

MINUTES
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – DECEMBER 12, 2011
7:00 PM

The City of McDonough Council Meeting was held on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 7:00 PM with the following members present:

Mayor:	Billy Copeland
Mayor Pro Tem:	Sandra Vincent
Councilmembers:	Rufus Amis
	Monta Brown
	Gail Notti
	Wayne Smith
	Rufus Stewart

Also present for this meeting were: City Administrator, Billy Beckett; City Clerk, Janis Price; City Attorney, Leigh Hancher; Fire Chief, Steve Morgan; Public Works Director, Lee Hearn; Planning and Zoning Director, Rodney Heard; Media Relations, Casey Case; Environmental Engineer, Emily Raby; Interim Community Development Director, John Cheek; and Police Chief, Preston Dorsey.

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilmember Brown led the Pledge to the Flag and Councilmember Smith gave the invocation.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Amis motioned and Councilmember Notti seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Smith seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to approve the May 2, 2011, September 29, 2011, November 21, 2011, and December 1, 2011 meeting minutes. Councilmember Smith motioned and Councilmember Amis seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Copeland presented the 2011 Christmas Parade float winners. The 1st Place Winner was Praying for Paws. Ms. Carol Kelly and Mr. and Mrs. John Martin were present to receive the prize of \$100.00. The 2nd Place Winner was Bible Baptist Christian School Band. Pastor Tim and Carol Lee were present to receive the prize of \$50.00.

Interim Community Development Director, Mr. John Cheek reviewed the 2011 LCI Supplemental Study. The last Visioning Session was on December 6, 2011 at the First Baptist Church. Approximately 75-80 people attended the session. A steering committee has been established and more public meetings will take place.

Mr. Cheek also spoke about the Streetscape Project on the McDonough square. The City received an approximate \$1,300,000.00 award from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). There is a potential for the amount to go up after the scope of the project is completed. Mayor Pro Tem Vincent asked whether or not there was an available list that identifies the sub-group that individuals will represent and Mr. Cheek advised that any group list is available upon request.

Councilmember Notti discussed the Jonesboro Road Landscape project. A list of plants was distributed to Councilmembers. This list has been approved by the DOT. The City has had a viable contract on file with DOT since 2006. This contract had a plant listing and a cost estimate of approximately \$250,000. This contract was set aside last week for an amended contract that will be inclusive of the Intergovernmental Agreement to maintain Jonesboro Road. This agreement has a new listing of plants. Councilmember Notti has three copies of this agreement that will need to be

executed. One copy will remain at City Hall, one will remain at the County and one will be an operating copy for Tim Coley to move forward. Councilmember Notti motioned to authorize Mayor Copeland to sign the amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Henry County and the City of McDonough for the maintenance of Jonesboro Road; to sign the revised list of the alternate plant selections that was approved by the State of Georgia and the architects; and to acknowledge the cost sheet that was provided by Breedlove, with this being contingent upon the County accepting with no changes; once this has occurred State Aid will be notified. Councilmember Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor.

The City Attorney, Ms. Leigh Hancher discussed amending the alcohol ordinance. Councilmember Brown commented on some concerns in the ordinance: (1) on page 4, Section 5.24.270 regarding applicants not being a citizen or a resident alien of the United States that does not permanently reside in the metropolitan Atlanta area. It is not a requirement of the State that you have to be a resident of the State of Georgia to own a liquor license; (2) on page 6, Section A regarding personal interest in licensee; (3) on page 10, Section 5.24.320 regarding locations near a private residences; (4) on page 22, Section 5.24.500 regarding liquor license permits. Mayor Pro Tem Vincent also commented on concerns with the ordinance. Her first concern is on the first page with the statement “alcoholic beverages in the city is a privilege and not a right.” Ms. Hancher advised that this statement is based upon state law. Mayor Pro Tem Vincent’s other concern is located on page 3, Section 5.24.255 regarding renewals. The ordinance will be reviewed and revised and brought back to Council for adoption in the near future.

Ms. Hancher discussed the motorized cart ordinance. Ms. Hancher stated there does not seem to be a great demand for licenses to drive motorized carts in the city. Councilmember Brown stated that adopting the ordinance now would be premature. Councilmember Notti commented on how adopting the ordinance now will allow more emphasis to be placed on it as they move forward with the LCI program. Mayor Pro Tem Vincent asked for more details regarding the usage of motorized carts and also suggested that this discussion be placed on the agenda for the retreat. Ms. Hancher suggested adopting the ordinance now but the enforcement to start at a later date. Councilmember Smith motioned to adopt the motorized cart ordinance to be effective July 1, 2012, and Councilmember Notti seconded. The vote was six in favor.

The City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price, read the certified results from the November 8, 2011 election. The results were certified by the Henry County Director of Elections, Ms. Janet Shellnut. The election results are as follows:

City Councilmember At-Large:

Gail Notti	916
Write- In	53

City Councilmember District 3:

Wayne Smith	362
Swaine Thompson	145

City Councilmember District 4:

Kamali Varner	90
Monta Brown	73
Alphonso Williams	36

Referendum on Sunday package alcohol sales:

Yes votes	684
No votes	455

Councilmember Smith motioned to make the November 2011 election results a part of tonight’s minutes and Councilmember Amis seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Ms. Price discussed the amended 2012 City Council Meeting Schedule. The time of the Organizational meeting on January 5th was changed to 5:30 PM in order to swear in the new councilmember-elect before the Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for 6:00 PM on January 5th and the Council Meeting is scheduled for January 9th at 7:00 PM.

Councilmember Smith motioned to accept the amended 2012 schedule as presented tonight and Councilmember Amis seconded. The vote was five in favor (Councilmember Brown abstained).

There were no unscheduled comments.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for two personnel matters. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Smith seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to go back into regular session. Councilmember Smith motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Vincent seconded. The vote was six in favor.

There were two action items from Executive Session:

Councilmember Smith motioned to establish the position of an Assistant to the City Administrator and approve the job description and salary range as presented and to authorize City Administrator, Mr. Billy Beckett, to place Mr. Jestin Johnson in this position and Mayor Pro Tem Vincent seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Vincent motioned to authorize the City Administrator, Mr. Beckett, to offer the position of Community Development Director to Mr. John Cheek with an effective start date of January 1, 2012 and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Ms. Price invited Mayor and Council to the Employee Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at Avalon Fire Station. The Varsity would be serving lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Each Councilmember thanked and extended best wishes to Councilmember Brown in his future endeavors.

Councilmember Smith thanked the Public Safety and the Lions Club for their help in the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Copeland commented on Councilmember Brown being an asset to the City and he thanked him for his service to the city. Mayor Copeland also mentioned that this is the first McDonough Geranium Drop which will take place on New Year's Eve. The "Geranium" will be dropped from the Chafin Building. The event will begin at 8:30 PM. This was an idea of the merchants in the downtown area.

Councilmember Brown thanked all his colleagues for their well wishes. He will continue to be involved in the city. He extended his best wishes to Ms. Kam Varner.

Having no further business Mayor Copeland asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Amis motioned and all stood in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Janis E. Price
City Clerk