

JANUARY 23, 2018
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher and Roger Marietta
City Manager: Sharon D. Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Pro Langstaff called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m., and advised that there will be a discussion to adopt an agenda. He explained that items will be pulled and that the agenda would be adjusted and that the regular meeting agenda will also be adjusted accordingly when that meeting is convened. He then entertained items to be pulled as follows:

1. Commissioner Fletcher asked to table the Historic District item until the Feb. 13th mtg.
2. Commissioner Marietta asked to wait until Mayor Hubbard and Commissioner Postell are present to discuss the City of Stockbridge and the Art Museum
3. Ms. Subadan said that she is pulling the E. Broad/Delta Street Item
4. Commissioner Howard asked to pull the Venue Management/Civic Center item

A detailed discussion followed with Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff suggesting that the Art Museum matter is time-sensitive and Commissioner Marietta asking if contact had been made with Dougherty County to discuss sharing the line of credit. Commissioner Fuller stated that he is doubtful of this happening with Dougherty County and Commissioner Fletcher suggested that February 6th is the deadline. Paula Williams, Executive Director of the Arts Museum, was asked to make remarks regarding funding/tax credits and the deadline. Latoya Cutts, Downtown Manager, also explained that there is not a definite date on the announcement of new market tax credits, suggesting that attorney Dan McCrae, who assists with Downtown Development matters expects another round to be announced for the period opening in February; the City/Arts Museum must be ready when the announcement opens for the project to be considered. Commissioner Marietta stated that he felt the vote could wait until the February 13th meeting, adding that he spoke with Commissioner Postell who said he wanted to have the item pulled since he was unable to be at the meeting today. Ripley Bell, President of the Arts Museum Board of Directors, discussed the tax credits and asked to move this item forward. Additional comments included: Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff stating that in working with Mr. McCrae and Mr. Davis, the resolution was tweaked; Ms. Subadan said that the last round of credits were missed; Commissioner Fletcher and Ms. Cutts commenting on the tax credits, etc., with Commissioner Fletcher asking that this item be moved forward. Ms. Cutts explained added that the attorneys advised that the date is critical in order to be ready, adding that when the tax credits are announced everything must be in place and ready to go; that was the reason for the urgency of bringing the matter forward in January. Commissioner Marietta commented on the line of credit, which will be available to be immediately drawn down and suggested that the resolution be a joint contract with the City Manager and the Arts Director. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff interjected that the resolution was corrected by removing the language regarding the Museum drawing down the funds. Discussion continued on the draft resolutions, with Commissioner Marietta suggesting that the City Manager approve rather than the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) as noted in the resolution. Mr. Davis explained the reason funding flows through the DDA and the language, which was a roadblock, was removed; Commissioner Marietta again suggested that this item wait until the February 13th meeting and suggested tabling to get additional input. Commissioner Fletcher suggested having a special called meeting next week with Commissioner Howard stating that he is uncomfortable voting on this item tonight and agreed that a special called meeting is in order.

Commissioner Marietta appealed to the news media and asked Carlton Fletcher, reporter for the Albany Herald, to show pictures of the expanded Historic Preservation District to give the public an opportunity to review and also asked that the chart of money for the Museum of Art be explained as it pertains to them moving downtown. Commissioner Langstaff agreed that there were different opinions on the expansion and said it makes sense to table the item until Mayor Hubbard and Commissioner Postell are present. Discussion followed on voting on the items to be removed from the agenda at this time; Ms. Subadan asked to remove the Venue Management/Civic Center item; Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff stated that he would like to have additional information, such as the contract from Augusta, Macon, Columbus, and Tallahassee. He then called for a motion to adjust the agenda by removing the proposed items and recapped the items being removed (Delta Street; Stockbridge; Historic District expansion; Albany Museum of Art and Venue Management). Commissioner Howard so moved, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS

1. One appointment to Aviation Commission to fill an unexpired term ending July 2018
2. One appointment to the Downtown Development Authority to fill an unexpired term ending April 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff stated that he sits on the Aviation Commission and advised that it was a unanimous vote to recommend the appointment of Chandu Kuntawala. At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff, Mr. Kuntawala introduced himself and thanked the Commission for considering him for appointment to the Aviation Commission.

The following items were pulled from the agenda as noted above:

EAST BROAD AVE., ALLEY EXTENSION RE: DELTA STREET
RESOLUTION RE: DE-ANNEXATION – CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff advised that the following will be taken up in the regular meeting (public hearing and vote).

1. Special Approval Case #17-055; Shiquita Jefferson-Cannon/Applicant; request for Special Approval to establish a Child Caring Institution (CCI) residence Located at 1021 Exeter Dr. for six residents in the R-2 (Single-Family Residential) District. PC approved 9-0. Ward 2

The following three items were pulled from the agenda as noted above:

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EXPANSION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT
FUNDING FOR ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART
VENUE MANAGEMENT RE: JAMES H. GRAY, JR., CIVIC CENTER MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

There were no comments on the following two items:

GDOT GRANT AGREEMENT
VEHICLE TITLE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MCLB AND THE CITY OF ALBANY

Mary Singleton, Business Development Manager discussed information as noted (copy on file), regarding the intergovernmental service agreements and advised that staff recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff made comments in support of the agreements and advised that a vote will be taken at the regular meeting that follows. There were no additional comments on this item.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan advised that Richard Bramlett is retiring from Public Works and asked Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff to assist with presenting the plaque. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff presented the plaque to Mr. Bramlett and thanked him for his service to the City of Albany.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff noted the following:

REMINDER

1. Commission Retreat scheduled for Sunday-Monday, Feb. 18-19, 2018; Columbus, GA (Marriott Riverfront)

Addressing APD Chief M. Persley, Commissioner Howard mentioned trucks that continues to park illegally in the Roses Parking lot. Chief Persley advised that the owner of the property is no longer affiliated with Roses and has moved from Albany. He reminded Commissioner Howard that this is private property and assured him that he is working to locate the owner.

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Commissioner Marietta mentioned a citizen riding down the middle of Dawson Road in a wheelchair, adding that this is a safety issue. Chief Persley advised that he had heard of the incident and is looking into it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK