

MARCH 12, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
Mayor Pro Tem Tommie Postell (arrived at 9:01 a.m.)
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher, Roger Marietta and Bob
Langstaff, Jr.
City Manager: Sharon Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., and reminded the audience of the process to address the Commission (Citizen Comments/Speaker Appearance Forms).

SPEAKER APPEARANCE

Ricky Shipp stated that he is present to speak about this business located at 1106 Moultrie Road, specifically the road that goes to his business. He stated that he has information regarding the road (copy on file) and a list of City staff he made contact with in the past and what they told him and, he gave a brief history of the condition of the road adding that he is now being told that the road belongs to GDOT. He mentioned monies allocated for alleys, adding that he reached out to Commissioner Postell to discuss the .1 mile of the road, to which he is referring and requesting four inches of asphalt to correct the condition of the road.

Ms. Subadan stated that staff is getting in touch with GDOT, adding that the City has been given the runaround as well, but is actively trying to ascertain to whom the road belongs. She added that the City cannot do anything on a road it does not own. Mr. Shipp said that he is GDOT-certified for projects and that this situation has been going on for a number of years; he noted a letter in the information he distributed that came from staff, suggesting that it should not take this long.

Mayor Hubbard asked staff to look into this and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Joel Wernick/Scott Steiner stated that he wanted to reflect on the last 30 years of his job at Phoebe. He highlighted the impact that the large number of employees has had on the city; support from the City; connection to the County (due to making appointments to the Hospital Board); being partners with Albany Utilities (formerly known as WG&L), as it relates to fiber optic cable; multiple disasters over the past few years, (flood, tornados, hurricane, etc.), the way the community comes to together in times of disasters (which is commendable; taxes that Phoebe pays in the amount of \$1.0 million yearly; being a non-profit organization, which furthers their mission; continued growth and encouraging people to remain in Albany and seek specialized healthcare here, which was not part of Phoebe 30 years ago. Regarding growth, he asked for continued support from the Commission as it pertains to specialized healthcare and commented on the number of new doctors who come to work at Phoebe, projects that are in the works, etc. In closing, he introduced Scott Steiner as his successor, as of March 1.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Mr. Wernick for all that he has done in the healthcare profession, noting the relationship that the City shares with Phoebe, etc.

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Mr. Steiner stated that it is his privilege to serve as the new CEO of Phoebe Putney Hospital and briefly explained what lead him to Albany. Mayor Hubbard welcomed Mr. Steiner to Albany.

Commissioner Fletcher also welcomed Mr. Steiner to Albany and having big shoes to fill with the retirement of Mr. Wernick.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Commission appointments to APD Civilian Review Board for three-year term ending December 2021.

There were no questions/comments on this item.

TRAVEL:

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

1. City Manager S. Subadan; GCCMA Spring Conference; Athens, GA; March 19-22, 2019; \$1,307.68
2. City Manager S. Subadan; ECG Economic Development Summit; Jekyll Island, GA; April 28 - May 1, 2019; \$1,606.40
3. City Clerk S. Tolbert; GMA 2019 Annual Convention/Training; Savannah, GA; June 21-24, 2019; \$1,778.16

PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

1. San Joe's Cantina & Grill, LLC, d/b/a San Joe's Cantina & Grill; 1230 N. Westover Blvd; R. Alvarez/Agent; Liquor, Beer & Wine Consumption; WARD 5

There were no questions/comments on this item.

AMENDING THE 2007 - 911 RESOLUTION

Albany Fire Chief Cedric Scott discussed information (copy on file) regarding the amendment to the March 2007, 911 Resolution as it pertains to the collecting process and certain language.

There were no questions/comments on this item.

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ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Using a power point presentation (copy on file) Albany Police Chief Michael Persley discussed calls (citizens/officer initiated), incident data, traffic accidents and revamping community relations, neighborhood resource officers (including the impact this has on the community), crime prevention unit, community safety officers (noting that all positions have been filled at this time), code enforcement successes, other projects that are coming up to be reported on at a later date, additional things done by APD (including working with USAP Middle District.. of Georgia on PSN cases), supported the criminal justice forum that was held by Commissioner Howard, re-established the Chaplain program, supported Read Across America and in conclusion, he commented on items that are on the ‘going forward’ list as noted.

In reply to Commissioner Marietta’s question on what is being done to curtail domestic violence, Chief Presley commented on the partnership with Liberty House, the DA’s office and other stakeholders through creation of the Domestic Violence Task Force, adding that education is the key, in addition to letting people know what services are available.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Chief Persley stated that the community services officers are not sworn officers and do not have powers of arrest; he explained the process in which they can make reports to sworn officers, adding that they are in all six wards. Commissioner Howard mentioned cars in the back yards of citizens, with Chief Persley explaining that public safety officers have different duties from Code officers and advised of the process to report junked vehicles, etc.

At this time 9:01 a.m., Mayor Pro Tem Postell arrived.

Commissioner Howard invited everyone to attend another public safety Town Hall meeting he has scheduled for next month (April 11 from 6-8 pm at the LEC).

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASE:

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

1. Billing Software – Tyler Technologies
Estimated three-year exp. \$1,260,404.00

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Ms. Fields deferred to Steven Carter, CIO. Mr. Carter explained the contract that replaces the current billing system, etc., with the plan to renew after the initial contract expires in three years.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Postell, Mr. Carter stated that the contract goes into effect once it is signed/ratified by the Commission and explained that this was brought to the Commission a few months

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ago as an item requesting permission to move forward; this is an update today with the contract being voted on.

Commissioner Fuller commented on the service agreement, which is cloud based and asked if this will present an issue. Mr. Carter replied in the negative, adding that it was his recommendation to use cloud base, etc., as it pertains to the cost to build the infrastructure, and provide protection. Counties in Georgia using this software include Lowndes, Bibb, Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Glynn and Gwinnett,

Mayor Hubbard asked if this system has replaced software for other cities. Mr. Carter replied that some were using other systems, but the Banner system has nearly reached its end of life and different functionalities are now needed.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Postell, Mr. Carter explained that the contracts are different as the new software is cloud-based and contains needed functionality the Banner system lacks; this contract also includes a maintenance agreement for updates. In response to Mayor Hubbard, Mr. Carter explained that Banner is also be cloud-based; they responded to the RFP and was evaluated; however, cost was a deciding factor.

Ms. Subadan recognized the attorney working on the details of the contract, adding that Tyler is a full-service company. Dougherty County recently awarded Tyler for their ERP, (Enterprise Resource Management System) and should the City decide to replace its ERP with J.D. Edwards, Tyler would be the natural choice.

Kathryn Wallace, attorney with Austin & Byrd, introduced herself and stated that she has been in practice for 20 years. Commissioner Fuller asked had she negotiated contracts with Tyler in the past with Ms. Wallace explaining that she has not negotiated specifically with Tyler, but has negotiated with similar type solutions. She stated that this the contract is in line with those of other cities.

Commissioner Marietta asked if this system will correct problems for customers who have automated draft payments, but are not credited when payment falls on holiday/weekends. Mr. Carter explained that the current problem is an extended billing period, which often overlap, adding that as the software is installed, operational decisions will be evaluated to ensure they fit and work within the framework of the software.

Mayor Hubbard recognized Chad Warbington who had signed up to address this item.

Mr. Warbington mentioned ‘good government’ being a proponent of T-SLOST and this being a week to garner support for it. He briefly discussed the software being a SPLOST VII project; however, he sees it as a base of utilities and should not be paid through SPLOST. He mentioned the challenge of expense vs. capital and questioned how it will be funded in three years when the contract expires. Mayor Pro Tem Postell briefly discussed the purpose of SPLOST. Mr. Warbington again mentioned the funding of the project after three years and stated that another challenge is the Commission and citizens engaging in dialogue. He commented on the large amount of the contract, which was released Friday via the agenda,

and some parts were left off until yesterday and asked how citizens can get needed information to discuss items with the Commission if they are not privy to the information. He said he view SPLOST projects as sidewalks, asphalt, parks/recreation, etc, but the breakout of this project shows that it includes text message/cell phone plans and travel for vendors. While he understands the need for those things, he questioned them being a valid expense in SPLOST. Being an IT upgrade, he suggested that streaming live City Commission meetings as an upgrade in which citizens would benefit.

Mayor Hubbard asked if the City had legally followed the SPLOST process; Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative, adding that Mr. Warbington stated that and, it appears he is unhappy with a policy decision. Mayor Hubbard asked if there is a time limit for sending out agendas. Mr. Davis replied that the agenda is released the week before the meeting.

Mayor Hubbard asked if the law has been followed including the process with Mr. Davis advising that the process was followed and is legal.

GDOT PROCUREMENT POLICY ADOPTION

Yvette Fields, Central Services Director, discussed information (copy on file) regarding the City applying for LAP (Local Administered Project) certification, which is necessary for applying for federal funds. To do so, the City must adopt the GDOT policy to be used to procure architecture and engineering services in utilizing grants, i.e., Federal Aid Funds.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Postell, Mr. Davis explained the Brooks Act and process as it pertains to adopting a procurement policy and, continuing with an explanation, Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, discussed on the requirement to be certified in order to secure federal grants, etc., that will also be part of his department moving forward, which will take over administering projects (engineering, inspection, etc).

Commissioner Howard asked for additional clarification, with Mr. Maples explaining the certification process/procedures that the City will have to follow to be awarded funding. If the City does not comply it stands to lose federal grant funds.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Postell, Mr. Maples explained the monitoring process.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan commented on LED street lights and how many have been installed and locations; debris collection (900,000 cubic yards due to Hurricane Michael), including amount collected; asphalt paving contract is on the list that was provided with the City/County bidding together, but handled separately; railroad intention to do track improvements at W. Society, 3rd and 7th Aves., with streets closed for approx., 3 weeks, with starting time this month. Other work will be performed at various locations, etc., as it pertains to SPLOST. She noted that the railroad information was received within the last 48 hours. A brief discussion followed on whether information is required in advance on closing roads for RR repairs, with Mr. Davis advising that notice is not required.

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In reply to Commissioner Fuller, Ms. Subadan stated that the RR said roads would be closed for three weeks and will present some traffic concerns.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, Ms. Subadan explained the process as it pertains to debris collection, grinding, etc., with everything going to a re-use. Assistant City Manager Phil Roberson explained the three-pronged process – removal, reduction and final disposal. Ms. Subadan interjected that FEMA controls where it goes for re-use; it must go to a proper end-use facility.

Ms. Subadan stated that FEMA asked to relocate to offices at Lily Pond.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Ms. Subadan stated that Ceres is with the City until work is completed; information on the news probably referred to Dougherty County. Discussion followed on picking up debris in trailer parks and the root-ball roundup with Ms. Subadan explaining that it was a locally sponsored effort made up mainly of volunteers, with many City employees volunteering their time. KADB was very involved and will help decide if any further round-ups are needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Postell commented on trash within the city and asked that this be looked at and demands made to have this done.. Stacey Rowe, Interim Public Works Director, briefly discussed debris, sidewalk cleanup, limbs being trimmed, etc., throughout the city. Additional discussion followed on co-mingling household trash vs. storm debris and the need to make citizens aware.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Howard asked for a status update of the panhandling ordinance, with Mr. Davis stating that this will be on the agenda in the future, after he gets information from the outside attorneys. Commissioner Howard commented on areas in Ward I that have a lot of panhandlers begging for money, etc., making citizens fearful.

Commissioner Marietta asked for an update on recruitment/retention of Public Safety personnel.

Commissioner Fuller commended the City and Ceres for debris/trash pickup. However, he has seen, trash/furniture left behind when residents move and it is out beside roads, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT
CITY CLERK