that some areas are unsafe and deplorable.

Mayor Hubbard asked again for information on the cost to shred quarterly. Commissioner Marietta said in looking at the KADB budget, most of it comes from Dougherty County and suggested a budget amendment to increase the City's contribution. He asked Ms. Subadan to look at this during the budget process. Mayor Hubbard thanked Ms. Bowles for the work she does and her work with the volunteers.

Commissioner Fletcher mentioned Commissioners individual budgets and asked when something like the challenge is recommended, should it be paid through that source or is it a personal cost for Commissioners to bear. Mr. Davis cited a City code, stating that when in question, the City Clerk contacts his office; he agreed to take a look into it.

APPOINTMENT:

1. One appointment to Barrier Free Board to fill unexpired term ending March, 2016

The Clerk advised that one resume was received from Tim Spencer.

Commissioner Howard moved to appoint Tim Spencer, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the following alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. Eleanor Renae Hill d/b/a Pak-n-Sack, 845 Oglethorpe Blvd., ER Hill/Agent;
Beer/wine package – WARD 3

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the following alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

2. Jay Sai Ram, Inc., d/b/a Stop-n-Shop, 1701 E. Oglethorpe Blvd., DJ Patel/Agent;
Beer/wine package – WARD 1

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

3. Miyos Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Miyos Restaurant & Global Cuisine, 2820 Meredyth Dr., MJ Daniels/Agent; Consumption – WARD 5

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

HEALTH INSURANCE STOP-LOSS POLICY

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

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THORNTON GYM AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ALBANY

Ms. Subadan discussed information (copy on file) regarding the request to enter into a partnership/operating agreement with Boys and Girls Club of Albany as it pertains to the building of a swimming pool with SPLOST Funds to be open by May, 2016. She elaborated on the partnership with the Boys and Girls Club which will allow a full service Boys and Girls Club in E. Albany that does not require additional funding this year but will be brought back next year. She introduced Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Laster from Boys and Girls Club who are present to answer questions.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, Ms. Subadan stated that the pool/splash park will be \$1.0 million with upgrades to the existing building estimated at \$500,000. Commissioner Postell stated that pools are not popular nowadays and asked why we are refurbishing an old pool, with Ms. Subadan stating that the proposed pool is new.

Commissioner Howard expressed support of the pool, adding that he wanted to see a new state of the art Boys and Girls Club in E. Albany. He said the building is almost 40 years old and needs renovating. He asked that the width of the pool be expanded; Ms. Subadan stated that it will be looked at.

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Postell.

Commissioner Fletcher discussed the upcoming election, race relations, etc., and said she will support this because she has respect for Messrs. Hutchinson and Laster and thanked them for what they do for the City of Albany. She mentioned that we are in the second quarter of this budget year and that revenue generating projects need to be looked at in order to move forward.

Commissioner Marietta stated that this is a SPLOST project that citizens voted on, adding that he supports public/private partnership because of the cost savings to the City.

Commissioner Howard stated that initial discussion of this project was during the tenure of former City Manager, Al Lott and suggested that when looking at SPLOST VII next year, Commissioners should be afforded an opportunity to provide input and be involved in project selections since they know the wants and needs of their constituents. He stated that some problems in the community will always exist and briefly discussed racism and classism here; he referenced changing demographics throughout the nation and suggested that a lot of economic development does not come to Albany because of this. He added that as long as they are not trying to jump a fence to enter the facility – all citizens are welcomed to swim at the new pool.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Fletcher commenting that leaders within this community must make the right decisions, holding everyone accountable, etc. Mayor Hubbard said it will take all of us working together and putting personal opinions/biases/agendas aside.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

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PURCHASES:

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve purchases 1-13, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Commissioner Marietta asked for a brief explanation of #11 with Jason Gauntt, IT Director, discussing information (copy on file) and the benefits and savings of utilizing the phone system.

1.	Firewalls, Network Technologies Solutions, LLC, Thomasville, GA	Total expense	\$282,682.40
2.	Fuel, Petroleum Traders, Fort Wayne, IN	Estimated expenditure	\$1,753,056.40
3.	Liquid Chlorine, JCI Chemicals, Jacksonville, FL	Estimated expenditure	\$76,500.00
4.	Polymer, Polytech, Inc., Mooresville, NC	Estimated expenditure	\$136,224.00
5.	Transformers, Irby Utilities, Kennesaw, GA	Total expense	\$69,289.00
6.	Para Transit Buses, National Bus Sales & Leasing, Inc., Marietta, GA	Total expense	\$743,145.00
7.	Front Loader Containers, Wastequip Co., Duncan, SC	Total expense	\$50,345.00
8.	Brush Chipper – Vermeer SE, Marietta, GA	Total expense	\$52,161.00
9.	Digger Derrick Truck, Altec Industries, Inc., Birmingham, AL	Total expense	\$186,371.00
10.	Bucket Truck, Altec Industries, Inc., Birmingham, AL	Total expense	\$150,842.00
11.	Voice Project, Metaswitch	Total expense	\$612,227.00
12.	Software Licenses, Xerox	Annual expense	\$83,101.84
13.	Software Licenses, Hansen Technologies	Total expense	\$48,010.72

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Hubbard recognized Marvin Laster and Bob Hutchinson; Mr. Hutchinson said he is retiring December 31 after 44 years. Mr. Laster discussed the succession plan and said he is honored to walk in the shadows of Mr. Hutchinson, adding that he becomes the Chief Professional Officer on January 1, 2016. He thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence and briefly explained the concept of an ecosystem of youth development to help the children of Albany grow and thrive and how vital it is for all of Albany working together to bring this about. Mayor Hubbard thanked the Boys and Girls Club for all that they have done for the community.

ITEM(S) FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Marietta mentioned quarterly reports referenced by Commissioner Fletcher and asked that the chairmen of these organizations provide information. Ms. Subadan stated that this will be provided at the next meeting. Commissioner Marietta mentioned a report given to Ms. Subadan and recommendations regarding CVB, etc.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the growing concerns of youths putting basketball goals on city streets in the 1500 block of Malone and his neighborhood, mainly on weekend afternoons. He asked Chief Persley to check on this citywide.

Mayor Pro Tem Coleman credited Joel Holmes, Recreation Director, for meeting with him about putting a walking track and basketball goal on vacant property, which will correct that problem.

Commissioner Postell mentioned the direction of the gang task force and asked Chief Persley to provide the number of members, suggesting there are only seven-eight, while there should be at least ten. He asked that the gang force provide enforcement for the type activities for which it was created. Chief Persley said he can provide a report, but that the numbers are still the same as his last report; however, when an officer out on FMLA returns, the number will be eight. He mentioned shot-houses, homicides, etc., being investigated, and said he has a plan on populating the group, i.e., specialized units (gang/drug units) and discussed the process of training, etc., adding that in six-eight months they should be brought back to the needed staffing level.

Commissioner Marietta mentioned collecting canned goods for S. Carolina and challenged everyone to bring canned goods to assist with the flood relief there.

Mr. Davis said there is a piece of property Community & Economic Development is trying to sell, but a problem with the metes and bounds description needs to be corrected. He asked that this be brought for vote next week in order to sell the property.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK