

JUNE 11, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

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

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Two appointments to Chehaw Park Authority for two-year term ending July 2021

There were no questions/comments on this item.

GMA CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS

Mr. Davis discussed information as noted (copy on file), regarding the recertification of the City of Albany's designation with GMA, adding that this is done every four years.

PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

CONNECTOR TRAIL EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Bruce Maples, Director of Engineering, discussed information (copy on file) requesting the acceptance of the last Easement Agreement from Thronateeska Heritage Foundation, Inc. regarding Connector Trail construction and maintenance. He also briefly commented on the location of the easement. There were no questions/comments on this item.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

FY 2019-20 COMPETITIVE PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT AWARDS

Phyllis Brown, Deputy Director, discussed information as noted (copy on file) regarding the request to approve recommendations from the Community Development Council to award Public Service Grants with Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG Funds). She commented on the process, which included public information posted on the website, on media outlets, workshops that were held, etc. She explained that six applications were received with four agencies being identified as meeting the minimum required qualifications as noted on the attached list, adding that all four are present to answer questions and advised that the recommendation is to approve the request.

Mayor Hubbard commented on the hiring of a new volunteer coordinator at Liberty House and asked what will happen when funding is no longer available with Diane Rogers, Executive Director of The Liberty House explaining that funds will continue through state/federal funding. In reply to Mayor Hubbard, she verified that the mattresses of all beds in the shelter were replaced.

Commissioner Howard asked how many of the four had received funding in the past with Ms. Brown explaining the number of times within a five-year period that an agency is eligible for funding., adding that there is a maximum of three times

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET DISCUSSION

Commissioner Marietta mentioned cemetery upgrades and asked if the upgrades are strictly capital improvements. Ms. Subadan explained the process of use of funds; some may be maintenance related with funds also being used form Perpetual Care Fund that is not solely restricted to capital, adding that some items will not meet the threshold for capital and will be maintenance

Commissioner Howard referred Tab 18, description of the police gang unit and asked the number as of today, which calls for 14. Ms. Subadan stated that there are ten positions filled, with this being a department in which employees are rotated in and out due to staffing challenges, etc. Commissioner Howard questioned a \$19,000 cut in that department from 2018. Ms. Subadan referred to Tab 15 explaining reductions, which are calculated by Risk Management and are based on the number of positions/FTE's.

Commissioner Marietta questioned outstanding reimbursements from FEMA and other reimbursements, with Derrick Brown, Finance Director giving the amounts totaling \$3.3 million from the 2017 storms and Irma, with \$1.1 million expected to be received this week. He advised that currently all costs associated with Hurricane Michael is outstanding at \$17.2 million; however, the final amount could be as much as \$24.0 million due to debris removal. Commissioner Marietta asked if reserves are shown with Mr. Brown stating that the CAFRA/audit show reserves and are not listed the budget

Commissioner Fuller commented on Professional Services in the City Clerk's office being increased by \$115,000. Ms. Subadan explained that elections are budgeted in the Clerk's office every other year with a contingency budgeted for a run-off. Commissioner Fuller commented on Municipal Court with Mr. Brown explaining health benefits being based on what employees select, which impact matching funds (what City pays), i.e., driven by a change in coverage. In reply to Commissioner Fuller, Mr. Brown explained the risk allocation that is divided per department.

Mayor Hubbard stated that James Pratt signed up to speak on the budget.

Mr. Pratt mentioned his credentials (PHD candidate, Adjunct Professor in Criminal Justice at ASU) and stated that he has spoken with citizens including, Sherrell Byrd and Bruce Capps, et al, regarding a proposal for the reorientation of the gang task force. He explained the proposal to include changing the name (The Criminal Gang Network of Action Task Force [CNAP]); description/definition; to become an independent body, with goals to assist with this reorganization specifically regarding criminal gangs in Albany and mentioned information that was distributed (copy on file) that addresses the concerns. Regarding the budget, he advised that the request is to have an administrative assistant to attend the gang task force meetings, to take notes, and commented on producing data from these meetings that will help create actions for citizen participation, which will keep the community involved. He asked the Commission for support of the proposal.

Commissioner Marietta stated that he did not receive the email and asked that it be resent and mentioned the Lobbyist report that he sent Mr. Pratt with funding resources/grants. Mr. Pratt stated that this is important, but the details and groundwork are not laid out at this point, i.e., this needs to be re-directed before applying for a grant.

Commissioner Howard suggested that this is a good opportunity for Ms. Subadan to work with Mr. Pratt on this idea. Ms. Subadan stated that it will be appropriate for Mr. Pratt to meet with Chief Persley and address concerns. Mr. Pratt stated that the proposal is to have a gang task force established as a separate entity, apart from APD, etc., and the request is to receive elected officials input.

Continuing budget discussions, and, regarding the cemetery, Commissioner Marietta suggested having a capital improvement fund with Ms. Subadan explaining that the idea is to establish a perpetual care fund and explained a process to have funding reoccur in the CIP, adding that there is a plan to restore the cemetery and to maintain it henceforth in each budget.

Commissioner Fletcher stated that the cemetery is in her ward and at her recent neighborhood watch, this was the main topic. She mentioned ideas that were presented and ideas that came from other areas, adding that she will share information that includes having a committee to assist with funding and upkeep, etc.

PURCHASES:

Joshua William, Buyer, discussed information as noted (copy on file) as follows:

1. Temporary Labor - Labor Finders of Albany, GA
Estimated exp. \$382,800.00

Commissioner Langstaff commented on the hourly rate and asked last year's with Mr. Williams stating that it was the same as last year.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Ms. Subadan discussed the screening process performed by Labor Finders. Mr. Williams advised that insurance is provided to employees through Labor Finders.

In reply to Commissioner Fuller, Mr. Williams advised that Labor Finders were used in the past and that there were no issues; they send quality workers, are transparent with information, and Worker's Comp is handled through them, not the City.

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

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2. | P25 Motorola Radios – Motorola | Total exp. | \$1,287,852.78 |
|----|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|

Commissioner Langstaff asked the age of the radios that are being replaced with Mr. Williams stating approximately five years old. Ms. Subadan explained that radios are no longer being supported; when they break, there is no way to have them repaired. Chief Persley concurred with Ms. Subadan and gave additional information regarding the rationale in replacements, adding that production ceased for the current model on December 18, 2018.

In reply to Mayor Hubbard, he advised that the new radios will communicate with other radios, i.e., more communities on the same infrastructure. Mayor Hubbard questioned body cameras with Chief Persley explaining the process to be compatible, with Motorola providing 30 body cameras and giving the City the same deal it gave another agency. He added that further discussion is underway with in-car cameras and body camera systems to be compatible. Mayor Hubbard mentioned the state-level issue of storage of [camera] footage and asked if it has been resolved. Chief Persley briefly commented on cloud storage affordability for body camera, adding that Motorola is a great partner of the City's and helped tremendously with obtaining the body cameras. Mayor Hubbard asked to be updated when this is worked out.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Ms. Subadan stated that CVB Director Rachelle Beasley is present to give a brief presentation regarding the CVB's transition to an independent agency.

Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Ms. Beasley stated that the transition has been seamless and reported that they have been recertified as a Gold Certified Georgia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, (the second time of being recertified) and are one of six Gold Certified CVB's in Georgia. When discussion began on the separation, one issue was health care benefits for staff, with the City helping with this and, the only significant change was reporting to their own board (a list of current board members was displayed). She showed information on occupancy and discussed the inventory with a room supply of over 1,000, adding that the welcome center opened in August 2008. She advised that Albany's CVB is a level five, the State's highest level that can

be obtained. She reported on: distributed information by the CVB; visitor's sign-in, with 108 international travelers and 305 inquiries about relocating to Albany. She discussed marketing and communications, including advertising leads, assisted events attendance, giveaways, tradeshows/conferences attended and groups that they assisted. She commented on the sports marketing council, showed the list of names that are on this council, commented on the budget of \$30,000, grants of \$24,000 (including criteria). For the year 2019-2020, she discussed tourism projects as follows: 1) Wayfinding Signage to include welcome signs, vehicle directional signs, pedestrian information kiosk, public parking ID, street ID and downtown pedestrian direction ; 2) increase awareness of attractions, which includes marketing strategy leisure and group travel, developing tradeshow booth, direct mail collateral, digital media marketing to include taking this on the road as a marketing strategy; 3) tourism research study to include destination immersion study, lodging study, manager survey, visitor profile study, conversion and ROI study, group and meeting planner study and a strategic marketing plan. Lastly, she commented on the City's \$725,000 investment in the CVB, which contributed to \$244.0 million in domestic travel expenditures for Albany.

Commissioner Marietta said this was a good presentation and commented on placement of signs, as it pertains to the issue of underground utilities, etc.

Commissioner Howard asked why CVB doesn't promote state track meets in Albany, which draws over 10K individuals throughout SW Georgia and asked that more emphasis be put on this event. Ms. Beasley discussed the process and what is required by SIAC, what they can/cannot do for the event for high schools, adding that Dougherty County Schools have representatives on the council, but they are limited on participation, however, she said they have all the information needed and that they help as much as they can for SIAC events. Regarding basketball, Commissioner Howard expressed his concern on the lack of participation, with Ms. Beasley stating that they were sponsors, etc.

Commissioner Fuller mentioned the 1,000+ number of rooms and asked if they are all flag rooms. Ms. Beasley replied in the affirmative, adding that Merry Acres is a boutique/flag property hotel.

Mayor Hubbard asked the completion date of signage; Ms. Beasley advised that her goal is no later than the end of the year and gave the status of where they are in the process.

Ms. Subadan stated that it has been a pleasure working with Ms. Beasley and her Board over the last year; the excitement and growth around tourism and the success of this project is commendable.

Regarding the update, Ms. Subadan stated that debris removal is complete, with the last bill from Ceres coming along with a budget amendment; the LED streetlights project is 91% complete and the remaining challenges are being worked out; road resurfacing/crushed alley repaving, both of which are underway and is the website with a map showing the status of each; the connector trail is 65% complete, ribbon cutting of the Flint is on Monday, 6/17 at 3:30, June 12 is the State of the

JUNE 11, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100

Community, through the Chamber with the Mayor speaking, and yesterday a report was emailed on the amount recovered through surplus with GovDeal, (almost \$700,000 in a year). The budget will be presented for adoption at the next meeting with the AMI tentatively scheduled for the next meeting as well. She stated that an executive session is being requested for property acquisition and personnel at the end of the meeting today.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that Municipal Court Judge Willie Weaver’s travel was sent to her after the agenda was finalized and read the following for approval:

1. W. Weaver, Municipal Court Judge – Annual Continuing Judicial Education Seminar; Savannah, GA – June 18-21, 2019 - \$1,463.47

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

Commissioner Howard commented on information from Mr. Pratt and asked that the information be looked at to bring some type of organization to the Gang Task Force.

Commissioner Fletcher commented on information from Rashelle Beasley, reps from the Boys/Girls Club, Chehaw , etc. who are present and stated that these organizations are effective at keeping the youth of this city off of the streets by keeping them busy and occupied with productive activities. , While APD and AFD need to be given every tool they need to better this community, she said she hopes that the City continues to give to these organizations that are assisting with the youths, who are our future, busy and off the streets.

Mayor Hubbard agreed with Commissioner Fletcher’s comments.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

SONJA TOLBERT, CMC
CITY CLERK