

JUNE 23, 2020

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

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
City Commissioners: BJ Fletcher, Chad Warbington and Demetrius Young
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pastor John Spencer, Sherwood Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dorough confirmed the attendance of those on the virtual conference call with City Manager Sharon Subadan and Commissioner Matt Fuller present.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard and, following a roll call, the motion unanimously carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Alcohol License Applications re Hearing:

1. 2 Chicks & A Team LLC, d/b/a Eastside Mini Mart; 1209 E. Residence Ave; L. Taylor/Agent; Beer Package

In response to Mr. Davis, Marshal Walter Nathaniel Norman stated his name, job title and advised that he has held the position for the past 16 years. He said prior to that (1996-2003) he was a police officer with the Albany Police Department; he is POST-certified, and he has held his certification continuously with no interruptions. Mr. Davis asked if he handled the alcohol license for 1209 E. Roosevelt; Marshal Norman replied in the affirmative. Mr. Davis advised that he wants to establish that Marshal Norman's testimony is based on personal knowledge, through a visit to the location and assuring that criteria set out in the license application process was being followed and that it is not based on someone else's report to him. He asked Marshal Norman if he personally went to the site; Marshal Norman replied in the affirmative and, in response to Mr. Davis, Marshal Norman discussed the route he took to the establishment. Mr. Davis asked if it is a fair statement that it is a residential neighborhood; Marshal Norman agreed. Mr. Davis asked if standing in front of the location at 1209, it is all residential going north until getting to the businesses adjacent to the bypass; Marshal Norman replied in the affirmative. Mr. Davis asked if going in the other direction it is residential until reaching the businesses at Clark Avenue; Marshal Norman replied that is a fair statement. Mr. Davis referred to proximity rules set out in the application process, asking if that is something he checks as part of his job and did he do that in this instance; Marshal Norman replied in the affirmative. Marshal Norman briefly discussed the requirements regarding proximity to churches and schools and the points from which they measured for this application. Mr. Davis asked if the measurements passed muster; Marshal Norman replied in the affirmative and discussed reviewing other establishments in close proximity to the location. Mr. Davis asked if both establishments are on Clark Avenue, a commercial street. Marshal Norman agreed, adding that there are some scattered residences on Clark Avenue. He explained that the public was notified that the application would be coming before the Commission in ads published in the local organ for three consecutive days, ten days prior to the meeting. After checking the applicant and location, it was ascertained that both met requirements established by local ordinance and the State of Georgia. Mr. Davis mentioned that the City Code book discusses the discretion of City Commissioners, the elected officials, asking Marshal Norman if he gets involved in that at all; Marshal Norman replied in the negative. Mr. Davis noted that Marshal Norman makes site visits but does not get into the residential neighborhood that appears to occupy the bulk of the property. Marshal Norman replied in the negative, explaining the review process goes through zoning, police and fire departments and the City Attorney's office, adding that he only looks at the facts.

Ms. Taylor noted the timeframe in which the store did have an alcohol license and commented on putting a lot of work into the store, adding that she wants an opportunity to offer all merchandise to the community. She stated that she and her brother work from nine to nine, adding that the small percentage of the sale of alcohol would be a tremendous help to maintain the store. She stated that she has customers in wheelchairs and on crutches who appreciate the convenience and want her to

JUNE 23, 2020

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

stay. She needs to be able to sell what the public wants; adding that she is regulated by the State, will follow all regulations and is a responsible person.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked Marshal Norman if he can verify that this site was established in the 1940's and predates the 1970's zoning code. Marshal Norman replied that to his recollection, that is correct.

Commissioner Warbington asked Ms. Taylor the impact that having the alcohol license would have on foot-traffic at her store. She stated that some people walk in, see her empty coolers, realize she has no beer and leave. She doesn't anticipate getting rich, but when someone comes into the store, they should not leave empty-handed; it is an item customers want and ask for. She advised Commissioner Warbington that she would not allow onsite consumption or out in the street, she will abide by all rules/regulations and is willing to manage it. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Marshal Norman stated that approximately one-third of the houses/lots around the store is vacant and people congregating at the vacant lots falls under the normal patrol of the police department. He stated that the area is residential, other than this one establishment, which has been there for many years.

Commissioner Young asked Marshal Norman the economic status of this neighborhood. Marshal Norman replied that it is more of a low-income neighborhood with residential occupancy. Commissioner Young questioned Albany Police Department Chief Persley regarding the type of calls his department responds to that pertains to crime in the area. Chief Persley explained that they are mainly quality of life and domestic-related incidents. A few blocks away, the Drug Unit has made arrests when conducting raids on liquor houses and, there have been a few gatherings, but to-date nothing has gotten out of control. Referring to Commissioner Warbington's question regarding people congregating at vacant lots, he advised that they are not allowed to do that, and it is strictly enforced. Commissioner Young asked if there is an issue with gangs in the area; Chief Persley stated that drug and illegal alcohol sales are the main issues.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the type of products sold in the store. Ms. Taylor stated that she has owned a chain of stores and has a lot of experience, adding that the drug issue there is not caused by residents in the neighborhood; those who live there are hardworking people.

At this time, (6:36 p.m.), Commissioner Langstaff joined the conference call.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard mentioned being in the area this afternoon and stated that it is a depressed area, needing the City to take action soon. Another store selling beer is not an enhancement and only serves to drive homeowners out. Ms. Taylor countered that a lady across the street has lived there for 15 years and despite the economic status, almost everyone is a hard-worker and suggested that they are happy to have the establishment there. Many of them will not patronize the other stores because of price-gouging, etc., issues. She said she feels that she has been a positive influence, especially on the youth, adding that she has never faced the issues in Florida, where she opened several businesses, that she has here.

Commissioner Fuller commended Ms. Taylor for being a small business owner and said he is pro-business, adding that he has wrestled with this issue and does not feel it is in the best interests of the neighborhood to have a business selling beer among the residences.

Commissioner Fletcher mentioned the money Ms. Taylor has spent, and because the location has always had a beer license, saw no reason to be concerned. However, the Commission now is focused on looking at the locations of where alcohol can be sold., adding that Ms. Taylor has followed all requirement and that she hopes Ms. Taylor can get four votes to be approved.

Commissioner Warbington referenced comments made by Commissioner Fuller being accurate, adding that he witnessed five-six kids coming out when he went to the store. He suggested that the general character of the neighborhood will change once alcohol can be sold there and that the perspective of those kids will change if alcohol is readily available.

Commissioner Young commended Ms. Taylor for investing her hard-earned money in the store and bringing a service to the community and assured her that the focus she has will allow her to be

JUNE 23, 2020

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

prosperous and make money. He discussed the effects of selling alcohol in an area will reverse the benefit that she brings the community and urged her to not give up and to provide healthy snacks/food so that in the long run she will be profitable. He asked that she give the City of Albany an opportunity to help her grow her business as there are programs available to provide assistance.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the application was denied 1-6 with Mayor Dorough voting yes.

WORK AGREEMENT RE: CITY MANAGER

Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fuller.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R132

Authorizing execution of Employment Agreement with Sharon D. Subadan as City Manager

A brief discussion followed with Mayor Pro Tem Howard commenting on the contract and Ms. Subadan stating that she feels it is a good contract and things will continue in the usual fashion, based on the direction of the Board.

Commissioner Warbington stated that the Commission is directed by the citizens and, those directions and priorities are put on the City Manager to execute. He mentioned the high volume of calls he received about this hot topic. The citizens of Albany are owed clarity regarding pay, benefits, the feedback process and priorities. He stated that having a clear path of how to start, continue and stop with the City Manager, are included in the work agreement. From experience, he suggested that ambiguity between employer/employees is not productive; however, this contract provides clarity for, and should prevent, any ambiguity there has been over the past few years.

Commissioner Young stated that out of professional courtesy, this contract is appropriate. The role of the City Manager, steered by political interest can change immediately, and they need to have security when those winds blow. He explained that his vote is not indictive of any gauge he has of the City Manager's performance; she has worked for two years without a contract and, it is proper and professional to approve this contract. She has the right to know where she stands and what is expected of her.

Commissioner Warbington noted that the Commission discussed a formal performance evaluation, adding that the City Manager has not been formally evaluated in her five years with the City and he looks forward to that.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

ORDINANCES

Commissioner Fletcher introduced

ORDINANCE NO. 20-108

Adopting Budget and Appropriations for the period July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021

Commissioner Fletcher then offered the ordinance and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

Mayor Dorough recognized Finance Director Derrick Brown to discuss adoption of the fiscal year 2021 budget.

Mr. Brown stated that the budget reflects revisions recommended by Commissioners and the request is to adopt the budget of \$289,828,612 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

In reply to questions from Mayor Pro Tem Howard, Ms. Subadan advised that the budget reflects Code Enforcement becoming a stand-alone department, and that the budget also contains a 6% raise

JUNE 23, 2020

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

for police officers. Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked that the pay scale be looked at, being fair to lowest paid employees and how disheartened employees are when Ms. Subadan's executive team get bonuses and more lucrative raises than the average employee. He asked that she stop the gap and look at the 'little man' and suggested that Chief Persley ensure that all of Albany is patrolled including hot spots, adding without assertive and aggressive tactics, all areas will rapidly deteriorate.

Mayor Dorough echoed Mayor Pro Tem Howard's comment regarding disparity between people in management positions and employees on the line and its damage to moral. He stated that the City Commission appreciates what they do, adding that all employees up to Level 10 will receive a 2.5% raise. He mentioned a stagnant tax base and declining population affecting the financial status of this city, stating that something drastic is needed and ideas/proposals are welcomed by those wanting to move forward with Albany. He advised that enough funding was allocated to demolish 100 blighted properties and encouraged all citizens to report blighted commercial properties. He mentioned the raise that APD's officers are getting and assured firefighters that he supports evaluating that situation as soon as possible in the next fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard discussed the condition of Clark Avenue to Walmart and E. Broad Avenue, which need attention.

Commissioner Young mentioned emails from firefighters and clarified that the raise for APD's officers are to address a specific problem – attracting good recruits to APD. He said he has been assured by staff that firefighters will be taken care of once this issue has been resolved. He expressed concern regarding nothing being put toward economic development and urged focus on it and suggested that removing blight is a priority vacant lots must also be addressed in order to rebuild and move forward.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fletcher introduced for the second reading

ORDINANCE NO.

Amending Section 3(e) of the Charter of the City of Albany so as to reflect the current pay practice for the Mayor and Board of

Commissioner Fletcher then offered the ordinance and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Fuller.

Commissioner Warbington clarified that this merely changes the pay schedule of the Commission, adding that he received numerous calls regarding Commissioners voting themselves a raise/changing their pay, which is not the intent. The proposal is to change the Charter to reflect the current timing of Commissioners pay period.

Mayor Dorough discussed the pay of Commissioners as stated in the Charter and, when it was brought to the City Manager's attention, the recommendation was to change the Charter rather than abide by it. He suggested that the appropriate response is to reject the motion and for staff to follow the Charter.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Howard, Mr. Brown stated that the initial cost to make the change to pay the Commission on the first of the month is \$5,300 to make a programming change and \$700/annually thereafter.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington on whether to change the charter or leave as it, Mr. Davis advised that the Commission should change one or the other.

Commissioner Young commented on discussion at the retreat regarding the Commission reviewing the Charter and addressing problems within it and asked if the Commission is planning on following through with that. Mayor Dorough enumerated several structural issues in the Charter.

JUNE 23, 2020

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

Ms. Subadan explained that the reason staff did not move forward with the change to correct the pay of Commissioners, was due to it being a fundamental change. Staff was concerned about following the Charter as it would result in paying Commissioners in advance and she did not feel comfortable doing that on her own without Commission input.

Mayor Dorough stated that he has a problem with staff deciding when and how much this Board should be paid, especially when it is specifically spelled out in the Charter.

Commissioner Warbington agreed with Commissioner Young regarding having a review of the Charter and starting the process.

Commissioner Young concurred with Mayor Dorough's comments on staff not having the authority to disregard the 'constitution' (Charter) and, until the Commission decides to make changes, staff should follow established procedures.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote the motion failed 4-3 with Commissioners Fuller, Fletcher and Langstaff voting yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 20-109

Amending the City of Albany's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (re: Sewer)

Mayor Pro Tem Howard then offered the ordinance and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Mr. Brown explained that this action will amend the budget regarding the Constantine contract for expenditures made this year; the request is to amend the budget by \$1,222,556.00.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington regarding what the trigger is for bringing a budget amendment to the Commission, Mr. Brown explained that when expenditures have not been allocated in the budget process, a budget amendment is necessary. There was no funding allocated for this expenditure in the budget just adopted; it is rare and unique circumstances for budget amendments to be used. Commissioner Warbington stated that he prefers having these brought sooner than later and discussed the timing of the purchase order for Constantine and asked if there are funds to cover it. Mr. Brown advised it will be offset by the fund balance in the sewer fund and paid with those reserves.

Mayor Dorough noted that the contract has no limit on what Constantine can charge and questioned the recommendation being prudent or an accurate assessment of what needs to be done. This oversight is a dereliction of duty and must never happen again. He stated that he was not Mayor when this contract was entered into and he hopes that in the future, this Commission will be more responsible when entering into contracts and ensure that City funds are properly protected.

Commissioner Warbington stated that this is a challenging vote for him and that he will vote no. He mentioned two issues he hopes the City Manager and staff are able to correct 1) the Commission not being engaged in a \$1.6 million purchase boggles his mind; it is unacceptable to have never come back to the Commission and he expects it to never happen again; 2) not having a dollar amount budgeted for something this large. He discussed a new purchase order being issued 23 days into the year and directed that there be more budget amendments, sooner and more often to allow Commissioners to be engaged in the budget because fiduciary responsibilities fall on them

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Warbington voting no.

Mayor Dorough recommended that a day/weekend in the fall needs to be set aside for discussion; separating sanitary sewer/stormwater must be done, even with a daunting price tag, we must move forward.

JUNE 23, 2020

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

Mayor Pro Tem Howard introduced

ORDINANCE NO. 20-110

Amending the City of Albany's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (re: Engineering)

Mayor Pro Tem Howard then offered the ordinance and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Mr. Brown advised that this amendment is a result of damages caused by Hurricane Michael, i.e., to repair traffic signals and replace damaged signs. This was part of last year's budget amendment, but none of the expenditures were in before the end of the fiscal year; therefore, it is basically a duplicate of that amendment. He stated that the total of the two purchase orders are \$1,322,713.00 and qualifies for 75% reimbursement.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Dorough moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R133

A Joint City of Albany/Dougherty County Resolution requiring face coverings in City and County owned buildings

Mayor Dorough commented on the importance of this item as it relates to the COVID virus in our community, adding that this is a requirement, not a request. Members of the public who enter City/County building must wear a mask/face covering.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Howard regarding how irate customers will be dealt with if they refuse to cover their face and/or whether employees will call the police, a detailed discussion followed.

Mayor Dorough stated that he shares the same concern and asked Ms. Subadan to provide insight.

Commissioner Young noted that this is a resolution, not an ordinance and asked why the police would be summoned. Mayor Dorough clarified that this would not be binding like an ordinance. Mr. Davis agreed, explaining that defusing the situation in an appropriate manner is having the ability to call the police or manager of the building; there was no intent to make it a criminal action. Mayor Dorough asked if the resolution authorizes staff to compel the person to leave the premises, it would not be an arrestable offense; Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Subadan advised that it will be handled administratively; anyone refusing to wear a mask will be served in a different way. Regarding Mayor Dorough's inquiry regarding including penalties, she explained that the County adopted it as it was; therefore, it being a joint resolution those changes were not incorporated. She advised that if the situation becomes threatening or violent the police would have to be called. Mayor Pro Tem Howard explained his reason for asking relates to the three City gyms, which are frequented by many juveniles. If a young man gets belligerent with a female employee, she needs to know what she is expected to do. Ms. Subadan reiterated that it will be handled administratively and mentioned working through the details as gyms are reopened in Phase III.

