MINUTES

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting
January 6, 2020
City Hall: 7:30 p.m.

City Manager Arnold called the Organizational Meeting of the Decatur City Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020.

PRESENT: Commissioners Dusenbury, Garrett, Mayer, Powers and Walsh; and, City Manager Arnold.

OATH OF OFFICE.
City Attorney Bryan Downs administered the oath of office to Commissioner Dusenbury.

Robyn Taylor administered the oath of office to Commissioner Mayer.

Cinque Axam administered the oath of office to Commissioner Powers.

ELECTION OF MAYOR/CHAIR FOR 2020.
Upon a nomination of Commissioner Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye,” Commissioner Garrett was elected to serve as Mayor/Chair for 2020.

City Manager Arnold transferred the chair to Mayor Garrett.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM/VICE CHAIR FOR 2020.
Upon a nomination of Commissioner Walsh; second by Commissioner Mayer; and, all voting “aye,” Commissioner Powers was elected to serve as Mayor pro tem/Vice Chair for 2020.

MINUTES of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019 were approved on a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers; second by Commissioner Walsh; and Mayor Garrett; Mayor pro tem Powers and Commissioner Walsh voting “aye.” Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayer abstained from voting.¹

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.
Mayor Garrett opened the meeting for public comment.

There were no comments from the public.

¹ Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayer were not present at the December 16, 2019 meeting.
APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY.

City Manager Arnold recommended that the City Commission authorize an agreement with Wilson, Morton and Downs for legal services including reappointment of Bryan Downs to the position of City Attorney and stated that Mr. Downs had indicated that he was willing to serve.

On a motion by Commissioner Walsh; second by Mayor pro tem Powers; and, all voting “aye,” the agreement was authorized and Bryan Downs was reappointed as City Attorney.

DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL COURT CHIEF JUDGE AND APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES.

Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor stated that in accordance with State law (O.C.G.A. 36-32-2), she was recommending the following municipal court appointments for a one-year term in 2020:

Reappoint Rhathelia Stroud as chief judge of the municipal court.

Reappoint Berryl A. Anderson, Hollie Manheimer and Matthew McCoyd as part-time municipal court judges.

Reappoint Charles E. Bailey and F. Robert “Bobby” Slotkin, Jr as a substitute municipal judges.

On a motion by Commissioner Dusenbury; second by Commissioner Mayer; and, all voting “aye,” Rhathelia Stroud was reappointed Chief Judge and all other judges were reappointed as recommended.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING B SHELVING.

Administrative Assistant Andrew Burnette recommended the purchase of shelving from Spacesaver Storage Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $17,337.02 as well as contracting with Patterson Pope for the installation of the shelving in an amount not to exceed $2,745.29. Mr. Burnette stated that the shelving was for Public Works Building B and that its installation would complete the buildout of the space so that organized storage of construction plans generated by the Design, Environment and Construction division could be maintained on site. He noted that the purchase was being made through a state contract with Spacesaver Storage Systems.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, City Manager Arnold explained the process for purchasing goods by state contract rather than through a competitive bidding process.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, City Manager Arnold stated that the purchase of any good less than $10,000 could be approved by the City Manager per the City’s financial policies.
In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, City Manager Arnold stated it varied by good or project whether the price from the state contract was used or not.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers; second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye,” the purchase was approved as recommended.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.
Kathie Gannon, 335 West Ponce de Leon Avenue #615, invited the community to an art exhibition at Aimee Jewelry and Gallery between January 23rd and January 31st to view the work of artist Audrey Galex. Ms. Gannon stated that purchases from the exhibition would support the Initiative for Affordable Housing.

Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson, 315 Greenwood Avenue, thanked staff and the City Commission for the work it did every day to make the city a beautiful place to live.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.
Mayor Garrett read the Zoning Board of Appeals agenda for January 13, 2020.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers; second by Commissioner Walsh; and, Mayor Garrett, Mayor pro tem Powers and Commissioner Walsh voting “aye,” Resolution R-20-01 confirming the Executive Session of December 16, 2019 was approved. Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayor abstained.

Assistant City Manager David Junger stated that long-time Public Works employee Fred Jones had passed away. He offered condolences to the family of Mr. Jones.

Commissioner Mayer stated that she was honored and humbled to be on the Decatur City Commission.

Commissioner Dusenbury stated that he was looking forward to getting started in his new role as well as with the upcoming Strategic Planning process.

Commissioner Walsh welcomed Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayer to the team.

Commissioner Walsh stated that the MLK. Jr. Service Day project weekend was scheduled for January 18-20 and she encouraged everyone to participate.

Commissioner Walsh congratulated Mayor Garret and Mayor pro tem Powers as well as the reappointed judges on their roles serving the community in 2020.

Mayor pro tem Powers thanked his fellow commissioners for once again entrusting him with the role of Mayor pro tem for 2020 as well as city staff for working to keep the City Commission prepared for each meeting.
Mayor pro tem Powers welcomed Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayer.

Mayor pro tem Powers offered praise to the families of the City Commissioners and thanked them for making their service possible.

Mayor pro tem Powers noted that he had been selected to speak during Decatur High School’s Honor Roll ceremony on January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor pro tem Powers stated that the Decatur High School 1980 and 1982 Championship basketball teams were honored during a recent game.

Mayor Garrett stated that it was an honor to serve as Mayor on the City Commission and that she looked forward to 2020.

Mayor Garrett welcomed Commissioners Dusenbury and Mayer.

Mayor Garrett stated that she had participated in the lighting of the Grand Menorah on the Square on the final night of Hanukkah 2019.

Mayor Garrett reiterated that the MLK Jr. Service Day project weekend was scheduled for January 18-20 and she encouraged everyone to participate.

Mayor Garrett stated that the opening reception for Mike Glenn’s latest exhibit now on display at the Decatur Library was scheduled for January 7th.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Meredith Roark
City Clerk