

JULY 21, 2020
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual Meeting)

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
City Commissioners: Chad Warbington
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and after attendance confirmation, it was noted that Asst. City Manager Stephen Collier, Commissioners Fuller, Fletcher, Langstaff and Young were on the virtual conference call.

Mayor Dorough announced that David Maschke is on the agenda to provide input regarding the Pace Building Renovation, but is going out of town; therefore, that agenda item will be discussed following Speaker Appearance.

SPEAKER APPEARANCE

Charlee James-Daily recalled her recent appearance before the Commission regarding the Dangerous Dog Ordinance and the requirement of insurance, adding that the City requires a surety bond, but the State of Georgia requires ‘either/or’. She said she contacted numerous companies, with none of them providing that type coverage due to the high liability.

City Attorney Nathan Davis referred to page ten, Sec. 10-164, paragraph three (copy on file) which now reads ‘and’, with the amended ordinance having ‘or’.

Dog trainer, Chris Morell, stated that he deals with a lot of the cases in which owners are having difficulty obtaining a surety bond. He discussed: personally contacting agencies, but has had no success in finding an agency to provide a surety bond; dogs bites which is no indication that the dog is aggressive, adding that often the owner’s management is at fault, but with proper training, animals can be ‘reprogrammed’. He stated that his proposal is to discuss guidelines to include in the ordinance, such as ordering the dog to attend a training facility and the owner having to attend handler’s school/training to learn how to manage the dog. He said he agrees that dogs should be contained behind a locked fence, signs posted, as well as an interior kennel inside the yard and suggested that with the current ordinance requiring a surety bond, it sets owners up for failure. He discussed other dogs currently being held at the Humane Society, adding that he spent time with them and knows that they are fine. The ordinance imposes conditions too difficult for owners to comply with.

Animal Control Officer Sherman Capers referred to the ordinance, which he is certain that when it was passed, the issue had been thoroughly researched and did not place unobtainable requirements on citizens, adding that when cases go to court, Judge Weaver requires the bond.

Commissioner Warbington noted that within the past nine years, there have been only nine dangerous dog hearings; since this is the ninth one, he asked if any issues surfaced with the other eight hearings. Officer Capers explained that one was returned to the owner, who complied with requirements and, other than the current case, those dogs were euthanized. Commissioner Warbington advised that he just Googled ‘dangerous dogs surety bonds’ with five companies coming up; he asked Ms. James if she had looked on-line and/or outside of Albany for a bond. Ms. James replied that she did, but when discussing the type of bond, she needed, unless she had the full amount in cash, they could not give her a bond due to the high liability. Most bonds can be obtained with monthly payments; however, with dangerous dogs they require \$30,000 up front. Commissioner Warbington mentioned medical

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bills incurred by the victim; work he missed; impact on his future; and the mauling permanently deforming the gentleman's leg. Ms. James stated that she does have liability insurance of \$100,000 on her dogs. Commissioner Warbington suggested that some of Ms. James statements are false because, it is possible to obtain a bond, although it is costly. He stated that he does not support changing the ordinance, rather, make it more challenging when a dog attacks a person and recommended not reducing the requirements regarding dangerous dogs.

Commissioner Langstaff noted that the draft ordinance in the packet states that 'insurance and surety bond will be an amount equal to the minimum required under State law', adding that he searched Google, with the amount being \$50,000, which is not that much based on the damage a dog can cause. He asked Mr. Davis if the \$50,000 is correct; Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Langstaff stated that \$50,000 is low to be able to keep a dangerous dog and suggested that the City can put in any amount it wants to, it would not have to be the State minimum.

Commissioner Young asked the difference between insurance and a surety bond. Mr. Davis explained that someone injured by a dog can take direct action against the surety bond company itself. Commissioner Young asked who determines that a dangerous dog must be euthanized. Mr. Davis explained that Mr. Capers works with the Humane Society, which holds the dog until a decision is made. Commissioner Young asked Mr. Capers who decides whether to return the dog to the owner or have it euthanized. Mr. Capers stated that the Animal Control Board makes that decision.

Mr. Morrell stated that no one has evaluated the dog, suggesting that those who make the decision review the report, interview the victim and the owner, but they do not evaluate the dog for rehabilitation. He said he agrees with Mr. Capers that dogs that attack people should not be on the street; however, before a decision is made, a proper evaluation of the dog should be conducted. Commissioner Young suggested that the process needs to be reviewed regarding who makes the decision for the dog to be returned to the owner. Regarding the requirement of a surety bond, it appears that the City goes above and beyond State requirements.

Commissioner Warbington stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Morrell somewhat. Dr. Whatley, a respected, experienced veterinarian, is on the Animal Control Board; he and the Humane Society's Director and Manager all signed the report. Mr. Davis listed the people on the Board and discussed the hearing process.

Ms. James stated that the Humane Society is helping to have the dogs returned to her.

Mayor Dorough asked if staff at the Humane Society has indicated that the dogs are not dangerous; Ms. James replied in the affirmative.

Amanda Cox who had filed out a Citizen's Comment Form was not in attendance.

Mayor Dorough commented on the process (administrative or judicial) to determine when an animal should be euthanized, which is apparently made by the Animal Control Board. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Capers and the Humane Society work together to determine if an animal should be euthanized. Mayor Dorough asked that the process be explained within the next few weeks; Mr. Davis agreed. Mayor Dorough stated that there is no practical reason to require an insurance policy and a surety bond, adding that he has no problem with Commissioner Lanstaff's recommendation of requiring higher insurance, \$100,000 or any other proposed figure. He asked for the minutes from when the decision was made and noted that dogs are innately aggressive; however, there is no reason to make this

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counterproductive requirement, adding that most likely owners of pit bulls, Dobermans, Rottweilers, etc. throughout Albany carry no insurance at all and, they will not be deterred from owning those breed dogs but will forego carrying insurance. He stated that the current requirements are not reasonable; however, it is reasonable to increase the amount of the liability coverage and not require a surety bond.

Commissioner Young stated that more information on the breeds of dog is needed, adding that he feels that most owners are responsible and that it does not always come down to the breed of dog. Often, the dog's treatment and how their owners handle them is the root cause of the problem. He recommended handling the issue on a case-by-case basis and agreed with Mayor Dorough regarding the requirement of both liability insurance and a surety bond. He noted that it is a dangerous dog, not dangerous breed, ordinance and asked Mr. Morrell's input.

Mr. Morrell discussed stereotypes, i.e., pit bulls and Rottweiler having been deemed vicious animals, adding that he has owned both breeds. However, he has suffered more bites by Australian Shepherds and Chihuahuas than he has Rottweilers. He stated that his concern is ensuring that someone properly evaluates the dog on a case-by-case basis as recommended by Commissioner Young. He discussed containment of animals (concrete slab to prevent digging out, bolted down roof, etc.) in order to keep the animal and humans safe.

Commissioner Fuller asked if, to be classified as a dangerous dog, does the dog have to be involved in an incidence. Mr. Davis agreed, adding that is what lead to a police report, his office working with Mr. Capers, the dog owner being notified of the hearing, a hearing held with evidence being presented by both sides and the owner having a chance to cross-examine City witnesses and testify themselves. Commissioner Fuller clarified that whether it is a Rottweiler, Chihuahua, etc., the owner is only required to carry the insurance when there has been an incidence and a dog declared dangerous; Mr. Davis agreed.

Commissioner Warbington discussed the current ordinance regarding dangerous dog and potential dangerous dog, adding that a potentially dangerous dog has not been discussed. A potentially dangerous dog is defined as being any animal that endangers the safety of a human being; therefore, an incidence is not required for a dog to be determined potentially dangerous. Residents in the neighborhood were concerned about the dogs before the attack happened and, had they reported their fear to the proper authorities, a hearing would have been held and the dogs would have been determined to be dangerous then. He mentioned that the ordinance also states that dogs which are constantly tethered/chained are considered potentially dangerous dogs; the intent is to prevent injuries.

Regarding state law, Commissioner Langstaff stated that it dropped the surety bond requirement and only lists liability insurance of \$50,000, basically causing our ordinance to have an impossible reference. He added that it further requires a surety bond in an amount equal to the minimum required under State law; however, there is no minimum required under State law. He cited the Code section and asked that Mr. Davis look at the current law to revise our ordinance. As mentioned by Mayor Dorough, he suggested requiring only insurance; and if that is not done, an amount would have to be listed for a surety bond. He suggested going up on the insurance instead of the 'minimal amount required under State law', adding that Commerce, Georgia requires insurance of \$1.0 million, which is not to say we would require that amount, but it's being done.

Commissioner Young agreed with Commissioner Langstaff regarding removal of the surety bond requirement and increasing the insurance amount and said he thinks that Ms. James never said that she

was unable to pay for the surety bond, but that no company would offer her a surety bond for her situation. He referred to Commissioner Warbington's statement regarding tethering dogs making them potentially dangerous and suggested that it seems more appropriate to enact a dangerous owner ordinance.

Mayor Dorough noted that there is an ordinance prohibiting tethering a dog; any owner doing that to a dog all day is not a responsible owner. He added that the intent of the ordinance is to ensure someone attacked by a vicious dog is provided compensation and noted that insurance is not required until a dog attacks someone.

PACE BUILDING RENOVATION

Assistant City Manager Stephen Collier provided a brief background regarding the purchase of the Pace Building (copy on file), to relocate the Wellness Clinic. He briefly discussed deterioration of the mobile clinic currently housing staff, which necessitated them moving to another building. The building the City purchased is 7,000 sq. feet, much more space than needed for the clinic; therefore, the decision was made to also house HR and Risk Management there. He referred to the letter from David Maschke regarding life safety and ADA compliance issues, which resulted in a meeting with him and the architectural firm designing the building. He noted that a representative from the firm is on the call today. He explained that through the City's policy regarding Professional Services, the City was able to choose the firm without going through the bidding process, adding that the same policy has been used to contract with local architects and other professionals. He advised that Carlton Russell (Fire Department), and Alan Posey (CAA Inspections), Don Gray, Director, and Tripp Swilley, Superintendent, (Facilities Management) are on the line. He said that the meeting resulted in the plans being revised and explained that the Commission approved the purchase of the building but capped the purchase and renovations at \$1.0 million, adding that the cap prevents cutting window frames into the concrete.

Central Services Director Yvette Fields stated that she is available to answer questions.

David Maschke, AIA, Maschke Associates, mentioned the two letters he sent, along with 18 attachments and stated that his first issue is, whenever possible, the City should support local businesses. He commented on the Professional Services policy which does not require any specialized expertise and that it could have gone to one of four local architects, however, the City did not contact them, but rather retained a firm that is 108 miles away. He mentioned the bidding of partial packages, as well as completing the rest of the work and asked if the City is going to self-perform or issue no-bid purchase orders, which raises the question as to how the City is supporting local businesses. Regarding his second issue, he commented on the plan's specification regarding details, Code compliance, life-safety code, ADA acceptability, etc., which is more significant than just a change of a 'few inches here or there'. He mentioned a two-page email he sent to Building Inspection outlining some, but not all, of the issues and questioned the City obtaining a permit for the building's plans, in light of all issues needing correction, and acting as its own general contractor, which he construes as being a conflict of interest, which puts the City in competition with contractors/subcontractors. He stated that his third issue has to do with the design of the space that will house City employees, i.e., the building being too large for the initial purpose, the subsequent decision to house two other departments there, with the space now being too small, no natural light, poor flow, inadequate parking, etc., factors having a negative effect on employees. The fourth issue is a budget that cannot cover the entire project, even with a reduced scope of work, such as putting off a new roof for five years. He said that several

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packages for construction have been bid, with other portions not being bid and the City apparently self-performing as much as possible. He stated that his request to the Commission is 1) conduct a thorough analysis of the intent of this project to determine the true cost, with a two-three member committee assigned to this task; 2) evaluate the value of moving the departments and taking on another facility to maintain; 3) consider placing a two-week moratorium on this project, freeze all existing purchase orders and review/report on the plans and specifications by an independent, knowledgeable third party; code review of the building's plan specifications by an independent, code-knowledgeable plan reviewer; the procurement process for design services, construction bids, construction work that has not been bid should be investigated to ensure City policy is being followed, and if so, maybe City policy should be revised to emphasize utilization of all businesses at all available opportunities. Further, a complete valid construction cost estimate for the project be developed immediately by a qualified individual to establish the true cost of the work indicated on the specifications and the additional work and anticipated corrective change orders. While there will be a small cost if his recommendations are implemented, the savings to the City and taxpayers will be significant.

Mr. Collier mentioned the concern regarding life-safety and ADA issues and advised that Messrs. Russell and Posey are the ones who reviewed the plans and were in the conversation with Mr. Maschke last week. It is his understanding that it is not uncommon to have these type issues and to correct them during the construction process.

Mr. Russell mentioned an email sent to the State Fire Marshal and ADA Coordinator, referring to line four, Mr. Maschke stated that he and Inspector Posey asked for his help; however, they did not ask for his help with any issues. In a meeting with Mr. Maschke, Mr. Collier, Mr. Posey and himself, the issues Mr. Maschke brought to their attention, they agreed that they were small corrections and could be fixed. The issues he found wrong are easy fixes and will not take \$100,000 to correct. Mr. Posey agreed with Mr. Russell and discussed the building review conducted by Jeremy Head, the involvement of Code Enforcement; the finding of minimal items needing correction; and revision of plan review because of change orders, but at this point he does not know what changes will be necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked Mr. Collier if the roof needs replacing now instead of five years. Mr. Collier replied in the negative and explained that prior to purchasing any building, the City has an assessment conducted. An assessment by Edifice determined that there is moisture penetration; however, the roof is not leaking, and it probably has another five-seven years of life. Staff is determined to abide by the commitment of staying within the \$1.0 million cap. Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked Mr. Maschke the name of the out-of-town firm the City contracted with and why did he recommend a moratorium. Mr. Maschke replied that SP Design from Macon is the architectural firm and explained that he recommended the moratorium so that the project can be evaluated, to get a handle on what is happening purchase/budget wise and to determine if the intent of the project is being met for the \$1.0 million being spent, as well as the extent of the work being performed by the City. He mentioned budget tracking in the project which raises concern about line items, which he addressed in the second letter he sent. He explained that it shows a contingency of \$14,000, but it does not show what the City has spent over the last 2½ months regarding City staff's work in the building. He stated that \$8,000 has been spent on demolition, but that is not reflected in the budget tracking, with more demolition since then. A supervisor is there all day/every day and all those things need to be accounted for to give a true picture of the budget and if it is being maintained.

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Mr. Collier stated that the City does support local businesses, adding that construction of the Public Works crew quarters is underway now and the City contracted the services of a local architectural firm, OGM. A local firm conducted the structural analysis and all contractors working on the Pace Building are local except for one trade. He explained that the design firm had been used to evaluate properties the City purchased over the last few years and during a discussion with one of the principals, he learned they employ an architect, with the firm having a lot of experience in the medical industry. Ms. Subadan accepted his recommendation to contract with the firm, which is in line with policy and is not illegal; in fact, the City has contracted with Mr. Maschke using the same process. He discussed Risk Management being housed at Lily Pond and the need for their relocation.

Commissioner Fuller briefly discussed the purchase of the Pace Building and why the Commission capped the entire project at \$1.0 million. He said that he takes responsibility for steering City staff in the direction of the City handling the project in-house, adding that by project standards, it is a small project and the idea of City staff doing interior renovations seemed a viable option. He agreed with Mr. Maschke that a committee is a good idea and for the Commission to be involved on a regular basis adding that he is a licensed Georgia contractor and would be happy to head that meeting. He discussed the Wellness Clinic being housed in a mobile structure, which he feels getting them moved soon is a priority.

Commissioner Warbington stated ‘nepotism’ best describes his analogy; Messrs. Russell and Posey work with the very people they make rulings against, which is an unfair position for them to be in. It is inherent for people to show favoritism and he wants everyone to be treated equally and fairly. He used the example of a citizen and City staff submitting the exact same set of plans, with the citizen’s being denied and the City’s approved. He agreed with Mr. Maschke that an independent party to make rulings would help eliminate gray areas and stated that he is also a licensed general contractor and wants to be treated fairly and equitably. He asked the number of employees being relocated from Lily Pond and the Government Center. Managing Director (HR/Risk Management) Veronica Wright, stated that there will be a total of 19 employees; she briefly discussed issues with Risk being housed at Lily Pond and the benefits of relocating. A brief discussion ensued regarding vacant office space and having someone to hold responsible for any mistakes/violations/etc.

Mayor Dorough asked the number of firemen who have worked on construction projects over the past five years. Mr. Colliers stated that City firefighters donated their time to work on Thornton Gym. Mayor Dorough clarified that no City firemen worked on City/private projects on City-time. Mr. Russell stated that no City firemen have worked on private projects; in addition to the City’s Thornton Gym project, they have worked on City buildings, such as their own quarters. In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Posey stated that he is employed by Charles Abbott Associates, which has a City contract to provide building and safety services to the City (planning review, permitting issuance and building inspection). Mayor Dorough asked if he has cited the City for any violations/deficiencies; Mr. Posey replied that he cannot recall any. Mayor Dorough asked that he confirm that information. Regarding new Commissioners, Mayor Dorough stated that they have been totally left in the dark regarding this project for the past seven months, but yet three years from now, they will be held responsible for the building. They have not been involved in any of the steps on the project and it needs to stop. He mentioned Mr. Maschke’s point of evaluating the rationale behind moving departments and he said he realizes there have been conflicts with the amount the County charges the City for rent in this building and there are floors/office space that are vacant now. He said that he feels the 19 employees from Risk could have been moved into the Government Building by now and asked the reason for the mass migration from the Government Building. He suggested that it is unfair that the County charge the

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City rent since it was paid out of SPLOST money. However, we do not need to be pursuing construction when we have available space in this building. If there is some compelling reason that we should vacate the property, the Commission needs to be advised of it. Personally, he said he feels the City should not be self-performing since there are remedies available to protect the City in the event contractors are not performing as expected. He asked who the City will hold responsible for issues that arise, adding that he is concerned about rumors claiming that City employees have declared that certain vendors will not get any City business, as well as those submitting bids being advised that contracts need to be under \$90,000.00, which seems to have the intent to circumvent the Commission's involvement in this project. He mentioned the backward approach of having a budget before plans and the specialized needs of a medical facility and recommended suspension of construction before spending any further funds, with the Commission gaining an understanding of what the project is, the scope and justification of the project, etc. Rather than a moratorium, he suggested going back to square one, looking at the whole project and contracting the project out.

Commissioner Fuller reported that currently renovations are in the range of \$600,000 and mentioned Mayor Dorough's concern of having a designated, responsible party for things going awry. He advised that each subcontractor will have a contract with the City and will be required to perform and will be held liable for any issues with the work they perform. Naturally, any issues caused by City staff will fall on the City.

Mayor Dorough countered that being properly designed before commencing construction is paramount to any structure. Commissioner Fuller agreed and stated that any life-safety issues need to be addressed first before moving forward with the project, if the project is moved forward.

Commissioner Warbington mentioned that he has not seen any estimates on parking, which appears to be expanded over to Flint Avenue with parking wells being available, adding that he is unsure of any agreement with the church and if they are being compensated. He asked the cost of parking plans, safety of the parking plan, and parking arrangement with the church and mentioned Mr. Maschke's request regarding an independent Code person and asked staff to have that ready for the Commission to review.

Commissioner Young asked for information on the procurement process, as, he, too, has heard through the rumor mill about nepotism, favoritism, etc.

Commissioner Warbington explained that he used the term nepotism as an illustration of the conflict for someone managing a family member and being lenient and/or tend to overlook mistakes, etc. His intent was to show that one department, which has the power to approve/deny work of others in the organization may be more relaxed in the process for a sister department than they would be for someone outside the organization. And on the other hand, it has the possibility of creating tension/conflicts among departments, which should be avoided as well.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Collier stated that Commissioner Warbington requested a look at an independent review of cost, cost of the parking plan and copy of the procurement policy; he then discussed current parking.

Mayor Dorough recommended making an arrangement with the church if we are using their parking lot. He asked for a list of City departments and employees which have been relocated within the last five-ten years out of this building, as well as rent payment the City paid the County in 2000, 2005,

2010, 2015 and this year and suggested that when City departments began moving from this building, it would have benefitted the County to reevaluate the City's payment terms.

Mr. Collier referenced Mayor Dorough's comments about 'needing plans' and clarified that the City has plans and different grids on whether those plans cover all ADA and life-safety between Mr. Maschke and SP, adding that SP has come back and agreed that Mr. Maschke made some valid points and that he received revised plans yesterday.

Mayor Dorough countered that it cannot be said that we are not going to spend more than a \$1.0 million without first having plans. He explained that he is not saying they do not have plans, just that the approach to the project put the cart before the horse. Referring to parking at Friendship Baptist Church, Mr. Collier advised that compensation has been offered to the church but was refused; most of their parking needs are on weekends, but the conversation is being opened back up with the church. He briefly discussed plans regarding parking, on-line utility payment options for customers, etc.

VARIOUS CITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There was no discussion on this item.

SURETY BOND REQUIRED BY CITY CODE SEC. 10-164 (a) (DANGEROUS DOG)

(Refer to Speaker Appearance Form)

PUBLIC FUNCTION MATTERS

2020 CENSUS UPDATE

Planning and Development Services Director Paul Forgey stated that he is chairman of the Albany/Dougherty Complete Count Committee, which has met for at least the past year, discussing ways to improve local response to the census. Referring to the PowerPoint (copy on file) he discussed the information as well as: events to raise awareness, campaigns (each person calling ten people, who call ten people, and so forth).

Mayor Pro Tem Howard noted that Commissioners will meet two more times before August 11 when Census Enumerators begin in-person counts and recommended that Mr. Forgey attend those meetings to reemphasize the importance of getting numbers up. He added that better advertising is necessary, with more PSA's and any other means to get this information to the public.

Commissioner Fuller agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Howard that increased marketing will help increase numbers.

Commissioner Young commended Mr. Forgey and the Committee for their efforts. He agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Howard and Commissioner Fuller regarding use of technology to get information out and urged citizens to respond and help raise numbers.

Mayor Dorough commented on the homeless population needing to be counted, which can be through posted notices (Salvation Army, community services feeding the homeless, etc.). He referred to Mayor Pro Tem Howard's comment regarding undocumented aliens, who are reluctant to comply and participate., adding that they have nothing to fear since the information is not available to the public for either 62 or 72 years; they are completely immune to any kind of prosecution. He suggested that those in the community whom they trust could help persuade them to comply, adding that college students need to be properly counted as well.

Mr. Forgey advised that masks with the census logo can be distributed and used as advertising.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MATTERS

PURCHASES

Yvette Fields, Central Services Director, stated that Chief Persley will discuss information (copy on file) regarding the following purchase:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | Motorola/Watch Guard I Integrated Camera Systems; | |
| | Total exp. | \$840,000.00 |

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Ms. Fields stated that the purchase was not bid, it was purchased through State contract, which is the bid and explained the state bidding process.

APD Chief Persley stated that Chris Mauser, Watch Guard will discuss the information.

Mr. Mauser reported that Watch Guard was purchased by Motorola Solutions last year, adding that Watch Guard is the leading in-car camera manufacturer for law enforcement. He then reviewed the information (copy on file) and discussed benefits of the cameras.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Howard, Chief Persley explained that the cameras will be installed next month and that all officers must be trained prior to using the cameras. Training will start next month and, he expects they will be fully operational by the first of October. ADDU will not be equipped with the cameras since that unit is a separate entity; however, the Gang Unit, as part of uniformed patrol, will be equipped with the cameras.

In reply to Commissioner Fuller, Mr. Mauser named Georgia cities already using the cameras (Acworth, Canton, Carrollton, Dougherty County PD, Douglasville PD, entire fleet of Georgia State Patrol, etc.). This platform is a reiteration of the 2012 platform and have been used since 2018 (in-car camera); this version of the body camera has been out since May.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if any of the Drug Unit uses cameras. Chief Persley replied in the affirmative, stating that Watch Guard has been the vendor for the Drug Unit for approximately ten years.

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Commissioner Warbington asked if the cameras record in real time. Mr. Mauser stated that the in-car camera does have live-streaming capability, but the body worn camera does not have the same capability.

Commissioner Langstaff asked if Georgia State Patrol has other capabilities with their cameras that ours will not have and, is it better technology or the same package. Mr. Mauser explained that GSP uses the same technology in the vehicle regarding in-car cameras, they do not have body-worn cameras, so there is a different setup and explained Albany's hands-free download of recordings.

Commissioner Young questioned support staff administering the system. Mr. Mauser stated that every city is different, and it is difficult to determine since it comes down to requests from the City. He listed a number of features the camera has (redact faces, personal information, etc.). Chief Persley commented on Open Record Requests and stated that there are two people in his department (Records Clerk and an officer over Special Operations), adding that with this technology, the number of people involved will be minimal; he discussed the streamlined efficiency of the technology. Commissioner Young asked if his department is working with Mr. Davis to ensure compliance with requirements of the State of Georgia regarding monitoring of the video systems. Chief Persley explained that once a policy has been drafted, Mr. Davis will review to ascertain any legal barriers, as well as career requirements (best practices) using the video system. Commissioner Young asked if the Citizens Review Board is connected to APD. Chief Persley replied that it is but has not been active for some time; however, intentions are to get it reactivated. Regarding citizens, he advised that a policy will spell out how to approach recording incidents, adding that some citizens object to having officers come into their residence with cameras. He mentioned cameras being an incentive for officers to act according to policy, be accountable and on their best behavior.

Mayor Dorough expressed concern that ADDU is using a different type technology, especially regarding 'no knock' entry. Chief Persley explained that any disciplinary actions for officers in ADDU will fall to the parent department (APD, DCP and Sheriff's office), and assured Mayor Dorough that he will take his recommendation to the Board that any time a no knock entry is necessary, officers will already have the camera in use.

Mayor Dorough mentioned that it appears we are going past noon and suggested repealing the ordinance requiring a motion to go beyond noon.

Commissioner Warbington moved to extend the meeting until 1:00 if needed, seconded by Mayor Dorough. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Howard, he modified his motion to go to 12:15 p.m. Following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Field discussed the following purchase (copy on file), with Dougherty County paying 36% of the expense:

2.	Microsoft Software Licensing, Enterprise Agreement		
		Total expenditure	\$298,082.34

Mayor Dorough noted the different amounts in the presentation for the first and third years. Ms. Fields explained that a block of licenses was left off when the agenda item was submitted, with the new numbers adjusted and presented June 28.

ALBANY HUMANE SOCIETY

Chief Persley stated that the City has been working off the previous contract with the Humane Society, adding that due to cost expenditures the contract has been increased by \$56,000.00 from the last contract. He stated that Mr. Davis has worked with their attorney on the terms of the contract. Mr. Davis advised that the amount of the contract, not the terms, changed.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Howard, Mr. Davis explained that this contract is only between the City and Humane Society, adding that he is unsure if animals outside Dougherty County are accepted at the Humane Society. Mr. Capers explained that the Humane Society takes the license of those surrendering an animal, but the City is not charged for those animals.

In response to Commissioner Fuller, Chief Persley agreed that the expense went up due to an increase in expenses and taking in more animals.

Commissioner Warbington noted a section regarding Dangerous Dogs, in which an animal turned over to the Humane Society becomes their property, as discussed earlier today, he questioned whether a dog deemed to be dangerous can be adopted and if the insurance/surety bond follows the animal. Chief Persley advised that primarily the Humane Society decides what happens with most animals; however, a dangerous dog takes a different course. The Humane Society and Animal Control Board will discuss and decide and then there are situations in which a court-order has been issued. Most dogs deemed dangerous are euthanized, with APD monitoring those cases.

Mayor Dorough asked if this should have been brought to the Commission during budget discussions. Chief Persley replied in the affirmative; however, arriving at a comparable agreement resulted in the delay. Mayor Dorough asked if the City is statutorily responsible; Mr. Davis agreed. Mayor Dorough noted that if that is the case, the City must ensure that the Humane Society complies with Open Record Requests; Mr. Davis agreed. Referring to the contract, the payments will now be paid monthly rather than quarterly as paid in the past. Mayor Dorough asked who collects fees when animals are reclaimed by their owners; Mr. Capers explained that the Humane Society collects all funds. Mayor Dorough stated that paying a 25% increase, the City has the right to know how much revenue they generate from collected fees and asked that this information be provided.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mayor Dorough stated that Finance Director Derrick Brown will discuss the millage rate. Mr. Brown advised that the certified digest was not available before putting the agenda together for this meeting but that it will be on the June 28th agenda. He briefly discussed the proposed millage rate, adding that the City has the option of rolling back the millage rate (sixth consecutive year), which is the recommendation. He stated that if rolled back, the City must advertise the five-year history seven days in advance; an ad was placed in the *Albany Herald* last Sunday, as well as being posted on the City's website. However, if not rolled back, it basically equates to a .63% tax increase, which requires three public hearings. There were no questions/comments on this matter.

Mayor Dorough stated that there is an update from Augusta University regarding antibody testing. AFD Chief Cedric Scott advised that a Coronavirus Taskforce Sub-committee (City Manager Sharon Subadan, Dougherty County Administrator Michael McCoy, School Superintendent Ken Dyer, as well as Phoebe Putney Health Systems President/CEO Scott Steiner and himself) was formed and explained

that antibody testing is a blood test which detects those who have been previously infected with COVID-19. He listed the pros of being tested, which is vital in developing a vaccine and advised that the proposed cost is \$162,000 which will be split among the City, County and School Board (approximately \$54,000/each; \$144,000 for the test and \$18,000 for travel/lodging/meals). He introduced Mallery Myers, Augusta University Vice President and Innovation Officer, who is on the call today to address questions.

Ms. Myers stated that Chief Scott covered everything, and she welcomes questions/comments.

Mayor Dorough noted discussion of the possibility of Augusta University coming back in six months, which is not included in this proposal. Ms. Myers advised that a follow-up is possible; however, it is not included in this proposal. Mayor Dorough asked Chief Scott if the School Board has voted on this; Chief Scott replied that he will have to ask Mr. Dyer, adding that he was present at the County Commission yesterday and the item was approved by the Commissioners.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked that Mr. Forgey give a census update on the 28th. He mentioned a concert held at the Dragstrip last Saturday night and asked how a permit was obtained, adding that it was in the County; Mr. Collier stated that he will look into it.

Commissioner Young mentioned the Governor's order to limit public gatherings to 50 attendees and asked if it is a suggestion and not a regulation now. Mayor Dorough stated that he was under the impression that it was a condition of the order and is still in effect. Commissioner Young stated that the information given to him, other than suggestions the Governor has been making, most everything is back open and the venues are free to host whatever event they want in terms of occupancy limits. He stated that he wants it to be clear regarding what the Governor's order allows and what the Commission asks, so that individuals are not branded as 'letting this stuff happen'. Mayor Dorough stated that his understanding is that no more than 50 people can gather unless social distancing is maintained. However, if it is just a recommendation, this information must be disseminated to citizens that as a local government, the City Commission cannot control this type gathering.

Mayor Dorough stated that he would like to repeal the ordinance that prevents City Commission meetings from going past 12:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

SISSY KELLY
ASST. CITY CLERK