

NOVEMBER 8, 2016

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF  
ALBANY, GEORGIA  
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

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

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the minutes (Sept. 27, Oct. 11 & 25), seconded by Commissioner Howard; the motion unanimously carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Commissioner Langstaff moved to approve the following purchase, seconded by Commissioner Coleman; the motion unanimously carried.

1. CAD/AVL Software – RouteMarch; Atlanta, GA – Total exp. \$144,033.00

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve the following purchase, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff.

2. Credit Card Services – Western Union – Est. annual exp. \$175,000.00

Discussion followed with Commissioner Postell expressing concern that there is not enough information on this item for which to vote. Mayor Hubbard stated that customers can now pay through Western Union, adding that the up-to-amount to be paid out is \$175,000. Commissioner Marietta stated that people pay their taxes and fees via credit cards, etc. Ms. Subadan explained the process and said approving this item is in the best interest of the community, as it allows customers to pay their utility bills online and at payment outlets.

Hearing no further comments the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Postell voting no.

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the following purchase seconded by Commissioner Coleman; the motion unanimously carried.

3. Well #25 Rehabilitation, Donald Smith Co. Headland AL – Total exp. \$48,950.00

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

4. Firewalls – Network Technology Solutions; Thomasville, GA – Total exp. \$61,362.00

Discussion followed regarding the following:

5. Disparity Study

Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher mentioned the SPLOST referendum that is on the ballot for approval tomorrow. She asked that, before doing a study, Ms. Subadan put together a small business group, which will include Commissioners, suggesting that through knowledge, citizens will be empowered. She said she is not saying to never do the study, but that she feels the City is capable of addressing the issue now. In reply to Mayor Hubbard regarding whether this was a motion, Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher so moved, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff.

Commissioner Postell asked if any part of past disparity studies will be incorporated in a new one and stated that what was done in the past has not worked. Mayor Hubbard asked if the motion is to delay the study. Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher agreed, suggesting that a panel of

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business leaders be created; invite minorities to attend so that they are prepared to bid on upcoming jobs.

Commissioner Marietta stated that he confirmed before the meeting that Dougherty County voted 7-0 to have a disparity study and asked to divide funding for the study with them, adding that he agrees to the study as long as the County is a part of the process and funding. He said that he feels the City does not have all of the needed information.

Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher called the question and stated that her motion is to delay the study and to put a panel in place. The motion failed 4-2-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher and Commissioner Langstaff voting in the affirmative and Commissioner Marietta abstaining.

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the disparity study, seconded by Commissioner Coleman.

Commissioner Marietta asked how the Commission can vote on a study that has not yet been conducted. Commissioner Howard clarified that it would be to approve the concept of a study. Commissioner Marietta stated that he agrees with the concept. Mayor Hubbard said she also agrees with the concept and for additional information being brought back on the cost, bid, etc. She explained that she supports this because when making decisions, there must be valid data on which the Commission bases its decision. However, she expressed concern regarding paying \$300,000 and urged finding a company to conduct the study at a reasonable rate, i.e. cut the amount by one-third.

Commissioner Marietta asked to have a friendly amendment to the motion to share the cost with Dougherty County and rather than bid out the study, use our state contract with Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Ms. Subadan stated that would be a slippery slope and suggested putting it out for bid; Carl Vinson would not be prevented from bidding. Commissioner Marietta restated his amendment to ask the County to share in the cost. Commissioner Howard said he accepted the amendment if the County would agree to pay a pro-rate share.

Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher clarified the process, which she stated was sad for minorities because the Commission is not trying to help empower minorities and giving them knowledge. She asked since the County will be asked to come onboard, will the School Board also be asked to participate. Ms. Subadan stated that this is a policy decision of the Commission, adding that procurement does not practice discriminatory methods, but because of the large African-American population here there are issues needing attention. She said that a bid process will be in place and if it comes in over her \$40,000 threshold, it will be brought to the Commission for vote – the process is transparent and is based on best industry practices. The struggle has been to get qualified minority contractors certified.

Commissioner Postell stated that the vote is on the disparity study today and they should be in accord and then set the guidelines.

Commissioner Howard called for the question.

Mayor Hubbard said that she will give Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher the final word. Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher stated that Ms. Subadan has done a great job running the City and she just told us that, straight across the board, the City engages in fair practices. Based on Ms. Subadan's comments, she cannot understand how that did not determine the vote on this issue.

Hearing no further comments, the motion carried 5-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Fletcher and Commissioner Langstaff voting no.

#### APPOINTMENTS

1. Two city appointments to Flood Plain Management Review Board for three-year term ending October, 2019

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The Clerk advised that Bill Swan and Tommy Padgett returned letters desiring to be reappointed with no new letters/resumes being received. Commissioner Howard moved to reappoint Mr. Swan and Mr. Padgett seconded by Commissioner Langstaff, the motion unanimously carried.

The Clerk advised that the following resolution was removed from the agenda:

A RESOLUTION

Approving SPLOST VI funds re: Thornton Gym Entrance Roof Installation

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST

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CITY CLERK