

APRIL 18, 2023  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual and in-person Meeting)

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough  
Mayor Pro Tem: Chad Warbington  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Jalen Johnson, Vilnis Gaines, and Demetrius Young  
Virtual Attendee: Bob Langstaff, Jr.  
City Manager: Steven Carter  
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 8:32 am, followed by attendance roll call.

## AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Dorough stated that there are three proposed amendment/additions to the agenda: 1) Senator Freddie Sims will recognize Commissioner Howard. There were no objections to adding this to the agenda. 2) Commissioner Young wants to amend agenda to modify the street naming ordinance. There were no objections to this item. 3) Winfred Dukes former State Representative signed up to speak regarding zoning matter, however, due to the ordinance in place, only 2 speakers can speak at a work session (the slots are full today) Mayor Dorough explained that a suspension to the rule which is non-debatable will allow him to speak. There were no objections to suspending the rules to allow Mr. Dukes to speak.

Commissioner Young moved to approve the agenda with added amendments, seconded by Commissioner Howard, and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Dorough recognized Senator Sims who presented a proclamation to Commissioner Howard signed by Lt. Governor David Jones, et al on behalf of the Georgia State Senate Resolution 283 in recognition of his 29 years of service as City Commissioner.

## SPEAKER APPEARANCE

1. Jimenez Wilkerson re: Police Accountability

Mr. Wilkerson said he is from Texas and moved to Albany a year ago to work with a company; on February 26<sup>th</sup> Operation Rolling Thunder was in Albany and he was arrested, taken to jail and his car was impounded. Last week the citation was dropped by Municipal Court Willie Weaver. He spoke to police accountability by not utilizing dashcam or body cameras. He said he will be filing a lawsuit against APD and the City of Albany.

Commissioner Young stated that since a lawsuit will be filed that it is not proper to ask questions and apologized for him having this type of experience.

2. Aarons Favors re: Chestnut Trees / Country Club Estates Area

Mr. Favors spoke to the rezoning application of Mr. Pippen's proposal to plant chestnut trees, adding that the majority of Country Club neighbors agree to move forward with the trees. He recognized homeowners' association members who were present in support.

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At 8:47 a.m., it was noted that Commissioner Johnson arrived.

Winfred Duke spoke in opposition to the rezoning and stated that Country Club Estates did not take a position on this matter, but Westtown did not want chestnut trees. He suggested that this is an environmental injustice going back years with contamination of things that do not benefit citizens. Specifically, he spoke against the pesticide that is 50' from his residence and herbicide that affects the future of children, noting that children attend a school that abuts the property. He stated that this does not provide an economic advantage to the community and property values will decrease.

Commissioner Johnson asked what he would like to see in the area with Mr. Dukes stating that the property is zoned for multiple-single family homes, adding that he would not have moved into the area had he known chestnut trees were going in the area.

Commissioner Young clarified that Country Club is not in favor of the trees with Mr. Dukes stating that a vote was not taken that says they are in support of chestnut trees. In reply to Commissioner Young, Mr. Favors spoke about a meeting in February that Mr. Duke attended, however, a vote was taken in the March meeting, but Mr. Dukes was absent. Commissioner Young stated that he has ties to Country Club and Westtown communities and, he had hoped that everyone could come to a consensus regarding the issues raised, i.e., pesticides, decreased property value, etc.

## **REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK**

### **1. Commission Travel:**

- Mayor B. Dorrough; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$455.50
- Mayor B. Dorrough; GMA State of City Innovation 2023; Atlanta, GA; March 30-31, 2023; \$354.40
- Mayor Pro Tem C. Warbington; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$653.59
- Commissioner J. Howard; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$402.42
- Commissioner J. Johnson; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$642.49
- Commissioner V. Gaines; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$664.19
- Commissioner D. Young; Plant Vogtle Tour; Augusta, GA; May 22-23, 2023; \$436.17

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the travel, seconded by Commissioner Gaines and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Public Safety**

In reply to Mayor Dorrough, Commissioner Young provided comments on the lack of information regarding an overlay map showing locations of alcohol establishments citywide, etc., as it pertains to the recent moratorium that expired in March.

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a. Alcohol License (new)

1. Anthony Donaldson, Chief Inspector, discussed the following (copy on file):
  - Lane Theater LLC; d/b/a J Lane Theater, 313 Pine Ave. Je'nita Lane/Agent; Liquor, Beer, and Wine Consumption; WARD 3

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Donaldson explained the one-day alcohol license process, which Ms. Lane has been using.

2. Mr. Donaldson discussed the following (copy on file):

- Los Reyes Mexican Restaurant LLC; d/b/a Los Reyes Mexican Restaurant 2427 Sylvester Rd. Ste. G, Doris Ruth Hernandez de Martinez/Agent; Liquor, Beer, and Wine Consumption; WARD 1

There were no questions/comments on this item.

3. Mr. Donaldson discussed the following (copy on file):

- Rubina and Parul LLC; d/b/a Whistle, 713 S. Slapley Blvd., Abdul Rauf Aslam/Agent; Beer and Wine Package; WARD 6

In reply to Commissioner Young, Mr. Donaldson stated that this is near Piggly Wiggly and gas pumps have been installed.

4. Mr. Donaldson discussed the following (copy on file):

- The Vault 1738 LLC; d/b/a The Vault, 2238 Palmyra Rd. Marlo & Marsharika Newbill /Agent; Liquor, Beer, and Wine Consumption; WARD 2

There were no questions/comments on this item.

In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Donaldson confirmed that the Family Dollar Store alcohol licenses will be on the April 25 meeting agenda. Discussion continued regarding the need to have another committee meeting (comprised of Mayor Dorough, Commissioners Howard and Young) to meet this week and bring back a recommendation regarding overlay maps that will assist in establishing zones for alcohol licenses based on crime statistics. Mr. Davis stated that he has the map and will distribute it to all. Mayor Dorough stated a meeting will be scheduled for later this week. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Mayor Dorough stated that information will be distributed this week to assist with approving the licenses next week.

2. Planning/Engineering

a. Riverfront Overlay District – 245 E. Broad Ave.

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Mr. Forney stated that this is a zoning matter and this meeting is being considered as a public hearing and using a power point presentation he discussed the background of the property, an analysis of the Riverfront Overlay District, showed photos of the area and maps. He advised that the Planning Commission recommended changing the overlay district.

Commissioner Johnson asked if proper notice was given for the public hearing to which Mr. Forney advised that it was advertised in the paper. In reply to Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Forney explained the overlay district.

Discussion continued regarding having the public hearing in May with Commissioner Johnson recommending moving forward. Mayor Dorough advised that Alice Goseer-Jenkins as well as anyone else so desiring, can speak.

Ms. Jenkins spoke in favor of the item, adding that Planning Commission recommended taking her area out of the Overlay District and asked the Commission to move forward.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Ms. Jenkins stated her vision for the ice machine, which will be similar to the one on the corner of Westover and Dawson Road, adding that she would like to have events as done in Tift Park, etc., expanding to have other events in the area, adding that she will be requesting permits to have the events.

Benny Walker spoke in support of Ms. Jenkins' request and asked that a decision be made.

b. Street Renaming re: Corn Ave.

The Clerk distributed information (copy on file). Commissioner Young discussed the process, adding that he feels there was a miscommunication in commemorative street naming vs. full street rename (re: Corn Ave.).

Commissioner Young commented on the process and asked Mr. Forney to provide details. Mr. Forney discussed reasons for changing street names as noted in Sect. 2.04 and the requirements to change the street name. In reply to Commissioner Young, Mr. Davis stated that he will come up with verbiage and noted information in Sect. 3.01 regarding commemorative street naming that needs to be changed. Commissioner Young stated that he would like to move forward with the commemorative street name for now and then begin work to change the name of the street.

Mayor Pro Tem Warbington commented on name changes, i.e., Mars Chocolate being a recent change. Mr. Forney agreed that it was a commemorative sign. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Mr. Forney explained the process of notifying property owners, sending certified mail, etc., and if 51% respond, a decision will be made. Discussion continued regarding whether the County will have to approve the amendment to the joint ordinance.

Commissioner Young commented on changing the ordinance with Mr. Davis advising that changing a state route requires permission from the state.

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Mayor Dorough stated that when he was a Commissioner, a street was named after a citizen and something came up that questioned the renaming, adding that he sees a problem with the 51% rule [51% of homeowners must agree to the name change] with some areas having a large number of renters. He suggested that a public hearing should be held so affected residents could support or object to the proposed name change and also suggested waiting to do a commemorative sign. He asked to have an agenda item regarding the process, adding that he is not ready to vote next Tuesday, recommending that the minutes from 2008/09 be reviewed.

Commissioner Young asked to move forward with the commemorative name change at this time.

Discussion continued regarding the process of repealing the current ordinance, having an agenda item to discuss information before it is voted on.

2. Public Administration/Finance

a. TSPLOST Funding Reallocation re: Traffic Calming Devices

Derrick Brown, CFO, discussed information (copy on file) and asked for approval to reallocate funds.

In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding a list of areas that the devices will be placed, Mr. Carter stated that no specific area or allocation have been decided, adding that he emailed a list for their review showing where devices have been installed and a list waiting on funding.

In reply to Commissioner Johnson regarding type of devices, Mr. Carter explained that in May, additional information will be provided with alternate options.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington regarding the email, Mr. Carter stated that the ones pending can be funded with money left over. Discussion continued regarding moving forward with those pending (12 total). In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Mr. Carter explained that the action taken today is to only approve the allocation of \$1.0 million from TSPLOST and SPLOST funds.

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, Bruce Maples, Asst. City Manager, commented on the email from February and noted the email with the list sent recently from Mr. Carter making 12. Commissioner Langstaff disagreed with allocating the money unless it is agreed to approve the devices that will be placed by chronological order in which petitions were received. He stated that he cannot support a 'leapfrog' approach by allowing those first on the list to be moved back down the list. Discussion continued regarding the process and how streets are listed. Mr. Maples discussed the process, which starts with a formal letter of request from a citizen to have a device placed on a particular street. Commissioner Young stated that Ward 6 has two tables that were put in after he was seated and discussed the current process, wards not being equal in distribution and being fair for all. Mr. Maples stated that those not completing the process are not on the list for various reasons. Discussion followed regarding use of TSPLOST funds, which is up again for a vote this year.

Mayor Dorough recognized Robert Johnson to speak on this matter. Mr. Johnson stated that he lives in the St. Andrews area and commented that speed tables currently in the area cause traffic to be diverted

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to the street he lives on, adding that they need tables as well. He asked that Royal Scot Road be moved up on the list due to speeding there.

Mayor Pro Tem Warbington agreed with Mr. Carter about having speed tables, adding that there are other options, i.e., block off cut-throughs, etc., and advocated to start a new program and that money be allocated to include other streets. He addressed those still needing signatures and having more options moving forward suggesting that before that happens, the City needs to honor its current obligations.

Commissioner Langstaff agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Warbington's comments, adding that there are two streets in his ward that have calming devices. He noted the labor-intensive work to get these devices after multiple tries and asked the Commission to respect and honor what people are doing to get devices in their areas.

Commissioner Young commented on the rules not applying to renters in the past and asked if this will be done equitably. He mentioned the speeding problem in Albany and noted the school cameras.

Mayor Dorough commented on the issues of speed devices with discussion continuing on Mr. Johnsons' comments regarding displacing speeders from one location to another and asked to look at other options, i.e., concrete speed bumps vs. speed tables, etc., with a presentation being on the agenda next month. Addressing the policy, he suggested that it discriminates against low-income areas because renters were not considered. Referring to the 12 on the list, he again suggested looking at other options, i.e., giving the bid to one contractor, etc.

Mr. Carter reiterated that the agenda item is to allocate funding, not to validate a list, adding that there is not enough funding for the other 20 trying to complete the process, which means more money will need to be allocated, noting the difference between equal vs. equitable

Robert Griffin, Interim Engineering Director, and Lee Daniel, Utility Engineering Superintendent, were available to address the following (copy on file):

- b. GA Dept. of Transportation – Gillionville Rd. Pavement Resurfacing Project

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Mr. Griffin advised that there are utilities in their right-of-way is why GDOT doesn't pay.

Commissioner Howard asked for information regarding the roundabout being installed by GDOT, with Mr. Griffin stating that he will provide updated information. Commissioner Howard questioned notification to vendors regarding the closing of the Oglethorpe bridge. Discussion continued with notification to the public that the bridge will be closed and having an agenda item to discuss further. Mr. Maples advised that GDOT is working on notification, putting signs, etc.

Corey Gamble, Buyer I, Dale Henry, Fleet Asset Supervisor, and Peter Bednar, Fleet Director, were available to address the following (copy on file):

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c. Altec Digger Derrick Truck; Altec Industries, Inc.: Total est. exp. not to exceed \$347,850.00

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Gamble discussed cost, and the not to exceed amount. Mr. Bednar commented on pricing and the need to ‘not to exceed’ pricing as it is the only way to get locked into a purchase.

Mr. Gamble, Don McCook, Deputy Utility Operations Director and Andy Griffis, WPC Shift Supervisor, were available to address the following (copy on file):

d. Contract Renewal re: Chlorine Cylinders; Allied Universal Corp. Total exp. \$223,800

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Gamble discussed potential price increases, CPI increases, and whether the price of chlorine is stabilized and whether will the City will recoup any of that. Mr. Carter stated that adjustments are not built into the contract as with other contracts.

APD Chief Michael Persley introduced Geoff Bulpitt to discuss the following (copy on file):

e. Purchase of FLOCK Safety Hardware re: Camera Project

Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Mr. Bulpitt discussed: the mission, devices that detect, decode and deliver software, a coverage map for Albany (using one year of data), Albany crime heat map and a new map of city-wide camera placement.

Chief Persley stated that this is a tentative map that he will be reviewing with each Commissioner, who can make changes within their wards.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Warbington, Mr. Bulpitt explained the red F, blue F and other areas noted on the map. Discussion followed regarding ‘not’ using facial recognition, cameras not put in neighborhoods, what was used before Redspeed cameras (only four license plate readers on police vehicles), and getting feedback on moving cameras, gunshot detection cameras, having more surveillance within the city, whether to share the map and information with the public, pricing (year one and two), price change, replacement of existing downtown cameras that are not functioning, automatic updates, outdated cameras (repair/replacement included), lifecycle of the camera (3-4 years), replacement plan for older cameras, bringing the proposed buildout of the center next month and having one central location to monitor and retrieve information including analyzation, number of officers needed once implemented, whether cameras are purchased or leased (they are leased), monitoring the health of the devices, technicians to replace/repair cameras, facial recognition images, not being disguised/covert cameras, if cameras are shot out replacement is at the City’s cost (approx.. \$500), no cost to City to upgrade cameras.

Chief Persley introduced Jim Price with Fusus to discuss information (copy on file):

f. Purchase of FUSUS Software for APD

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Using a power point presentation (copy on file), Mr. Price discussed the growth of the system, number of systems that are being used throughout the nation and branching out internationally. He explained the process of connecting the City with citizens having an opportunity to share video via registration and integration of live videos.

Josh Williams, Central Service Byer II, provided additional information regarding integration/incorporating units to have one platform.

Discussion included: only law enforcement being able to access sharing of videos; cloud storage; promotion of the program for citizens to participate; retrieving via apps; GDOT cameras included in the package; inviting businesses to participate, including hospital, Housing Authority, school system, big box stores / permission from corporate; how integration works with other systems in place, this system and the one just discussed accommodate each other; corporate is located in N. GA, TAC handling minimal issues; integrating home and business cameras with registration, ex., burglary is in place, and pulling up live video as officers respond or having video evidence later for investigations. Mr. Price discussed health monitoring which shows if a camera is down with owners being contacted to alert them if this happens.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Carter mentioned the following: National Lineman Appreciation Day is today, Saturday at 11:00 a.m., is Family Fun Day for employees at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds. Food Truck Frenzy is scheduled for Monday April 14 in conjunction with 2023 GA Cities Week next week. Government 101 is continuing and a special call meeting is needed for this week.

## **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Howard asked if the contractor has started working on the CSO Project with Mr. Carter replying affirmatively and advising that an update will be provided. Commissioner Howard commented on the Transportation Center closing at 6 pm and suggested that it remain open until the last Greyhound bus leaves. Mr. Carter explained that the Transportation Center is for City operations with Greyhound being offered to participate, however, they shut their offices down. He advised that staffing is for city traffic, however if this is the will of the commission, it can be discussed, adding that he would not want to provide services without receiving compensation.

Commissioner Young asked for an update re: the transit system scheduling, etc.

Mayor Dorough mentioned having a special call meeting to approve fire trucks and asked for a presentation on the Oglethorpe bridge, a presentation on the real time crime center (what it is, what it will do and how all the technology is integrated – body cameras, drone, red speed,) and an update on CSS project, i.e., funding, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Howard moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and a personnel matter, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	(stepped out of the meeting)
Mayor	yes

At 12:28 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Warbington moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	yes
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

At 12:33 p.m., Mayor Dorough reconvened the meeting announcing that no action was taken on in executive session; there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

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SONJA TOLBERT, CMC  
CITY CLERK