Mayor Dorough stated that it was not his intent to ask for criminal penalties; his concern was to be prepared in the event someone was uncooperative and became belligerent when asked to leave the building.

Commissioner Fuller compared this to a facility posting a 'No Smoking' sign; it is not a criminal offense. It is an organizational policy and any violations results in a manager dealing with the situation; if that does not resolve the matter, then police are called in.

JUNE 23, 2020

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

A brief discussion ensued on social distancing and maintaining the required six feet separation.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Dorough moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R134

Authorizing a new one-year Management Agreement re: the Parks at Chehaw between the City of Albany, Georgia and the Chehaw Park Authority

Assistant to the City Manager Barry Brooks discussed the contract, the allocation of \$822,000 to assist Chehaw with operations, and requirements Chehaw must meet.

Hearing no further comments and following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Langstaff voting no.

Commissioner Warbington moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Young.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R135

Accepting Easement Agreements from Dougherty County, Georgia re: Monroe St. Connector Trail

Engineering Director Bruce Maples briefly discussed the acceptance of the easement in association with the Arbor Day planting and irrigation installation, which is where the old National Guard Armory was located.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Warbington moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R136

Accepting Sewer Dedication and Easement Agreements for Woodlands Albany, LP re: Woodland Apartments

Mr. Maples discussed the acceptance of the two easements, which gives the City the right to maintain and access sewers.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Warbington.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R137

Approving installation of traffic calming measures in the 3500 block of Wexford Drive;
Authorizing the use of TSPLOST for such measures

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, regarding the successful bidder and that in the past the tables were normally \$3,000.00 as opposed to these, which come out at \$4,200/each, Mr. Maples explained that conditions were placed on the bids requiring installation in a certain timeframe and a penalty for not meeting the deadline. Regarding the extra cost being worth the certainty of timing to have them installed, Mr. Maples explained the calls in the past when installation was prolonged for one reason or another, adding that the low bidder was Zane Grace Construction.

In reply to Mayor Dorough regarding a call he received pertaining to speed tables unable to be installed on E. Doublegate because it is a collector street, etc., as it pertains to not being defined as a collector street, Mr. Maples explained that the Federal Highway Administration of GDOT

JUNE 23, 2020

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

established the classifications for roadways within the city and the county, with a definition of streets included. Mayor Dorough said that a review of the policy is necessary, adding that he has asked Ms. Subadan to do a study to see if that stretch of E. Doublegate meets criteria.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R138

Approving the Albany Transit System Safety Plan

Transit Director David Hamilton briefly discussed the City's plan, which was developed in coordination with GDOT to meet all requirements. Ms. Subadan explained that the safety plan is a new requirement by FTA; to qualify for federal transit funds the City must adopt it.

Commissioner Youngs questioned the installation of barriers for bus drivers and discussed a recent situation with the front of the bus being empty, the mid-section taped off and passengers crammed into the back with no way to social distance themselves. Ms. Subadan advised that in approximately three weeks the barriers will be installed and in the interim, the tape can be moved forward to allow more distance between passengers. Mr. Hamilton explained that the tape is there to block an area for wheelchair bound passengers. Commissioner Young asked that it be looked at, there were far too many passengers in that space, forcing some to stand.

Mayor Dorough stated that covered seating at bus stops needs to be looked at and asked Mr. Hamilton to identify bus stops with the highest usage.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Dorough moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R139

Approving reallocation of SPLOST VII and TSPLOST funds; Authorizing the Finance Director to make appropriate adjustments in SPLOST VII and TSPLOST

Mr. Brown stated that one of this Board's priorities is recreation and this action would transfer \$900,000.00 from SPLOST for the Connector Trail to T-SPLOST, freeing up \$900,000 for recreation in SPLOST VII. He added that the second part is to also reallocate funding from the Airport building from traffic signs and traffic signal upgrades (\$2.1 million) to the recreation category. He explained that should collections fall short funding has been identified for one of the projects in T-SPLOST which would result in an additional \$3.0 million made available for recreational projects in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Fuller asked the timeline for the Barkley Extension. Mr. Brown replied that this will not affect the timing, but rather the funding source. Mr. Maples explained that regarding the roadway, the design of Barkley Extension is basically complete, an easement agreement is being negotiated with the owners, and will be brought for approval by this Board. Once the easement agreement is resolved, he will be able to provide a bid schedule.

Commissioner Warbington asked Mr. Brown the total cost of the Downtown Connector Trail. Mr. Brown replied that the original was approximately \$2.5 million. Commissioner Warbington mentioned the \$900,000 and asked why the entire amount was not moved. Mr. Brown explained that \$1.6 million was expended in the prior fiscal year and those funds could not be moved; at the time approximately \$900,000 remained.

Hearing no further comments and, following roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Dorough moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

JUNE 23, 2020

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

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R140

Rescinding the Self-Isolation Provisions contained in Section 1 of Resolution 20-R113

Mr. Davis stated that the purpose of the resolution is to bring the aforementioned in line with Governor Kemp's Executive Order, the shelter in place provision, which has been allowed to lapse. Mayor Dorough added that with the reopening of City buildings the resolution needed to be rescinded. He mentioned encouraging developments within the last few weeks, with Phoebe reporting few cases of COVID-19.

Hearing no further comments and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Warbington moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to request the Planning Commission to consider and/or recommend rezoning of a residential area between Dawson and Gillionville to the west of Slappey.

Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to approve the following purchase:

1. Facial Portal; Milestone Utility Services, Inc. Initial exp. \$225,000

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked the time that fireworks must cease; Chief Persley replied that they can go to midnight on New Year's and July 4th.

Commissioner Fletcher referred to the alcohol license application and noted that nothing on it would make Ms. Taylor think she would not be granted a license; if she had been in Ms. Taylor's place, she would have also sunk money into the venture. She suggested that it must be made clear to everyone seeking an alcohol license in a residential area, that the applicant could possibly be denied a license.

Commissioner Warbington mentioned delaying cut-off of utilities during the COVID crisis and briefly commented on the numbers from Mr. Collier and citizens he is helping bring their accounts current. He asked what can be considered by this Board or the Utility Board to help residential customers who are still struggling with their bills. Ms. Subadan explained the cut-off process that was resumed June 15 and a special HOPE account established by the Utility Board, which voted to allocate \$200,000 to assist up to 1,000 residential customers; South Georgia Community Action administers the HOPE account. Additionally, the Utility Board relaxed some of the eligibility criteria, with 1400 applications yesterday and approximately 800 approved. She discussed arrangements made for businesses to push out their payments for six months, but only a few taking advantage of this provision. Commissioner Warbington asked if the City is offering residential customers a payment plan to catch up. Ms. Subadan briefly discussed payment arrangement, with those customers being asked to uphold the arrangements to which they agreed on June 1; the City continues to work with those with special circumstances.

Commissioner Young agreed with Commissioner Warbington regarding utilities and briefly discussed the two items he wants on the next agenda 1) repeal the saggy pants ordinance; 2) make Juneteenth (June 19) a holiday in Albany as a marker to commemorate the contributions by African Americans to Albany. He thanked commissioners who attended events at the Juneteenth celebration last weekend and thanked Mayor Dorough for speaking, adding that action is expected to go with his words. Regarding the alcohol license process, he agreed with Commissioner Fletcher that it needs review and stated that he cannot understand how an applicant would believe that they are automatically approved. He reiterated past comments about limiting establishments selling alcohol and preventing their concentration in certain areas.

JUNE 23, 2020

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

Mayor Dorough stated that his agenda items are: bringing back the \$100,000 spending limit of the City Manager; staff to pursue electric vehicles charging stations; making the consent agenda more effective; improve accommodations at the recycling center (central air, running water, restrooms) for employees.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Howard, Ms. Subadan said that she anticipates reopening gyms after July 4th.

Commissioner Young thanked Ms. Subadan and City staff for keeping attendees safe at the Juneteenth events.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

ASST. CITY CLERK