

JUNE 12, 2018
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher, Roger Marietta and
Tommie Postell
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

Lawrence Knighton discussed partnering with the City for recreational opportunities for youths and seniors in Albany, to include utilizing current facilities with some upgrading, i.e., Bill Miller, etc., areas. He introduced Ernest Epps, former ASU Alumni, to discuss a proposal modeled after the one in Atlanta, and mentioned an Impact Community Center. He explained that there are many and varied programs offered, one in particular, a 14-week gang program, adding that in Atlanta 4000 gang members turned in their weapons. The proposal is to offer the program in various gyms in Albany. He asked that the City renovate the facilities where the programs will be offered and distributed information (copy on file) regarding various programs that are planned. Mr. Knighton said the intent is to partner with Boys and Girls Club, etc., for the benefit of the citizens in Albany.

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

1. Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill; 2630 Dawson Road Suite 1; B. Adams/Agent; Beer Consumption and Liquor Consumption; WARD 5

In reply to Commissioner Marietta regarding the proximity of Chipotle to Ruby Tuesdays, Marshal W. Norman explained that Ruby Tuesdays is classified as a restaurant, and is not a bar.

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIPS

The Clerk advised that at the request of the applicant, the following application was withdrawn: (and there were no questions or comments on these items)

1. Shri Kabir Saheb Inc, d/b/a Save Rite; 427 S. Westover Blvd; G. Patel/Agent; Beer Package; Transfer of Ownership from A. Singh; WARD 4
2. Havmor Corner LLC, d/b/a Havmor Food Mart; 2200 W. Gordon Avenue; V. Patel/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; Transfer of Ownership from N. Dave; WARD 4

APD - UPDATES

Chief M. Persley discussed crime statistics in Albany, with many due to increases in robberies and aggravated assaults, which in part is due to the way the FBI requires crimes to be tracked (i.e. one person shooting into a residence with ten people is counted as ten incidences of aggravated assault, rather than one aggravated assault with ten victims) adding that the trend is for people to resolve conflicts using firearms rather than through peaceful means. He advised that of the six homicides, there were arrests in each case and thanked the public for their help in the arrests that were made. Regarding a recent sting operation (Operation Arrowhead), he advised that 55 people were arrested with various outstanding warrants/drug/weapon violations. He stated that there are various initiatives in place to address gangs, drugs and violent crimes that have yielded positive results. Regarding recruitment of officers, he mentioned trips to Miami and Savannah, which yielded good prospects for employment, adding that they are working with the Dept. of Labor, Albany Tech, ASU and MCLB as resources. He mentioned the Community Safety Officer, a position that was implemented to supplement the ranks of police officers, with 159 applicants for the full-time position and 114 applicants for the part-time position, with the expectation that positions will be fully filled within the next three months. He commented on staffing, adding that there are 18 candidates for employment with a tentative interview date of July 18th. He advised that Lt. Camp and Major Dice are present today as well.

Commissioner Howard expressed the concerns of his constituents regarding crime and commented on his Town Hall meetings, mainly comprised of senior citizens who are worried about their safety. He asked that vacancies be filled ASAP and discussed hot spot areas in Albany, especially an issue with four-wheelers/dirt bikes near Heath Park, which have all but taken over and commented on other hot pockets of youths just hanging out. He asked that crime be brought under control and suggested if not, people will begin fleeing the city.

Mayor Hubbard reminded Commissioner Howard of meetings last year with the FBI and GBI to assist with the crime issue and that her Safety Coalition is working on initiatives. She commended Chief Persley for what he is doing to recruit and mentioned that crime is all over the country and working with other law enforcement officers is key to getting crime under control.

Commissioner Postell agreed with the comments of Commissioner Howard, adding that this city has become a playground for thugs and crime during the last two years. He mentioned educating children, especially those involved in gangs and who carry weapons and suggested that policing in Albany is not effective due to non-cooperating citizens. He stated that there were three murders in his ward (6) during the last three weeks that were domestic and/or were committed by those mentally ill and commented on the closing of mental hospitals and the repercussions from that and then made recommendations on ways to assist with solving the problems.

Commissioner Marietta commented on new Community Safety Officers and also suggested creating more neighborhood watches throughout the city and encourage citizens to call in when they suspect criminal activity.

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Commissioner Fletcher agreed with some of the statements that were made and suggested that buy-in from the community is essential. She asked to hold landlords to higher standards, which will assist Chief Persley in doing his job and encouraged citizens to call 311, 911 or code enforcement when they see questionable activities.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Chief Persley for what he does and encouraged more citizen participation and a call for more neighborhood watches.

Chief Persley invited everyone to attend the annual ‘Day with a Cop’ that will be held this coming Saturday and thanked the Commission for their support.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

UTILITY EASEMENT - BDC PROPERTIES

Jimmy Norman, Utility Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the approving of an Easement Agreement from BDC Properties of Georgia, LLC, and showed the location on a map (copy on file), in the Fussell Road area, etc.

Commissioner Postell asked if Fussell Road is in Lee County and expressed concern about this area, Rails to Trail, etc.

Commissioner Marietta said he likes the idea of making money outside of the city limits regardless of what county it’s in. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Mr. Norman explained how money will be made by approving this item.

In reply to Commissioner Fletcher, Mr. Norman stated that monies go back to Dougherty County taxpayers.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES:

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

1. Tasers, Axon Enterprise; Phoenix, AZ
Total expenditure \$143,698.23

Commissioner Fletcher asked Chief Persley if there are guidelines regarding use of Tasers, certification training, etc. Chief Persley explained the process, adding that Tasers have been used since 2010 with updates in 2013 and 2016; policies are in line with Supreme Court cases from 2011, officers are certified to tase, which is a less lethal weapon. He gave statistics on when the Tasers were used for the last 2 ½ years, training events that are held and advised that violators of usage are held accountable, etc.

In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Chief Persley said that these are upgrades and will not have a video, but data can be downloaded. Regarding body cameras, he advised that most officers do not have them, but they are looking at purchasing.

Dale Henry, Buyer II, discussed the following (copy on file):

2.	Pump Repairs, Xylem Water Solutions, Garden City, GA	
	Total expenditure	\$62,466.81

Commissioner Postell expressed concern regarding raw sewage going into the Flint River; Mayor Hubbard advised that this item does not pertain to that, adding that an update to answer his question is forthcoming.

Mr. Williams discussed the following (copy on file): (There were no questions/comments on this item)

3.	Dell Tablets	
	Total expenditure	\$143,423.74

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan said RR Crossing, sewer extension and the CVB agreement will be on the next agenda. She reminded the Commission of the 10:30 Smart Cities presentation today and the swearing in of the new fire chief.

In reply to Commissioner Postell, she advised that there are a lot of concerns/questions regarding spills into the Flint River, adding that the contract is with Jacobs, which manage all lift stations. She introduced Andy Appleton, Sr. Vice Pres., Global Operations of Jacobs, to give a brief update.

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Appleton stated that he arrived last week from California to meet with City staff, et al., regarding the spill.

Commissioner Fuller asked the cause of the spill, with Mr. Appleton stating that it was system failure- multiple equipment failure, a combination of mechanical, electrical and electronics failures and, in reply to Commissioner Fuller, he advised that due to failure of the notification

system, response time was delayed, but they are working with staff and manufactures to address this issue. Based on questions from Commissioner Fuller, he explained in detail the cause of the system failures, adding that the pumps were installed in 1996 with use of life exceeding expectancy to include ongoing maintenance, etc. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, he said the life expectancy is 10-15 years, based on pump size and capacity.

Commissioner Fletcher asked the policy when there are potential breakdowns with Mr. Appleton explaining the process of notifying City staff, communicating needs, with the City having to authorize repairs, etc., and in reply to Commissioner Fletcher, he advised that the City has always been responsive to the needs of the utility.

Commissioner Howard referred to Ms. Subadan's comment regarding the company being OMI when the association between the company and the City began 20 years ago. In response to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Subadan said that the company is responsible for the small area inside the fence; the City has over 100 lift stations; the company is paid approximately \$1.0 million/year and, is on a five-year cycle, which is up next year. Commissioner Howard asked when the spill happened. Ms. Subadan said that there were two spills, one earlier in the year adjacent to Turner Golf Course and the recent one, which was significant. She briefly discussed the deterioration of the City's system, which contributes to failures and mentioned that the 'cure all' (the east/west side interceptors), which will be addressed with the \$15.0 million GEFA project, represent the City's greatest vulnerability regarding sewer piping infrastructure, which has been prioritized. Second to that issue, are the 100+ lift stations, especially those on the river. She stated that both spills have been reported to the EPA and the water is constantly being tested and reported to EPD. She advised that nothing indicates any continuation of a spill or that the City's water has deteriorated, adding that this is not the city's drinking water; however, it is important due to affecting the balance of the Flint River. An 'after action report' will be distributed to this Board.

Mr. Appleton introduced Kyle Holder, who manages all of their projects in Georgia, and Jeremy Wright, Project Manager for the City. He presented the power point presentation (copy on file), including the initial observations of Lift Station 26. Commissioner Marietta asked why new pumps are not being purchased; Mr. Appleton said cost is a factor and rebuilding is cost effective. Mayor Hubbard asked how many years can it be rebuilt with Mr. Appleton explaining that parts are replaced, but at some point the equipment will need to be replaced.

Continuing with the presentation, Mr. Appleton discussed the response to the incident and opportunities for continued improvements.

Mayor Hubbard questioned delaying procurement processes with Ms. Subadan stating that she has brought emergency repairs to the Commission.

Commissioner Howard mentioned the contract being up next year and paying over \$1.0 million; and then Commissioners were not notified of the situation. In fact, sometimes the information comes from their constituents. He asked if 90,000 gallons leaked into the river; Ms. Subadan

replied that it happened in the first instance. He asked if a barrier should have been in place to deter fishing, etc., and asked if we were late in doing this with Ms. Subadan stating that when we were aware, everything was done as required by EPD, etc., with the situation being made worse due to the rain. She recommended an overall assessment of the entire system, etc., which will be expensive, but will help in considering how to protect the natural environment. She mentioned the contract renewal, being cost-effective and following procurement processes, adding that the company (Jacobs) has incredible buying power with the possibility of partnering with them and the City yielding some of our processes and allowing them to buy on behalf of the City. Commissioner Howard clarified assessing all lift stations, especially those that flow into the river and being good stewards of what Mother Nature gave us. He said that not only was Albany affected by this, but those further downstream will also suffer the repercussions.

In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Ms. Subadan explained purchasing new equipment, risk assessments on each stations, etc., adding that a lot of rain in a short period of time accelerate situations.

Commissioner Postell commented on storm water in Ward 6 that backs-up and asked that something be done about this.

Commissioner Fuller commented on fines from EPD and asked if Jacobs has a number on the cost. Mr. Appleton said they have no communication on this; however, the river is within quality standards set by EPD with no fines usually being assessed. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, he advised that Jacobs will be responsible for any fines that were their fault/negligence.

There being no further business, Mayor Hubbard adjourned the work session at 9:46 am.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK