

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher, Chad Warbington,
Bob Langstaff, Jr., and Demetrius Young
City Manager: Sharon D. Subadan
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

OATH OF OFFICE

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Probate Judge Nancy Stephenson administered the oath of office to Jon Howard (Ward 1) Chad Warbington (Ward 4) Demetrius Young (Ward 6) and Bo Dorough (Mayor).

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m., followed by invocations provided by Dr. Michael Catt, Sr. Pastor, Sherwood Baptist Church and Elder April Young, Bread of Life Church of Birmingham, Alabama.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Dorough stated that pursuant to the City Charter, the first order of business is the designation of appointed officials and asked if the Commission wanted to make appointments position by position.

1. City Manager for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Sharon Subadan)
2. City Attorney for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Nathan Davis)
3. Asst. City Attorney - vacant
4. City Clerk for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Sonja Tolbert)
5. Asst. City Clerk for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Elizabeth “Sissy” Kelly)
6. Municipal Court Judge for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Willie Weaver)
7. Public Defender - vacant
8. City Solicitor for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Gerald Williams)
9. Associate Judge for two-year term expiring January 2022 (Ralph Scoccimaro)

Commissioner Young moved to appoint the positions on an interim basis, which has been suggested for a six-month period, explaining that those who are newly elected have not had the time to research the qualifications of these appointments, seconded by Commissioner Warbington.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Howard suggesting that six months may be too long., adding that this could put those who hold these positions in a precarious predicament and this Board does not want to give the appearance of doing things ‘behind the scene’. He explained that in 1994, as a newly elected Commissioner, he witnessed decisions that were made behind the scene and suggested that we move forward with their appointment tonight.

Mayor Dorough asked if a shorter time period of three months would be acceptable. Commissioner Howard stated that his gut feeling is to let the dice roll tonight.

Commissioner Warbington stated that it is not the intention to go six months, adding that he would like discussions to begin as soon as possible.

Mayor Dorough stated that the feelings he shares with Commissioners Warbington and Young is that they have been in office less than five minutes and have been called upon to make appointments for the next two years. Their suggestion is an interim six-month appointment; however, it appears to be unacceptable to the majority and he called for a vote, asking are they being taken individually or as a group.

Commissioner Young reiterated his motion to hold off on all the appointments. Commissioner Langstaff stated that the six months doesn’t bother him; he understands the reason and supports it; however, he is not comfortable with the procedure and questioned the legality of it, adding that he will vote no.

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

Mayor Dorough stated that an opinion was requested of the City Attorney, who said that it is acceptable. Following a rollcall vote, the motion failed as follows:

Ward I	no
Ward II	no
Ward III	no
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	no
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

Mayor Dorough declared that the motion failed 4-3.

Commissioner Howard moved to appoint the slate of appointed officials (with the exception of the two vacant positions), seconded by Commissioner Fuller.

Commissioner Warbington made a substitute motion to make an interim appointment for three months, seconded by Commissioner Young. Following a rollcall vote, the substitute motion failed as follows:

Ward I	no
Ward II	no
Ward III	no
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	no
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

Mayor Dorough stated that the main motion is to adopt the slate with the exception of Public Defender's office for a two-year term beginning tonight.

Commissioner Fuller moved to appoint all eight individuals, seconded by Commissioner Howard.

In response to Commissioner Warbington, Mayor Dorough stated that if the motion passes, the City Manager will be reappointed, and her contract discussed in a subsequent meeting. Hearing no further comments and following the rollcall vote, the motion carried 4-3 as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	no
Ward VI	no
Mayor	no

COMMISSION MEMBER BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mayor's appointment and Commission appointment to Aviation Commission for one-year term expiring January 2021

Commissioner Howard moved to reappoint Commissioner Langstaff, seconded by Commissioner Fuller, the motion unanimously carried. Mayor Dorough stated that he will reappoint Dr. Anthony Parker.

2. Pension Board: (one appt) - Commission appointment – two-year term ending Jan. 2022

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

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

Mayor Dorough briefly discussed the nomination process, i.e., starting with Ward I, allowing Commissioner Howard to make the nomination or to pass; if he passes, Ward II Commissioner Fuller has the right to make the nomination. Once a Commissioner nominates someone the next nomination passes to the next Commissioner.

3. Albany/Dougherty EDC: (two appts) Commission and one citizen appointment for two-year term ending Dec. 2021

Commissioner Langstaff moved to appoint Commissioner Warbington, seconded by seconded by Commissioner Young; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Howard nominated John Hawthorne, seconded by Commissioner Young, who mentioned Mr. Hawthorne's experience/background, which qualifies him as an excellent candidate; the motion failed as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	no
Ward III	no
Ward IV	no
Ward V	no
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

Commissioner Fuller nominated Debbie Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion carried 5-2 as follows:

Ward I	no
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	no
Mayor	yes

4. Chehaw Part Authority: (two appts) – One Commission and one citizen appointment to fill unexpired term ending July 2021

Commissioner Langstaff nominated Mayor Dorough, seconded by Commissioner Howard; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Howard nominated Nathan Borer, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried.

5. Flood Plain Management Review Board: (three appt) – One Commission and two citizen appointments for three-year term ending Oct. 2022

Commissioner Howard nominated Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Howard nominated Bill Swan and Tommy Padgett, who requested to be reappointed, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried.

6. SWGA Regional Commission: (three appts) – Commission, one City and one joint City/County appointment for one-year term ending Jan. 2021

Commissioner Fletcher nominated Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Fuller; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Howard nominated Freddie Grimsley for reappointment, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Howard nominated Casawn-Lhuiller Yeyeis (f/k/a Vincent Smart), seconded by Commissioner Fuller; the motion unanimously carried.

In response to Commissioner Langstaff, the Clerk explained that Mr. Yheyeis is the joint appointee.

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

APPOINTED BOARDS BY WARD:

1. Citizen Advisory Committee: (8 appts) – seven Commission appointments and one citizen appt., for two-year term ending Jan. 2022

Commissioner Howard reappointed Princella Stegall; Commissioner Fuller reappointed Sallie Odom; Commissioner Fletcher reappointed Ralph Rambeau; Commissioner Warbington reappointed Wylene Jones; Commissioner Langstaff deferred his appointment to the next meeting as Jay Sharp asked to not be reappointed; Commissioner Young reappointed Kowana McKinney. Commissioner Langstaff moved to reappoint Jawahn Ware, seconded by Commissioner Howard; the motion unanimously carried. Mayor Dorough asked the Clerk to advertise the position Dr. King left vacant.

2. APD Civilian Review Board: (four appts) – Mayor’s appointments to fill one unexpired term ending Dec. 2021 and one appointment for three-year term ending Dec. 2022. Commission appointments (Ward II and V) for three-year term ending Dec. 2022

Mayor Dorough reappointed Kay Hind and asked the Clerk to advertise the vacant position. Commissioner Langstaff reappointed Dr. Charles Gillespie. The Clerk advised that Ward II appointee’s letter of his expiring term was returned.

3. Joint Board of Adjustments and Appeals: (three appts) – Mayor appointment to fill unexpired term ending Oct. 2021 and two City/County Joint appts for three-year term ending Oct. 2022

The Clerk explained that she has been unable to contact the Mayor’s appointee (Jay Kimbro). Joint appointee Alvin Smith requested to not be reappointed and Arwena Jones requested to be reappointed, with the City merely ratifying her appointment by the County. Commissioner Howard moved to ratify the appointment of Ms. Jones, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried. Mayor Dorough asked the Clerk to advertise the Mayor’s appointment.

REGULAR BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

1. ADICA: (four appts) – two-year term ending Jan. 2022

Commissioner Howard moved to nominate Eric Culbreth for reappointment, seconded by Commissioner Warbington; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Fuller moved to reappoint George Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Langstaff nominated Brad Hallford, seconded by Commissioner Fuller; the motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Warbington moved to appoint Rachelle Scott, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

2. KADB: (six appts) – five appts for three-year term ending Jan. 2023 and one appointment to fill unexpired term ending Jan. 2021

Commissioner Howard moved to reappoint W. Wingfield, Jeanette Henderson, Donna Reshetnichenko, Alex McClendon and Jackie Dixon and to continue advertising the vacancy, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion unanimously carried.

3. Planning Commission: (one appt) for three-year term ending Jan. 2023

Commissioner Howard moved to reappoint Dr. Charles Ochie, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher; the motion unanimously carried.

4. Albany Utility Board: (three appts) – one to fill unexpired term ending Jan. 2021 and two appointments for two-year term ending Jan. 2022 (must be city resident)

Commissioner Fletcher moved to reappoint Dr. Willie Adams for a two-year term, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff; the motion carried 5-2 as follows:

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	no
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	no

Commissioner Warbington moved to appoint Brenda Battle for a two-year term, seconded by Commissioner Howard; the motion carried 6-1 as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	no
Mayor	yes

Commissioner Langstaff moved to appoint Stan Logue for fill an unexpired term ending Jan. 2021, seconded by Commissioner Warbington; the motion carried 5-1-1 as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	no
Mayor	abstained

JOINT CITY/COUNT BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Warbington moved to approve reappointment of the slate of appointees, seconded by Commissioner Fuller; the motion unanimously carried.

1. Joint Electrical Board: (five appts) – One City, (master electrician), three Joint City/County (one professional engineer and two electrical suppliers) and, one citizen member for one-year term ending January 2021.

Reappointed were Edward West and Sanford Hillsman.

2. Joint Heating/Air Conditioning Board: (four appts) for one-year term ending Jan. 2021

Reappointed were Billy Goodson, Clint Newsome, Thomas Driggers and Clifford Tolbert.

3. Joint Gas Board: (three appts) – One City appointment (master gas fitter member), one Joint City/County appointment (professional engineer member) and one citizen member for one-year term ending Jan. 2021

Reappointed were William Walker, Mark Holloway and Rhett Parker.

4. Joint Plumbing Board: (three appts) for one-year term ending Jan. 2021 (One Master Plumber, Professional Engineer and citizen member)

Reappointed were Eural Chestang, Thomas Driggers and Glen Tyler Harris.

DESIGNATION OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2020

Commissioner Howard accepted the designation.

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Pro Tem Howard stated that he is humbled to be the longest serving Commissioner in the City of Albany, as well as the longest-serving black Commissioner; having been elected in a run-off in 1993. Expressing concerns about the city, particularly East Albany, he discussed 1) crime and the need for reorganization of APD; 2) slum areas and the landlords; 3) the infrastructure of E. Albany, with there being a need for sidewalks to connect it to downtown; 4) the overwhelming number of rental units here (60%, which is above state/national averages); 5) getting Code Enforcement more involved with helping make slumlords accountable; 6) bringing good paying jobs to Albany, not dollar stores; 7) encouraging the black population to adopt healthier eating habits; 8) moratorium on issuing liquor license to stores; 9) 70+ minority in Albany, with the poverty rate approximately 40% and approximately 50% in E. Albany, which breeds crime, calling for a task force to address it; and, 10) the lack of proper medical treatment of those who are poverty-stricken, especially those who suffer with mental issues. He suggested it will take action by faith-based organizations, stakeholders, elected officials and the business community to make a real impact needed to address these issues. He closed with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commissioner Warbington stated that he is honored and humbled to have been elected to represent Ward IV, adding that he did not get here alone, but through the concerted efforts of many friends, supporters and mentors, and recognized the support of his wife and three daughters. He stated that this Board is comprised of seven individuals who must learn to collaborate and compromise for this city to have good governance. In closing, he stated that he looks forward to being part of the team that makes Albany great.

Commissioner Young thanked his ‘village’ (City of Albany) and stated that he is a graduate of Monroe High, Albany Technical College and ASU. He suggested that it is vital that the leaders of this city concentrate on ensuring that opportunities are available to everyone, not just a select few. He stated that he grew up in politics, attending City Commission meetings at a very young age with his mother. He thanked everyone who has helped make a positive impact in Albany and helping children grow up and achieve success. However, more City resources are needed to include all, as there are still those who lack what others have been blessed with. He challenged staff, his fellow colleagues and employees to deal with citizens in a helpful and uplifting manner and pledged to do his part and work diligently to help make these things happen.

Mayor Dorough thanked Mayor Hubbard and Commissioners Postell and Marietta for their combined 42 years of service to Albany, adding that they are owed a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they made during their terms in office. He recognized and thanked: his wife, Bonnie Blackshear; campaign manager, Sarah McCallar; volunteers and friends for all their support during his campaign. He mentioned his website, which detailed his platform on issues he considers the most important challenges facing the city. A legislative agenda that he will submit to the Commission will include: an elected Tax Commissioner in Dougherty County to inventory property here and ensure that all property owners (individuals/business owners/corporations) pay their fair share and, Dougherty County Board of Commissioners to have an equal number of appointments to the Albany/Dougherty Inner City Development Authority and that the City Commission have an equal number of appointments to the Hospital Authority. He said that he wants three studies conducted 1) by an independent economist to compare health care cost here to other markets in the Southeast; the entity operating our community hospital has amassed \$688.0 million in reserves, while 36% of Albany’s citizens live in poverty and local governments struggle to provide competitive wages employees. Phoebe Putney owns more property in the City than any other landowner and pays very little property tax; 2) Albany cannot continue to lose police officers due to inadequate compensation. A comprehensive study of the police department and crime in this community, with the objective of improving retention of qualified officers and reduce crime, is necessary. He stated that he wants to implement community-oriented policing, which brings officers together with the communities in which they are stationed. This would involve having precincts in south and east Albany, with a muster of police officers at the beginning of each shift; 3) a master plan for Chehaw Park, which must be realistic, sustainable and sufficiently innovative to transform it into a regional destination. To accomplish many of his objectives is restoring pride in Albany, judicious decisions at this table are necessary, so that citizens in all corners of Albany benefit; evaluate programs for ‘at risk’ youth and determine why participation in youth sports has declined and to make adjustments to ensure

JANUARY 13, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CENTER – RM 100

that the recreational department is second to none. He proposed that the \$24.0 million in SPLOST VII be utilized for other purposes such as repairing/replacing existing recreational facilities rather than roads, sidewalks and bridges, which can be improved through the T-SPLOST approved last March. He briefly reviewed other proposals listed on his website: separation of sewer system to prevent discharge of sewage and wastewater into the Flint River; make the Utility Department (f/k/a Water, Gas and Light) an independent City department with its own General Manager and until that is accomplished, help to ensure that transfers from the Utility Board are completely transparent; continue the progress of downtown revitalization; breaking ground of bus terminal; reopen 1st TEE and construct the Tennis Center on the same property; revive efforts to hold a referendum on consolidation to give voters a say; transition to renewable energy and have staff request that vendors supply pricing for hybrid vehicles; install charging stations for electric vehicles throughout the city; and most importantly, seize the opportunity to produce our own power through construction of solar farms.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK