

JANUARY 31, 2020

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT CENTER – ROOM 100

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

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Clerk read the call as follows:

Mayor and Board of City Commissioners
P.O. Box 447
Albany, Georgia

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

There will be a Special Called City Commission meeting on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., in room 100 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is for the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to discuss the following purchase:

1. Fire Pumper Trucks - Ten-8 Fire Equipment of Georgia
Total expenditure \$2,141,064.00

Sincerely,

Sharon D. Subadan
City Manager

Bo Dorough
MAYOR

JON HOWARD, WARD I
MAYOR PRO TEM

MATT FULLER, WARD II
CITY COMMISSIONER

BJ FLETCHER, WARD III
CITY COMMISSIONER

CHADWARBINGTON, WARD IV
CITY COMMISSIONER

BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V
CITY COMMISSIONER

DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

Yvette Fields, Central Services Director, distributed information (copy on file) comparing surrounding cities/counties purchase of fire pumper engine and discussed information as noted in the agenda item (copy on file). She then turned the discussion over to Fire Chief Cedric Scott.

Chief Scott presented a power point presentation (copy on file) and displayed the website of Pierce Manufacturing, which showcased pumper trucks. He also showed a photo of a fire truck in Cobb County as a comparison to the proposed purchase and discussed operational enhancements of the trucks: 1750 GPM water pump, front bumper hose tray, hydraulic ladder rack (which provides more storage), booster reel, safety enhancements (including clean cab initiatives), safety standardization, onboard foam system, LED lights, frontal airbags and side roll protection.

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Commissioner Fletcher noted the approximate \$60,000 cost difference of the Cobb County truck asked the year that the trucks were purchased. Ms. Fields stated 2017. In response to Commissioner Fletcher, Chief Scott advised that the fire department answers approximately 4,500 calls a year.

Commissioner Warbington thanked Chief Scott for taking the time to help him understand the need for the pumper trucks. He suggested that all work sessions include time to digest the information presented before a vote is taken. He then commented on purchasing two trucks vs. three, budget limitations, financial commitments and approving budgeted items. He then moved to purchase two trucks in order to remain within the confines of the budget, seconded by Commissioner Young.

Commissioner Langstaff commented on the experience and expertise of staff, adding that this purchase will not hit the budget this year; this is only a commitment for the 2021 budget. He said he spoke with the auditors, who confirmed that this is an item that can be purchased in advance and is considered a long-term purchase which is normal/standard practice in government. Regarding budget amendments, he explained the process that the auditors discussed with him and gave suggestions on the wording to reflect 'for future purchases', reiterating that the purchase will be in the 2021 budget. He added that a future budget cannot be amended, explaining that a budget amendment is used when more has been spent than was allocated. He then commented on options for making purchases.

Commissioner Young agreed that the current discussion is arbitrary and asked the justification of purchasing three trucks. Commissioner Langstaff mentioned the 3% price increase effective February 1.

Ms. Subadan commented on the age of the trucks as the impetus to purchase now and commented on a spread sheet which was sent out yesterday regarding the purchase of the trucks in 1996 and 2004, adding that the increase in 2021 is expected to be between 6-9%, not 3%, based on the cost of steel, which is rapidly escalating. The recommendation is to purchase three trucks at this time to replace the older trucks, which are past due to be replaced.

Additional discussion followed regarding the 2004 purchase of trucks using SPLOST funds and a suggestion to purchase additional trucks in the next fiscal year if the budget allows (Commissioner Warbington); the question of whether the purchase of two trucks would suffice to maintain the service level (Commissioner Young) and Chief Scott advising that staff's recommendation is to move forward with a replacement plan to be put in place for future purchases. Stephen Collier, Asst. City Manager, advised that the Director of Fleet Management (P. Bednar) has concerns of finding replacement parts for the older trucks currently in service, as well as the down time for repairs when parts are available.

Commissioner Fletcher mentioned that older trucks need to be replaced, which raises the issue of liability concerns, etc. Commissioner Warbington disagreed, stating that City firefighters have great trucks that are maintained, with 15 years as the guideline; the City would not be culpable, etc. Regarding liability, Mayor Dorough stated that the fire department needs all safety precautions available. Discussion followed with Ms. Subadan explaining the purchase of trucks between 2003/04, trucks not being on the recent SPLOST due to the focus being on infrastructure, with purchases now considered in the capital replacement plan for equipment, which is to incrementally purchase vehicles in the future. She mentioned that the analysis indicated three trucks as the optimum number to purchase now.

Commissioner Young recommended that the information provided to Commissioners include justifications/rationale when questions come up. Mayor Dorough agreed, adding that he does not like having a work session and vote on the same day and that he appreciated the presentation that Chief Scott made this morning, adding that the information presented was sufficient.

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Discussion followed on the original motion with Commissioner Langstaff offering a substitute motion to purchase three vehicles, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Commissioner Warbington stated that in the future he will be looking at the budget first when purchases are brought for approval and not delivery, etc., issues. Commissioner Langstaff countered that contracts are awarded all the time, which overlap budget years.

Hearing no further discussion, the substitute motion carried 5-2 as follows:

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Young asked that streaming meetings be looked at because the public wants more transparency. Mayor Dorough stated that there is some interest in the community, although not a whole lot, but he would like a presentation at an upcoming meeting on the history of televising meetings. He asked Ms. Subdan for a discussion on disaster/emergency preparedness protocol as it pertains to the authority of the Dougherty County Chairman. Mr. Davis advised that this is a state law, with Mayor Dorough asking for the statute.

Ms. Subadan thanked staff for the work they put into providing the information to the Commission.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK