

OCTOBER 9, 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, BJ Fletcher, and Roger Marietta
City Manager: Sharon Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

TRAVEL

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the following travel, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

1. City Manager S. Subadan; Meeting with EPD; Atlanta, GA; Aug. 30, 2018; \$101.67
2. City Manager S. Subadan; Meeting re: Downtown Development; Chicago, IL; September 17-19, 2018; \$1,405.78
3. City Manager S. Subadan; ICMA Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD; Sept. 21-26, 2018; \$3,064.70
4. City Clerk S. Tolbert; Georgia Clerks Education Institute Training; Athens, GA; Sept. 9-10, 2018; \$320.91
5. City Attorney C.N. Davis; Institute for City & County Attorneys; Athens, GA; Sept. 12-14, 2018; \$768.76

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

STREET/ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS

Charlie Clark, Civil Engineering Superintendent, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the request to approve sidewalk and streetscape improvements. He reviewed the list, which includes: N. Mock Rd., Magnolia St., Palmyra Rd., Habersham Rd., Old Dawson Rd., and the completion of sidewalk gaps in various streets in the downtown area, adding that the 2011 DARTS Regional bicycle/pedestrian plan was used to compile the list. He explained that the final recommendation was not prioritized due to the list containing over 200 projects; however, the following areas were selected from the 200 projects: schools/colleges; libraries; recreational facilities; major commercial activity areas (downtown); mall. They are scattered throughout the city, but all are on a transit line

Commissioner Howard expressed concern and mentioned Clark Avenue, asking to switch from N. Mock Rd. to Mock Road coming back west. Phil Roberson, Asst. City Manager discussed putting sidewalks on the T-SPLIST referendum as well as applying for the \$6.0 million Bill Grant; however, this is a decision of the Commission. He advised that the list was prioritized based on schools, transit ridership, bus stops, etc., adding that there are three funding sources for the ones

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selected. Commissioner Howard countered that very few students walk on Clark Avenue and asked Mr. Roberson to ride with him to see his concerns. He added that he does not want the area he is discussing to wait on T-SPLOST, but to be voted on today, suggesting that it will not take that much to make the switch. Ms. Subadan asked how many feet does this affect, with Mr. Roberson stating that it is about the same; Ms. Subadan suggested that this can be substituted.

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff noted a typo on page 11 with Mr. Roberson agreeing and in reply to Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff, he stated that funding remains the same. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff mentioned Palmyra Road and that this will not be passed with the expectation that both sides will be done, only one side will get sidewalks this time, with Mr. Roberson agreeing, adding that this will be cross charge to SPLOST [funds]. Mr. Roberson explained that SPLOST III, a dedicated SPLOST crew, which are not City employees, will perform these duties. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff asked if the concrete will be bid; Mr. Roberson stated that the City has blanket contracts with several vendors and will be pulled from those contracts.

Commissioner Marietta clarified that Magnolia Street includes Magnolia School, etc., areas with Mr. Roberson agreeing. Commissioner Marietta commented on the sidewalks on Gillionville with breaks/gaps and asked how this will be repaired. Mr. Roberson stated that SPLOST funds are used for improvements, not maintenance, and repairs should be called in and reported. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Mr. Roberson stated that the City Manager has a heightened plan to repair and improve areas of the city next year, which will encompass his concerns.

There were no additional questions/comments on this item.

ROOSEVELT AVE., RAILROAD CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

Bruce Maples, Director of Engineering, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the request to approve staff to work with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to install traffic signals at five railroad crossings (N. Washington, N. Jackson, N. Monroe, N. Madison and N. Davis streets). GDOT proposed to pay for the entire construction cost if the City authorizes funding to relocate utilities and/or acquire necessary right-of-way or easements to complete the project. There were no questions/comments on this item.

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

EXTENSION OF DEMOLITION MORATORIUM

Planning Director Paul Forgey discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the request to extend the demolition moratorium in the Historic Preservation District for an additional 30 days. In reply to Commissioner Fuller, Mr. Forgey stated that the process is working well, adding that the Historic Preservation Commission has checked with other cities to ascertain what is being done in other areas.

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In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Forgey clarified that the moratorium will be extended is Nov. 15, 2018.

There were no additional questions/comments on this item.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASE:

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

1. Consulting Services - PayScale, Inc., Total 3 yr. expenditure \$147,000.00

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Dr. Dwight Baker, HR Director, explained the process and what services will be provided by PayScale and, in reply to Mayor Hubbard, he advised that there is no cost increase.

There were no additional questions/comments on this item.

APPROVAL OF 2019 EMPLOYEE GROUP BENEFIT PLAN

Dr. Baker, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the request to approve the 2019 Employee Group Benefit Plans and introduced Tammi Starkey, ShawHankins rep.

Ms. Starkey discussed information pertaining to the plan as noted (copy on file), employee contributions, City's cost, any proposed changes to the plan, etc.

Commissioner Marietta asked if the low cost/no increase is related to the clinic. Ms. Starkey agreed that having the wellness program help keep costs lower.

Ms. Starkey reviewed a power point presentation (copy on file) regarding the plan, explaining that Blue Cross/Blue Shield will still provide medical administration and stop-loss coverage, but the company is being rebranded and is now Anthem.

Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff commented on the fact that employees have had no increases for the last five years and expressed concern that when their portion is increased, they will be hit with a large increase later and suggested that incremental increases will lessen sticker shock. He referenced the sewer cost/ordinance, which encountered a similar situation and when the increase came, it was phenomenal and questioned at what point employees will share in cost increases so as to not get hit with a huge increase later. He asked the amount that the City has absorbed over those five years. Ms. Starkey stated that there has only been three years that the City absorbed any extra cost and, in 2017 there was no increase to either the City or employees health insurance

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coverage cost. This plan year (2018) there was a .5% increase (\$49,000) that the City absorbed. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff she stated that she is referring to total claims for medical and prescriptions, as well as fixed costs. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff asked if it is going up \$200,000 this year; Ms. Starkey agreed.

Ms. Subadan added that the wellness plan helps curtail increases, and, with employees participating in the wellness program, which assists with lower costs this is a 'reward' for employees participating.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard regarding the cost of the Medicare Advantage Plan, Ms. Starkey stated that the cost is the same for retirees and their spouse.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan commented on the upcoming hurricane that is headed to Albany and gave an update on the status of preparation for this event. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, she advised that the EOC is currently open and operating at the E. Albany location. Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff asked if fire hydrant testing will continue, with AFD Chief C. Scott advising that pending the new [storm] update, everything will be stopped to concentrate on the storm if needed. Commissioner Marietta commented on volunteer groups and asked if communication can be established in order to coordinate with them on the front end to assist. Ms. Subadan stated that there is a dedicated person at the EOC to coordinate with volunteers.

Commissioner Howard suggested that APD Chief M. Persley dispense a PR to the public regarding hotspots with dirt bikes/4-wheelers terrorizing neighborhoods, specifically in areas in Ward II/E. Albany. Chief Persley stated that an officer is assigned to Heath Park and arrests have been made, adding that this is a nationwide problem that the City of Albany is also dealing with. Additional discussion followed with Commissioner Howard commenting on other areas of concern, specifically, private citizens taking matters into their own hands and confronting these individuals, vowing to shoot them.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if it is underage people riding/dumping trash and if they are caught, is the vehicle confiscated and if they are underage, can parents be held responsible. Chief Persley explained the legal process of asset forfeiture/seizures, adding that it involves the DA's office; the majority of those caught are adults with no juveniles being identified at this time. In reply to Commissioner Fletcher he discussed the process of confiscating vehicles and, in reply to Mayor Hubbard he advised that taking drivers licenses is a decision of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles and the courts. Commissioner Fletcher suggested releasing PSA's and that the media assist with getting the word out on this matter to let the public know the consequences.

In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Chief Persley clarified that 4-wheelers and dirt bikes are off road vehicles that are not authorized to be on city streets; he said that golf carts and motorcycles are not in the same category, but are another thorn to deal with. Commissioner Marietta asked for

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clarification on golf carts being operated by licensed drivers on city streets, with Chief Persley stating that he does not have an answer to this question as it depends on the City Ordinance and what State Law requires, with Albany not being authorized as a Golf cart Community.

Ms. Subadan introduced Steven Carter, CIO, to discuss the GA Smart Communities that the City participated in.

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Carter discussed information regarding the competition that was initiated by Georgia Tech last spring, with the City of Albany being chosen to participate. He discussed the vision, the emerging technology team (Shelena Hawkins, Dianne Cooper, Shuronda Hawkins, Darrius Hughley, Rodrick Smith, Dave Walton, Justin Kendall and William Sparks), involving the community in housing, tax, code enforcement, zoning, crime data, utilities and citizens, all which is built around the GIS and will be integrated into a central data hub. He commented on project milestones, including funding from GA Tech (\$25,000 seed money) and announced that GA Tech will be back in Albany on October 23, inviting the Mayor and Commissioners to attend if possible.

Mayor Hubbard stated that part of this stemmed from HUB Cities through GMA and GA Tech and thanked Mr. Carter for his involvement in coming up with a way for Albany to be involved.

There were no additional questions/comments on this item.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

REMINDER:

1. The Mayor and Board of City Commissioners will meet at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition.

Commissioner Howard commented on Albany State University's homecoming next week and asked that a special effort be made to clean up the city, specifically on Hwy 300 and Clark Avenue. Mayor Hubbard added that the city is working with the CVB on this item as well.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK