

AUGUST 25, 2020

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

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

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Dr. Joshua Nelson, Pastor Emanuel Seventh-day Adventist 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, Commissioners Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher, and Bob Langstaff present.

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PACE BUILDING RENOVATION

Commissioner Fuller briefed the Commission on the current status/progress and advised that the Committee's recommendation is to move the City's server to the Pace Building, along with the clinic and Risk Management.

Commissioner Warbington asked the budget for the clinic; Ms. Subadan stated that with reworking the building, she does not have that answer at this time. Commissioner Warbington stated that he wants to move forward but prefers to know the budget first; he mentioned that \$90,000 was spent for engineering. Ms. Subadan explained that \$1.0 million was allocated for the server, with the engineering study helping to increase the total cost; costs for the clinic are slightly under \$1.0 million, adding that she is unsure if the Commission wants to hold off on the clinic until the server room is ready, which will be approximately three months. Commissioner Warbington stated that the intent is to only move on the clinic now. Ms. Subadan stated that she did not prepare to answer questions on the costs tonight and will have to bring that information back.

Facilities Director Don Gray stated that issues at the Pace Building are complicated; however, they are working on the redesign costs. Mayor Dorough referred to the fiber hut, stating that the developer of the Gordon Hotel needs an answer.

Ms. Subadan stated that engineering is being brought in and the developer of the Gordon Hotel will soon have an answer. She reported that she has not received a green light on moving the fiber hut and server room and without a cost, she would not be presumptuous, but it will not be ready by September; she will bring an estimate next week.

Commissioner Warbington moved to wait a week to get the budget for the clinic before voting, seconded by Mayor Dorough and, following a rollcall vote the motion carried 5-2 with Commissioners Fuller and Fletcher voting no.

(CONDITIONAL) MASKS/FACE COVERINGS ON CITY PROPERTY AND IN PUBLIC

Mayor Dorough asked the reason for an ordinance and a resolution. Mr. Davis explained that the resolution sets policy for City-owned businesses, while the ordinance carries fines for violations by the public. Mayor Dorough asked that the information be posted on the public access channel, news, etc. to explain the requirements to citizens. He referred to subsection A under Section 1 and asked that it be removed and explained that he does not support the ordinance being contingent upon a certain infection rate due to the numbers fluctuating, adding that he did not think this is a requirement of the executive order. Mr. Davis opined that he interpreted it as being a requirement; however, he stated that he will research. Mayor Dorough stated that this is will not be voted on tonight and that a Special Call Meeting will be held Tuesday (Sept. 1) and a vote taken then. He advised that Commissioner Warbington asked to include another exception that face coverings are not required inside buildings as long a social distancing is maintained. Commissioner Warbington

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referred to #11 and recommended omitting ‘outdoors’. Mayor Dorrough countered that specificity is preferable and we could add a privilege/exception.

Commissioner Young asked if Commissioner Warbington’s point is in terms of the 6' distance and asked if he means places where more than 100 people will be gathered. He suggested that social distancing should be limited to gatherings of only 50 people to meet the 6' distance.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the spread of the coronavirus through the air, social distancing and the public’s compliance with mandated face coverings/masks. Mayor Dorrough stated that he is certain the City Manager and the Police Department will be involved and that citations will be issued to those not complying.

#### ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Commissioner Fuller moved to approve the following alcohol license, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and, following a rollcall vote the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard voting no.

1. The Cool Place Albany LLC; d/b/a The Cool Place; 2602 Dawson Road; A. Slaton/Agent; Beer Consumption

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the following alcohol license, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and, following a rollcall vote the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard voting no.

2. KVB 1730 Inc; d/b/a Slappey Express; 2033 N. Slappey Blvd.; M. Patel/Agent; Beer and Wine Package

#### APPOINTMENT

1. (Conditional) Two appointments to Chehaw Park Authority for three-year term ending June 30, 2023

Mayor Dorrough recalled legislation earlier this year in which amendments called for two appointments from the City Commission. The reason he brought this up is due to being appointed to serve on the Authority for his term of office; however, the requirement that the Mayor or a Commissioner serve on the Authority was deleted from the enabling legislation. This results in the question of whether he will be allowed to serve his term of office; however, there are two openings. Ms. Killough’s term is up and she does not wish to be reappointed; he asked to be appointed to resolve any issues about his serving on the Authority. Sean Hendley, whose term is also up, requested to be reappointed.

Commissioner Fuller moved to appoint Mayor Dorrough for the vacant seat and to reappoint Sean Hendley, seconded by Commissioner Warbington. A separate rollcall vote was taken on Mayor Dorrough’s appointment and Mr. Hendley’s reappointment; both unanimously carried.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Regarding the following resolution, Mayor Dorrough explained that a policy adopted some years ago established that work session meetings will not extend past noon; if it appears that the work session is going to go past noon, a motion and vote must be taken to extend the meeting. He recommended eliminating/rescinding the policy as he sees no benefit to it. In response to Mayor Dorrough, Mr. Davis agreed that if passed, the resolution will firmly establish that there is no certain time constraint.

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

#### A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R151

Establishing that the length of work session meetings has not been established

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Commissioner Langstaff recommended that the time always be extended; however the policy sets a goal to end at 12:00 pm, but nothing keeps the Commission from extending as needed. He recommended that the default is to end by noon and extend it as necessary; otherwise, there is no end to the talking.

Hearing no further comments and, following a rollcall vote, the motion carried 5-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard and Commissioner Langstaff voting no.

Commissioner Warbington moved to adopt resolutions #2 and 3, omit #4 and resolutions #5-11, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard, who asked Ms. Subadan to discuss #9.

Ms. Subadan stated that the City's federal lobbyist contract is up, with the PAC recommending renewal of the contract with Alcalde & Fay, Ltd. There were no viable bids for the state lobbyist, which will go back out.

Hearing no further comments, the following resolutions unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R152

Authoring submission of application for a 2020-2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG); Authorizing execution of Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the City of Albany and Dougherty County

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R153

Authorizing execution of Pole Attachment License Agreement for wireless facilities attached to distribution poles between the City of Albany and Verizon Wireless of the East d/b/a Verizon Wireless

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R154

Approving termination of Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement re: Fred Taylor Company; Authorizing execution of such Agreement

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R155

Authorizing Professional Services Agreement between the City of Albany and RedSpeed Georgia, LLC re: school zone enforcement

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R156

Authorizing initiation of procedures to close a portion of Highland Avenue between S. Jackson Street and S. Jefferson Street

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R157

Authorizing Roadway Lighting Assistance Agreement between the City of Albany and the Georgia Department of Transportation re: roadway lighting for Oglethorpe Boulevard Bridge Project

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R158

Authorizing execution of a service provider contract with Alcalde & Fay, Ltd.

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R159

Authorizing the use of SPLOST VII funds for software upgrade for the Technology & Communications Department

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A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R160

Accepting Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Award from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for portable generators and transfer switches

Planning Director Paul Forgey discussed the following:

A RESOLUTION NO. 20-R161

Transfer of 200 N. Mock Rd. to Albany/Dougherty Land Bank

Mr. Forgey explained that the resolution pertains to surplus property owned by the City, which is proposing to donate the property to the Land Bank. He advised that the Land Bank has a purchaser for the property (formerly a fire station), with the vacant property being reused commercially.

Commissioner Fuller asked the purchase price of the property; Mr. Forgey stated that it is \$6,000. Commissioner Fuller asked if the property has been appraised; Mr. Forgey said that he is not sure if the City has, but the Land Bank has not had an appraisal performed, adding that the tax value is \$6,000.

Commissioner Warbington asked the amount that County Attorney Spencer Lee will charge to transfer the property to the Land Bank. Mr. Forgey explained that this is not a judicial tax foreclosure and Mr. Lee is not involved. This transaction is between the City and Land Bank, with the only additional charge being the closing, which goes through Nathan Davis' office. Commissioner Warbington stated that with it being surplus property, he believes the City should put it on the market, try to sell it and be the entity to benefit from the sale. He asked for any record of City-owned property, including surplus property and said he would like for the City to become more aggressive in selling property it no longer wants/needs.

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

Commissioner Fuller stated that he sees Commissioner Warbington's point and agreed that in the future the City should market property it wishes to dispose of in an effort to receive the highest price, adding that he is okay moving forward with the sale of this property.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to approve new buildings for recycling drop-off sites.
2. Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to approve renewal of the Small Municipal and County Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) for a three-year Agreement.  
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

Total expenditure \$165,000.00

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioner Young mentioned receiving a call from an irate constituent regarding internet access and his recent problems connecting to the virtual meetings. He discussed issues that citizens have in certain areas, especially the poorer sides of town. Noting that Albany Utilities provide internet services, he recommended that the TAC Department look at providing a solution to the issues. The second issue is that we are still dealing with the pandemic and people remain unemployed. High utility bills need a review and we need to look at options to provide relief for those who are struggling. The third issue is that he discovered that the City has an appointment on the elections board

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committee; he addressed that Board last week. With the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election coming up, he said that he wants to ensure citizens can vote safely and recommended additional drop-boxes. He has spoken with the City's counterparts; however, County Commissioners alluded to the lack of funds for that endeavor. He recommended use of CARES funds and asked staff to look into the availability of funds for drop boxes. His fourth issue is City Transit and his suggestion is to have an update on driver shields. He rode two buses today and neither had the shields installed. Additionally, he wants a report on the efficiencies of bus routes; they have a tendency to be late and he often misses his transfer.

Mayor Dorough noted that the City cannot place shelters at every bus stop and asked if there has been a study to determine which ones have the most passengers each day. Ms. Subadan replied in the affirmative, adding that it is not a big percentage, but every year shelters are added, which is based on the number of passengers. Referring to Commissioner Young's complaints, she advised that the on-time issue will be addressed, adding that the driver shields are in and she was under the impression that more had been installed. Transit Director David Hamilton advised that the shields were ordered from Gillig, the same vender from which they order buses; however, Gillig sent the wrong shields for 12 of the buses, the correct ones will be delivered soon. In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Hamilton advised that more shelters will be placed at stops and mentioned that there is more to having shelters other than just deciding where to locate them, adding that he will forward the information. Mayor Dorough asked Ms. Subadan for an update on the paving of E. Broad. Ms. Subadan asked if he means the sidewalk; he agreed. Ms. Subadan advised that we are waiting to see what happens with the BUILD grant, which has not been awarded.

Commissioner Young mentioned the fatal accident on the corner of Gaines and Madison; this is a neighborhood that residents had requested speed tables. Being a residential neighborhood, it is unbelievable that cars were going fast enough to wreck, resulting in two deaths. He asked that a look at expediting speed tables for that area and advised that he has spoken with Chief Persley about traffic control in the area. He mentioned the increase of recklessness and dirt bikes/four wheelers riding everywhere. A brief discussion ensued on the process to have speed tables installed. Ms. Subadan advised that a presentation on speed tables will be on the next meeting agenda, with Commissioners having the opportunity to tweak and make changes to the ordinance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST

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ASST. CITY CLERK