

DECEMBER 16, 2014

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

PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy Hubbard
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
City Commissioners: Bobby Coleman, BJ Fletcher, Bob Langstaff, Jr., Roger
Marietta, and Tommie Postell
Interim City Mgr.: Tom Berry
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Hubbard called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation given by Minister DeCarlo Marcus.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, the motion unanimously carried.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Howard regarding excusing the absence of Commissioner Postell, Mayor Hubbard stated that she was told Commissioner Postell would be at the 6:30 meeting and if he does not show, this will be addressed later. [Commissioner Postell entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Following the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, Commissioner Marietta moved to approve the following Alcohol License Transfer of Ownership, seconded by Commissioner Coleman; the motion carried 5-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard voting no.

1. Eastside Pubs, Inc., d/b/a Blue Dog Station, 1502 E. Broad Ave; P. Gepty/Agent; Consumption

APPOINTMENT

1. One member to the Albany/Dougherty Joint Board of Registration and Elections for two-year term expiring December 21, 2016

Commissioner Marietta nominated Bishop Frederick Williams. Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to close the nomination on said name.

In reply to Commissioner Langstaff regarding Ken Bevell, Commissioner Fletcher advised that she spoke with Mr. Bevell last night and was told that since he works at Sherwood Church, he would not have time to serve.

Commissioner Postell entered the meeting at this point (6:42 p.m.), and apologized for being late, explaining that he was at church.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried with Mayor Hubbard advising that Bishop Williams is duly appointed.

ORDINANCES

Commissioner Marietta introduced for the first reading

AN ORDINANCE NO.

Amending Sections 26, 34(13) and 34 (13.1) of the Charter of the City of Albany to provide for a Utility Board to replace what was previously known as the WG&L Commission; Providing for the Utility Board to be known as Albany Utility Board; providing for extension of water service, gas distribution service and electricity service and other utility services beyond corporate limits of the City of Albany as well as outside the jurisdictional limits of Dougherty County

Commissioner Marietta then offered the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Postell; the motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Howard voting no.

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Commissioner Fletcher introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 14-132

Amending the City of Albany’s Human Resources Policy Manual to provide on an Ad Hoc Basis for Incentives

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

Commissioner Marietta stated that before it was explained that this will be a standard package he had wanted to amend the ordinance, but there is no need to amend.

Hearing no further comments, the motion unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Postell moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Marietta; the motion unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION NO. 14-R186

Approving execution of Nehemiah Kennard Irrevocable Trust Agreement

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Howard moved to approve the following consent agenda, seconded Commissioner Postell; the motion unanimously carried.

Current Bid:

1. Pipe Purchase/Booker Alley Sewer Line, Hanson’s Pipe & Precast, Gretna, FL
Total expenditure \$79,030.80

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Howard expressed concerns regarding crime in the community and asked if APD Chief John Proctor could address and assure citizens and City officials that the city will be ok.

Chief Proctor stated that he also lives in the city and has the same concerns; however, APD is doing everything within their power, as well as working with the Sheriff’s Department, et al to get criminals off the streets. He reported that all incidents have had arrests made, or warrants issued and they are working all leads on cases. Plans are in place and staff has been doubled in high crime areas; however, he stated that many are crimes of passion, which can occur at any place and time; APD is doing all it can to protect the city. He encouraged everyone to reach out to young people who are killing each other and impress on them the value of life. Mayor Pro Tem Howard said the concern is black on black crime in the community and he asked all to pray for the city and for ministers to work together to help address these issues. Chief Proctor reported that many of those murdered this year had been arrested multiple times for many different reasons, adding that APD cannot solve problems alone. He suggested forming a coalition in an effort to get the community involved, adding that the sad truth is more needs to be done in the home life of these youths, they are not getting the direction and leadership they need from their parents.

Mayor Hubbard asked what else the Commission can do to help; she mentioned the poor attendance at the Gang Task Force Forum held this past spring. Discussion followed on the lack interest and attendance at forums to encourage public education/participation; Chief Proctor

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reported that he has suggested banishment from the city for those creating problems, but that is not within his power.

Commissioner Fletcher questioned the connection of jobs and crime with Chief Proctor stating that there is some merit to that, but he reiterated that violent crime is nationwide and not just in Albany. Mayor Hubbard mentioned that a coalition is working on this.

Commissioner Postell asked how many employees APD needs to have a full department; Chief Proctor replied that APD is approved for 214 sworn officers and is short 14. Commissioner Postell questioned the response time of APD getting back with victims after arrests are made. Chief Proctor discussed the process that involves the DA's office, with whom they work closely.

Commissioner Coleman agreed that it will take everyone working together and said he feels there is a co-relation between unemployment and crime. On another note, he mentioned that Dougherty County offices will be closed after the Christmas Holiday and asked why the City is not closing. Mr. Berry stated that the City and County provide different services; the City cannot afford to close; however, due to the holidays, most offices will have a skeleton crew on Friday (12/26).

Commissioner Postell questioned Mike Tilson, Code Enforcement Director regarding violations in Ward 6 of semi-/over-sized trucks parking in neighborhood. Discussion followed with Mr. Tilson stating that they have a small staff and cannot handle everything; in addition they do not work on the weekends or after hours. Commissioner Postell disagreed and stated that trucks are parking for two/three days in a row and not just after hours/weekends.

Mayor Hubbard suggested that violations be called in to 311; Mr. Berry agreed that communication is key.

Mayor Hubbard thanked everyone for their service to the citizens of Albany and wished everyone happy holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK