

MAY 8, 2018  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

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

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

### SPEAKER APPEARANCE

1. Dr. Anthony Parker, President, Albany Technical College, discussed information regarding the short-term training opportunity that supports one of Albany's major manufacturing industries, specifically P&G. He advised that there is a need for employing manufacturing technicians and ATC is attempting to assist with that issue through short-term training programs. He mentioned P&G's problem of not being able to ship their paper products and that this program will address: 1) short term CDL drivers (8-week program), which could create over 300 jobs, including drivers and supporters; and 2) diesel technicians, which is a longer termed training program. Both programs are endorsed by the Governor's office with a requirement to be Georgia residents; applicants pay for their background checks and drug screening, but all other expenses are covered by the state. He discussed the Transportation Roll-Out that is scheduled for this month, commented on unfilled needs of the community and distributed information (copy on file).

Mayor Hubbard commended Dr. Parker for all he does to assist in getting qualified employees for the community and working with local industries to fill vacancies and assisting with their needs.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on the CDL program being paid for by HOPE Program with Dr. Parker discussing the particulars of semesters, graduations, etc. Commissioner Fletcher asked the success rate of graduates obtaining employment, with Dr. Parker stating that those programs have 100% job placement e; however, many get their CDL license as required by their employer and are not over-the-road drivers; salaries range is \$50-55,000 yearly. A brief discussion followed with Dr. Parking commenting on trucking companies, contracts, requirements of more experience, etc., adding that when the announcement is made this month, partnering companies will be present. In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, he gave specifics on the partners/companies that will be present for the roll-out.

Mayor Hubbard announced that there is a Forum on Wednesday (tomorrow) with five sectors represented, which will be hiring and asked all who are interested to attend.

### OPIOID MULTI-DISTRICT LITIGATION

Mr. Davis advised that five legal firms are present to introduce themselves regarding the selection of counsel for the City's participation in the Opioid Multi-District Litigation, which is filed in US District Court and then sent to Ohio, where the multi-district litigation has been established. He

explained that if there is no settlement, it is sent back to be tried in our District Court and then introduced the following to make a three-five-minute presentation as follows:

1. Blasingame, Burch, Garrad, Ashley, PC – (Mike Smith from the Athens firm presented information regarding the Opioid crisis and gave information regarding the firm, adding that 43 counties, including Dougherty County, have hired the firm).
2. Brinson, Askew, Berry, Seigler, Richardson & Davis LLP – (Andy Davis – Partner and Attorney for the City of Rome presented information regarding the firm, adding that he represented the City of Albany in a previous dispute re: Hotel/Motel Class Action case).
3. Harris, Lowry, Manton, LLP – (Steve Lowry presented information regarding the firm and stated that he represented the Chief of Police for the City of Climax, Georgia, who was seriously injured by a driver on opioids, which in 2016 secured the largest verdict in the State of Georgia). He left information to be distributed (copy on file).
4. Jinks, Crow and Dickson, PC – (Darrell Dowdell – discussed information regarding his firm and introduced Christine Crowe to continue discussion regarding the firm and participation from the City of Albany, adding that there will be a local presence since Attorney Christopher Warren works with their firm).
5. Studstill Firm, LLP – (Melissa Peeler, a local Attorney from Albany who practices here, discussed information regarding the firm she represents).

Mr. Davis advised that a decision will be made at the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS**

### ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

1. Blue Dog Station; 1502 E. Broad Avenue; L. Harris/Agent; Liquor, Beer and Wine Consumption; WARD 1

There were no comments on this item.

### ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

1. MSZ 786 Inc., d/b/a 24/7 Mart, 521 S. Slappey Blvd., M. Nadeem/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer of Ownership from M. Shafi; WARD 4

Commissioner Howard asked the location with Marshall Walter Norman, giving the location which, is across from Swan Cleaners. Commissioner Howard stated that this is in Ward 3 instead of Ward 4. There were no additional comments on this item.

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## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

### COMPETITIVE PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT AWARDS - FY 2018-19

Shirley Ingram, CD Manager, discussed information (copy on file) regarding the FY 2018-2019 award of Public Service Grants to non-profits with CDBG Funds. She commented on the agencies which were approved, and the amount of monies allocated to each, adding that if approved, each agency will attend a one-day workshop/training, which helps ensure compliance with the program.

Commissioner Howard asked the maximum number of years to receive funding with Ms. Ingram explaining that applicants can be approved for three of five years. They are now in the 2016-2021 Consolidated Plan and, any agency that has been approved three times within the five-year span would not be able to apply for the next program year. In reply to Commissioner Howard, she named those who will not be able to apply next year. There were no additional comments on this item.

### ACCEPTANCE OF CHIP AWARD

Shelena Hawkins, CED Director, discussed information (copy on file) regarding the CHIP grant award in the amount of \$600,000 for eligible homeowner's/homeowner rehab activities, and up to \$12,000 for administrative cost. Because there is a 50% match required, the City is setting aside \$150,000 (\$75,000 of CDBG funds, \$75,000 of HOME funds in FY 2019 and FY 2020. Mayor Hubbard asked how the funds will be used, with Ms. Hawkins stating that it will be used for homeowner's rehab, adding that there will be announcements to make citizens aware of funding. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Ms. Hawkins stated that to qualify, applicants must meet threshold requirements.

In reply to Commissioner Howard Ms. Hawkins explained that Dougherty County did not apply for the CHIP Program last year, but has funds from a previous ye

## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS**

### FY 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

Using a power point presentation (copy on file) Ms. Subadan discussed information, stating that the proposed budget is \$272.9 million and includes a millage rate reduction and does not include utility increases, however, stormwater fees have a 3rd year Tier that is required to remain in the black next year. She commented on initiatives that were funded last year and those to be funded this year, which are tied to the City's strategic plan; 3-year progress; FY-2017 Initiatives report card; FY-2018 Initiatives and FY 2019 Initiatives.

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Continuing with the presentation, Derrick Brown, Finance Director, advised that the proposed budget is \$272.9 million. He stated that expense allocations are basically the same as those presented last year and showed pie-charts of the General Fund, which is similar to last year; Utility Fund budget; Special Revenue Fund budget, with a decrease of \$921,000; Supplemental Enterprise Fund budget and Capital Budget.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Fuller asking about the decrease in revenue and Mr. Brown agreeing that the storm had an impact on the budget as it pertains to reimbursement funds received from GEMA/FEMA, which had to be recorded as revenue, despite the City paying for expenses upfront for storm related expenditures. He added that the City accrued approximately \$9.0 million in revenue specific to the storms. Commissioner Fuller again commented on the drop in revenue, with Mr. Brown explaining revenues not included, i.e., not budgeting MEAG monies/credits, etc.

Mayor Hubbard stated that there will not be a tax increase, no utility increase, but there is an anticipated increase in revenues. Mr. Brown explained that the revenue from rate increases last year were delayed six months, however, we will have an entire 12 months this coming year; based on the same rates, that will amount to increased revenue. He said that overall other types of revenue are basically flat and reiterated that six months versus 12 months of increased rates amount to an increase in revenue.

In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding the stormwater fee increase, Mr. Brown explained the establishment of the stormwater fund, adding that the fund is \$1.75 from the goal of \$6.50, but there is no proposed increase in this budget. Discussion followed on future increases, with Mr. Brown advised that it will need to be addressed in future budgets. He added that they have always budgeted to lose money or to be negative, however, as an entire organization, we are budgeted to be in the black. Commissioner Howard asked if the budget includes a COLA with Mr. Brown stating that it includes a pay for performance, but no COLA. Commissioner Howard commented on COLAs and asked that this be addressed ASAP. Ms. Subadan explained that last year a cash COLA was looked at in the amount of 3% for mid-managers to entry level employees; however, this was not supported. She advised that there is an opportunity to do this in the current budget for employees grade 10 and below. All employees will have an opportunity to get merit increases, which is a step of 5-7%. Employees 11+ were evaluated and will be re-evaluated this year to determine increases.

Mayor Hubbard commented on the tax digest and assessments being conducted. Mr. Brown explained that he received information from the Tax Director indicating that the commercial digest is going up; the gross digest for the upcoming year went up approximately \$6.7 million and residential only went down approximately \$180,000. Rolling back from 9.804 to 9.800 will not have a significant impact and, homeowners would save no more than \$0.16 per \$100,000 value in property. He stated that exemptions have gone up, with the net digest going down and, with the gross digest having gone up, property tax revenue may go down this year. Mayor Hubbard commented on stormwater and asked where we are in the process. Mr. Brown advised that goals were set in the past and this is being looked at to be spread out over the next three years. Mayor

Hubbard mentioned automatic meter reading, with Ms. Subadan advising that LED street lighting will be looked at in conjunction with this and that a recommendation will be brought back at a future meeting.

PURCHASES:

Joshua Williams, Buyer II, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the following:

1. Survey Equipment - Leica Geosystems, Inc., Norcross, Georgia  
Total expenditure \$117,860.00

Commissioner Fuller commented on surveying and asked if will replace jobs with Mr. Williams stating that it will not replace jobs, but will allow more efficiencies and added details through the improved technology. There were no additional comments on this item.

Mr. Williams discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the following and there were no comments on this item:

2. Temporary Labor Services - Global SCR  
Estimated expenditure \$95,406.40

Mr. Williams discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the following:

3. HVAC Renovations - LEC - Safe Aire Heating & Cooling Co.  
Total expenditure \$744,150.00

Commissioner Fuller asked the total tonnage with Mr. Williams stating that he will provide the information. There were no additional comments on this item.

Mr. Williams discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the following and there were no comments on this item:

4. Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade – ConvergeOne  
Total expenditure \$89,842.00

**CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE**

Ms. Subadan advised that Directors will be available to answer departmental questions for the next few work sessions. She mentioned emergency repair for a sewer extension that will be on the next agenda for approval.

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**OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Commissioner Howard stated that school will be out for the summer soon with a high number of students on the streets. Also, this weekend his concern for wards 1 and 2 increased because of dirt bikes/motorcycles congregating at the sand dunes. He said he saw open containers and suggested that the lack of respect for the rights of others is dismaying; he recommended increasing staff within APD, Drug Unit and Gang Unit due to public drug use, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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SONJA TOLBERT  
CITY CLERK