

MARCH 22, 2022

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

PRESENT: Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Vilnis Gaines
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Jalen Johnson, Chad Warbington 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 6:02 p.m. and, the invocation given by Commissioner Chad Warbington was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Howard moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Following Commissioner Howard's request for an explanation of item #7 (Utilities Trucks), Commissioner Warbington called a point of order to remove the item for discussion and to approve items (1-6). Commissioner Howard moved to approve items 1-6, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Dorough noted the items on the consent agenda as follows:

A. Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION NO. 22-R114

Approving contract with iVueit, LLC re: Consultant Services for City Wide Property Survey

A RESOLUTION NO. 22-R115

A Joint Resolution of the City of Albany and Dougherty County authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County and the Mayor of the City of Albany to execute forms necessary to receive Grant Funding for the upgrade of Overhead Electrical Lines (re: Service Delivery Strategy)

A RESOLUTION NO. 22-R116

Authorizing the use of Red Speed Camera Funds to purchase School Flasher Controllers and, Authorizing a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$275,163.87

A RESOLUTION NO. 22-R117

Authorizing the City to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation re: Georgia DOT Project Resurfacing - Milling S.R. 91; Authorizing use of TSPLOST Funds to pay for raising-lowering City of Albany water valves, etc.

B. Purchases:

1. ESRI Software - Annual Subscription - \$53,900.00
2. Seven City Trucks - Wade Ford, Smyrna Ga. - \$310,207.00

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At the request of Mayor Dorough, Dale Henry, Asset Supervisor, and Peter Bednar, Director of Fleet, discussed the following:

3. Albany Utilities Trucks - Altec Industries - \$1,045,554.00

In reply to Commissioner Howard regarding delivery being two years, Mr. Henry stated that he will confirm with Mr. Bednar, advising that they were told there is a two-year lead time and if there are cancellations it could be sooner and noted reasons for delays due to industry shortage on vehicle production, etc.

In reply to Mayor Dorough, Mr. Henry stated that the backlog is until 2024, if not further out.

Commissioner Warbington moved to approve the truck purchases, seconded by Commissioner Howard and following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

C. Alcohol Licenses:

Commissioner Gaines moved to approve the following new alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Warbington and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Howard voting no.

1. Lounge Eleven 20 LLC; d/b/a Lounge Eleven 20; 242 W. Broad Ave., K. Duffy/Agent; Liquor, Beer and Wine Consumption

Commissioner Warbington moved to approve the following new alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-3 with Mayor Pro Tem Gaines, Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

2. IAV Business Consulting LLC; d/b/a Brother's Pizza; 207 E. Oglethorpe Blvd.; I. Vega/Agent; Beer and Wine Package

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the following new alcohol license application, seconded by Commissioner Warbington.

3. Family Dollar Stores of Georgia LLC; d/b/a Family Dollar #30958; 2408 Dawson Rd; C. Hicks/Agent; Beer and Wine Package

It was noted by Mayor Dorough and Deputy Chief Anthony Donaldson that the application is for consumption since it is a restaurant (and is not beer and wine package as noted).

Commissioner Howard spoke in opposition of the license and discussed his reasons for voting no, i.e., having too many establishments within the city, losing population due to alcohol, which connects with increased crime, loss of revenue/economic development etc.

Commissioner Johnson disagreed with Commissioner Howard's comments and said he will vote in support of the application, adding that he does not attribute the population decline solely because of alcohol outlets. He suggested that if every future alcohol license is denied, it will not change the fact that there are other places selling alcohol and stated that he does not understand depriving one business the right to thrive when the City has approved countless other applications.

Addressing the license, Mayor Pro Tem Gaines suggested that moving forward, the City needs to address the alcohol license laws.

Commissioner Warbington countered comments, stating that some cities in Georgia have staff, rather than their commission, approve/deny applications and agreed with Commissioner Johnson that alcohol is not the only issue impacting this community. He said he would like to focus on the positive regarding improving youth recreation, housing stock, etc. to determine the root cause of the

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population loss. He agreed that there are problems within the community, adding that his purpose is to point out that a lot of other cities, unlike Albany, take politics and emotions out of the equation.

Commissioner Young also spoke against the license and suggested that the Commission has responsibility when approving the licenses. He noted Section 9 of the Code regarding the license not being ‘suitable for the area, due to reasons’ as noted by Commissioner Howard and commented on increased crime, youth violence and referenced information from the CDC and the need to regulate new licenses, suggesting that alcohol is devastating our community,

Commissioner Howard clarified that he did not say that 8,000 individuals left Albany because of alcohol outlets, adding that it is a combination of many reasons leading to that fact. He noted that the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission advised that we can expect another 5% decrease within the next ten years, noting the correlation to the tax digest.

Hearing no additional comments and following a roll call vote, the motion to carried 5-2 with Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve g the following Transfer of Ownership Alcohol License, second by Commissioner Warbington.

4. Craft Axe Throwing LLC; d/b/a Craft Axe Throwing; 2302 N. Slappey Blvd.;
D. Ball Jr./Agent; Beer Consumption

A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Warbington suggesting limits to the number of times a license can be transferred, which indicate problems, adding that currently there is no limit. He said that an establishment in his ward has changed ownership two/three times and asked how many times a license can be transferred with Deputy Marshal Donaldson advising that there is no set number. Commissioner Warbington suggested putting a policy in place that limits establishment to two transfers within three years; subsequent transfers are not allowed.

Commissioner Young disagreed with Commissioner Warbington’s comments and suggestions regarding transfers being indictive of problems and stated that research is needed to make policy changes, etc., as it pertains to the responsibility of the Commission to regulate as he discussed earlier. He suggested that transfers are not a problem, the number of alcohol licenses remain the same and, it is the approval of new licenses at new establishments that are creating problems.

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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION NO.

Accepting Grant Award from the Georgia Department of Transportation re: Transportation Alternatives Program Grant; Authorizing use of TSPLOST Funds

A detailed discussed followed with Bruce Maples, Asst. City Manager/Director of Engineering, explaining the request to consider grant award in the amount of \$7 million from the GA Dept. of Transportation regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program. He explained the rail trail from N. Monroe to Sasser in Terrell County, adding that additional funding is needed for planning (which is included in the grant) and for construction which is not included in the grant.

In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Maples stated that GDOT verified that there is no deadline.

Additional discussion followed regarding the Tolling Agreement which Mr. Davis explained, the active lawsuit and pending lawsuit #2. Commissioner Warbington expressed concern of discussing this matter due to pending litigation, etc., and suggested tabling this item until Mr. Davis works out

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the details. He cautioned that anything said tonight could be used against the City. Commissioners Langstaff and Young agreed to table, with Commissioner Young asking for a clear understanding of the Tolling Agreement.

Mayor Dorough commented on Rails to Trails being assured that the City would apply for the grant, stating that he supports proceeding with the grant, (but agreed with Commissioner Warbington's concerns) until getting an opinion from the attorney representing the City in that case, that it would be best to postpone further discussion.

Commissioner Young questioned whether the funds can be reallocated with Mr. Maples commenting on other funding sources and explaining that if the grant is not accepted, it goes away.

Commissioner Warbington moved to table this item for sixty days, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Commissioner Warbington commented on other funding grant opportunities for Rails to Trails with an April 15th deadline. Mr. Carter stated that staff needs to vet the process before having discussion at the table.

Mayor Dorough asked that staff provide a summary of the RAISE Grant (re: Rails to Trails).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

CITY CLERK