

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 1, 2014
GOVT. CTR – RM. 120

PRESENT Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
City Commissioners: Bobby Coleman, BJ Fletcher, Roger Marietta, and Tommie Postell
City Manager: JL Taylor
City Attorney: CN Davis

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

CITIZEN APPEARANCE:

Don Norman, American Legion Post 30, discussed the use of Paul Eames Park and stated that G. C. Croft will go over numbers (copy on file). Mr. Croft reviewed information from 1991-2006, advising that this information was discussed with the Commission in 2008. He highlighted projects of the American Legion between 2007 and 2013, stating that the CVB/Chamber assisted them, which was greatly appreciated. He mentioned that Albany does not have a baseball program for 15-19 year old boys, adding that Posts 30 and 182 each have a team. He stated that the two teams have two tournaments each season and introduced Charlie Lyon, manager, and Tom Pinson, coach, for the teams. Regarding the City charging them for tournaments hosted at Paul Eames, he stated that of the 15 games in a tournament, one will be held at night. Regarding upkeep of the field, he advised that at one time, the City's Recreation Department took care of this, but in recent years he said kids were paid to help clean-up after games, relieving the City of this cost. He stated that these tournaments bring between \$150,000/200,000 and asked that the City waive fees for use of the field.

Commissioner Postell asked the location of Post 182. Mr. Croft stated that it is in Albany. Commissioner Postell asked that he clarify the request. Mr. Croft stated that they are asking that the City not charge them for use of the field. Commissioner Postell clarified that there is only one night game; Mr. Croft advised that each tournament will have a night game. Commissioner Postell asked what schools are recruited. Mr. Croft replied that all high schools are recruited through ads placed in the paper. Commissioner Postell stated that he is a member of Post 519 and suggested that the City Manager weigh in on the cost/use of Paul Eames Park with information being given by/before the night meeting. Mr. Croft stated that the charge would be for two nights of electricity.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if an amount has been given. Mr. Croft replied in the negative; however, the issue was discussed. In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Mr. Cross stated that they have maintained the ball field for eight-ten years.

Commissioner Marietta asked that Derrell Smith, Interim Recreation Director and Rashelle Beasley, Director of CVB come forward.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Taylor explained that they were told the cost would be \$100, adding that the Legion gets all proceeds from concessions and 100% of the gate, etc.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 1, 2014
GOVT. CTR – RM. 120

Commissioner Marietta stated that the issue is that the City has allowed them to play the Paul Eames Tournament for free, but the state tournament is coming up with a cost of \$1500 for the five-day event. He stated that he asked Ms. Beasley to come to the meeting to answer: is the CVB supportive as long as the Legion puts their logo on programs and tee shirts; if she is amiable to subsidizing the cost to the City. Ms. Beasley explained that the Sports Marketing Council was established to oversee all sporting events, adding that funds from the Council are through grants based on the number of hotel room nights and economic impact. All sporting events have a sliding scale when hotel rooms are attached to the event and grants are based on economic impact with \$500 - \$7,000 available per event and there is no limit to the number of times an entity can apply for a grant. Discussion followed on the CVB sponsoring, with Ms. Beasley continuing to explain the process. Commissioner Marietta stated that the group does not want to be charged anything, but the City's point is to recoup hidden costs. He suggested the Legionaries complete the CVB grant to see if they qualify.

Mayor Hubbard asked the grant process; Ms. Beasley explained the 45 day period to apply and post-event report in order to determine the economic impact of the event.

In reply to Mr. Taylor, Ms. Beasley stated that the money ultimately comes from the City of Albany (via Sports Marketing/Hotel-Motel tax)

Commissioner Postell again stated that information is needed on the cost before voting at the night meeting. He then moved to table to get more information, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Croft advised that the tournament is in the middle of June. He mentioned grants that they have received, but noted that the tournaments brought in over \$13.0 million to Albany.

Mr. Norman discussed minimal use of lights during tournaments, the Post cleaning up the ballpark, lining and chalking the fields, etc. He stated that it is very important to give local youths an opportunity to play at home, adding that expenses (uniforms, equipment, etc.) are paid through fund raising.

In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Mr. Taylor discussed ways in which the City has assisted these events, which includes hauling trash, paying for the utilities, basic care of the fields, etc., things which must be done.

STATE OF DOWNTOWN PRESENTATION

Using a power point presentation, Aaron Blair, Downtown Manager, discussed the state of downtown (copy on file) including TAD funds from 2009, goals/objectives through 2015, public vs. private sector, projects, Art Park on Pine Ave., marketing & events, other activities including the Throneateska Archives Building/Front Street Streetscape/Nelson Tift Statue, challenges of the buildings on Front Street, which include lack of restrooms, heat/air, etc., which keep

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 1, 2014
GOVT. CTR – RM. 120

businesses from opening; maintaining/growing Albany's millennial generation. He mentioned a Main Street Regional meeting scheduled in September in Albany, which will focus on utilizing cultural art to shape downtown.

Questions/comments included: cost of Kayak project (Commissioner Postell); whether or not roofs were included when facades were updated (Commissioner Marietta); challenges of Front Street (Commissioner Postell); impact of Broad Ave., Bridge (Commissioner Marietta) with Mr. Taylor stating the bridge is expected to be completed by the summer of 2015. Mule Barn issues (Commissioner Postell), who owns it (Mayor Hubbard) with Mr. Taylor discussing particulars i.e., County owns property, structural challenges of the building, etc. Albany Theatre (Commissioner Postell) with Mr. Blair stating that the property was acquired, with an initial assessment having been conducted. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Blair stated that he does not feel there is a need for another theatre in Albany and discussed suggested uses. Downtown being the anchor of the city (Commissioner Fletcher) and the creation of a vacancy tax to motivate property owners to upgrade/repair/develop. Getting to downtown via the Broad Ave. Bridge and the underpass (Commissioner Coleman). Railroad issues (Mayor Hubbard) with Mr. Taylor advising that the overpass belongs to the railroad and potholes are being looked at by Public Works and Engineering staff with a report forthcoming. Visitors to Albany are impressed (Commissioner Marietta). Meetings with railroad officials, who are looking at the issues (Mayor Hubbard). Available grants to assist property owners, i.e., installing plumbing, etc., (Commissioner Marietta). Plans for private property owners (Mayor Hubbard) with Mr. Blair indicating that work has been done by the private owners within the last three months. Building of lofts (Mayor Hubbard) with Mr. Blair discussing potential projects. Benefits of locating multipurpose sports park downtown (Commissioner Marietta). Mr. Taylor stated that this is in discussion and will be brought back, including other projects that are planned.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Mr. Blair for his presentation.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: MODEL AIRPLANES

Mary Ligon, CAC Chair discussed information regarding the issue of model airplanes (copy on file) and advised of the recommendation of the Academy of Model Aeronautics to create a Park Pilot Program.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Ms. Ligon discussed residents who weighed in on the proposed pilot program.

Commissioner Postell mentioned a past issue in his ward of loud motorcycles, which were required to have mufflers. The mufflers briefly worked, but were ultimately declared ineffective. He questioned the criteria and limits proposed by a pilot program, with Ms. Ligon discussing requirements, as noted. In reply to Commissioner Postell, Ms. Ligon stated that the FAA recognizes the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Commissioner Postell asked about noise; Ms. Ligon replied that the engines are nearly quiet. Commissioner Postell asked if this will satisfy people who fly the planes. Mr. Taylor stated that it will probably not satisfy everyone.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 1, 2014
GOVT. CTR – RM. 120

Commissioner Marietta asked if the guidelines preclude flying planes over residential areas; Ms. Ligon replied in the affirmative.

In reply to Mr. Davis, Ms. Ligon stated Festival Park and MLK Park will be the designated parks for flying.

As the Ward 6 Commissioner, Commissioner Postell expressed concern regarding people living around MLK Park and asked the reason it was selected. Ms. Ligon stated that it meets the space requirement as recommended by the Academy of Model Aeronautics. In response to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Taylor stated that the parks that were picked are large enough to accommodate the aircraft and MLK Park fits the criteria. Commissioner Postell moved to eliminate MLK from the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion unanimously carried.

CHANGING DATES OF JUNE AND JULY MEETINGS

The Clerk discussed meeting dates for June and July. Commissioner Marietta moved to change the night meeting from Tuesday, June 24 to Wednesday, June 25, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

Discussion followed on changing the meeting date in July. Commissioner Postell moved to change the meeting (work session) from Tuesday, July 1 to Tuesday, July 8, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Marietta, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Hubbard advised that this keeps the practice of having only one work session in July due to the Fourth of July Holiday; there will be only two meetings in July, which includes the July 22nd night meeting.

TRAVEL:

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

1. Commissioner B. Coleman – NLC Conference, Washington, DC, March 7-11, 2014 - \$2,733.46
2. Commissioner T. Postell – NLC Conference, Washington, DC, March 7-11, 2014; \$2,676.92
3. Commissioner B. Coleman – Newly Elected Officials Training, March 13-15, 2014 – Tifton, GA - \$600.23

ITEM FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Postell asked to have APD, ADDU and Code Enforcement come to the work session and asked when this will be placed on the agenda. In reply to Mr. Taylor, Commissioner

Postell asked for an overview of what they have been doing, especially the drug unit and APD. Mr. Taylor stated that the budget is being scheduled and asked if this can be discussed during the budget process. Discussion followed with Commissioner Postell stating that the problem is the APD, Gang Task force and Drug Squad has not been before the Commission since last year.

Commissioner Marietta suggested having a public hearing on what Engineering is doing to include SPLOST reports, etc., stating that he has questions on what is going on in his ward. Mr. Taylor stated that he can send information on all projects and then schedule meetings as needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard mentioned trucks parking in neighborhoods; the ordinance is not being enforced. Mr. Taylor asked for the addresses.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

CURRENT BIDS:

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

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; FireLine, Inc., Winder GA | |
| | Estimated expenditure | \$44,927.19 |

Joshua Williams, Buyer, discussed the following (copy on file)

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 2. | Farebox purchase; Genfare, Elk Grove Village, IL | |
| | Total expenditure | \$254,301.96 |

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK