

APRIL 12, 2021

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual Meeting)

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Matt Fuller (virtual attendee)
Commissioners: Jon Howard and Chad Warbington
City Attorney: Nathan Davis
(Virtual participants: Commissioners BJ Fletcher, Chad Warbington, Bob
Langstaff, Jr.
City Manager Sharon Subadan [virtual])

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and confirmed the attendance of those on the virtual conference call.

The Asst. Clerk read the call as follows:

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

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

There will be a Special Called City Commission virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., in room 120 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and/or approve the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
2. Approving an application for additional funding for the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Program from the Environmental Protection Agency
3. Approving list of Priority City Transportation Projects
1. Authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant re: Safety Improvements on five roadways

Sincerely,

/s/Sharon D. Subadan
City Manager

/s/ Bo Dorough
BO DOROUGH, MAYOR

/s/ Jon Howard
JON HOWARD, WARD I
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/Matt Fuller
MATT FULLER, WARD II
MAYOR PRO TEM

Notified via email
BJ FLETCHER, WARD III
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email
CHAD WARINGTON, WARD IV
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email
BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Demetrius Young
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

Director of Planning and Development Services, Paul Forgey discussed information (copy on file) regarding the request to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding Advancing Health Literacy to enhance equitable community responses to COVID-19.

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In response to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Forgey stated that the specific date the grant will be awarded is unknown; however, the grant has a two-year time frame and is in response to COVID-19 with the intent to get the grants funded rather quickly, most likely within the next two-three months.

Commissioner Warbington stated that it appears the program will be developed once funding is secured and asked if the Commission will be the financial stewards regarding purchase orders, contracts, etc. Mr. Forgey agreed, adding that any subcontracts must go through the RFP process and be approved by Commissioners.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Forgey explained the City's role as the fiscal and administrative agent for the funds and advised that Albany State will not be a sub-grantee; they will partner with the City and execute an MOU since they are a required part of the grant. He discussed the responsibilities of each entity (City: ensuring funds are correctly spent, reporting the outcomes; ASU: conducting research and reporting activities i.e. effectiveness, ways to do things differently) regarding the grant. Mayor Dorough stated that if the grant is awarded, he wants focus on making the community more resilient in future health emergencies. He mentioned meeting with the team from the CDC who are currently in Albany identifying barriers and obstacles preventing the public from being vaccinated.

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R122

Authorizing submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services re: advancing health literacy to enhance equitable community responses to COVID-19

Regarding the next resolution, Mayor Dorough questioned whether additional funds are available. Mr. Forgey advised that an additional \$500,000 is available to communities which have already established Revolving Loan Funds and which have shown progress. He explained that the City received a loan a year ago for \$800,000; although the City has not made any loans/grants, all of the money is obligated, adding that EPA recommended that the City request additional funds. He then highlighted projects for which the funds may be used.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Forgey if he has an estimate of the number of downtown buildings for which the funds could be used. Mr. Forgey stated that it can be used throughout the community, adding that \$800,000 has been earmarked for three projects. He estimated that the \$500,000 could go toward one-five projects. Commissioner Howard asked if they are City-owned buildings; Mr. Forgey replied negatively, explaining that all of the funds are going to organizations outside of the city. It is designed specifically for private companies to request funding for Brownfield clean-up. Commissioner Howard asked the number of City-owned buildings that are possibly contaminated; Mr. Forgey stated that he does not have a specific number; however, the money can be used for lead paint/asbestos removal.

Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Forgey to identify the three projects which have been funded through the previous allocation. Mr. Forgey reiterated that no one has received funds yet, they are still working on applications, but the projects are; 207 Pine (hotel project); MacGregor Building on Slappey; and the Albany Museum of Art.

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R123

Approving an application for additional funding for the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Program from the Environmental Protection Agency

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Regarding the next resolution, Mayor Dorough reported that Congress has reinstated the earmarks for members of Congress and that the City has been requested to identify priorities for transportation projects.

Mr. Forgey explained that Congressman Bishop's office has reached out to the City in anticipation of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill. If passed, the City wants to be prepared for the metropolitan planning organizations in each of their districts, with it also including Columbus and part of Macon. He advised that each Congress member is allocated between \$15-20.0 million for their district, with Congressman Bishop's office asking the City to prioritize the projects we have and submit them. He referred to the list of top ten projects submitted to Commissioners (copy on file), with the recommendation to send the top five for a request, which have a total cost of approximately \$11.4 million, with \$9.1 million being requested. Mr. Forgey concurred with Mayor Dorough that there is a match.

Commissioner Howard asked if the funds for our district will be evenly divided among Albany, Columbus and Macon or will we just receive the requested amount. Mr. Forgey stated that most likely they will use their judgment on what is proper.

Mayor Dorough asked the number of projects we have identified to be funded with SPLOST and TSPLOST with Mr. Forgey advising that he is unaware of the TSPLOST priorities. Mayor Dorough noted that \$15-20.0 million will be allocated throughout the district; Mr. Forgey agreed. Mayor Dorough commented on the reported cost of approximately \$2.5 million to relocate utilities off the Oglethorpe Bridge; citizens not being aware that the bridge will be closed for about two years beginning in 2022 and, suggested increasing public awareness. He advised that no allocation has been made for the approximate \$2.5 million to relocate utilities.

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R124

Approving list of priority City transportation projects

Mayor Dorough recognized Managing Director of Engineering and Planning Bruce Maples, Traffic Engineering Manager Ken Breedlove and Assistant City Manager Ken Stock.

Mr. Maples advised that in mid-March, Mayor Dorough was notified of the availability of Safety Action funds for District IV, the Tifton District, which includes Albany, with approximately \$2.0 million available for the program. If the Commission approves submittal of the grant, the City can receive up to \$350,000, which requires a 30% match, which will be up to \$105,000. The deadline is April 15, therefore, approval/authorization is being sought to proceed with an application for five roadways totaling the maximum amount of \$350,000 and the \$105,000 local match.

Mayor Dorough asked if any of the projects on the list are to be funded with TSPLOST. Mr. Maples advised that funding for the match would come from TSPLOST. Mayor Dorough noted that they are projects which have been identified. Mr. Maples explained that some of the projects were on the list of 14 from DOT, with a few already being taken care of that were associated with resurfacing (Third Avenue from Slappey to Dawson Road) and explained thermoplastic striping and marking with raised pavement markers. In response to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Maples stated that he would not consider them 'high-accident'; DOT identified them as sites with recorded accidents.

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

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A RESOLUTION NO. 21-R125

Authorizing submission of a grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for
Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant re: safety improvements on six roadways

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

ASST. CITY CLERK