

**MINUTES
DECATUR CITY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting
October 5, 2020
Via Video Teleconference: 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Garrett called the Regular Meeting of the Decatur City Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2020.

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

MINUTES of the Special Called Meeting of September 28, 2020 were approved as corrected on a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye.”

PROCLAMATION.

Mayor Garrett proclaimed October 3, 2020 as Joy A. Jackson Day.

Mayor pro tem Powers thanked the late Ms. Jackson for her service to the community. He thanked Ms. Jackson’s family for joining the meeting.

The City Commission offered its condolence to the family of Ms. Jackson.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE.

City Manager Arnold recommended the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for the retail sale for consumption on premises of beer and wine to Lloyd A. Solomon for The BBQ Café, LLC, 310 East Howard Avenue. She stated that the application had received approval from all required departments and all fees had been paid. She added that the restaurant was not subject to an approved sidewalk table plan due, as all outdoor seating was located on an existing patio on the subject property and was partially enclosed with a fence.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS.

Mayor Garrett opened the meeting for public comment on agenda action items.

Hearing none, Mayor Garrett closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DEKALB COUNTY.

City Manager Arnold recommended authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with local non-profit organization The Junior League of DeKalb County for the property located at 716 West Trinity Place. She stated that the initial agreement dated from 1980 and allowed the historic building owned by the Junior League to occupy City property. She stated that rather than allowing for a 40 year lease as the original agreement had, the recommended lease

agreement included a 5 year term as well as other updated terms and conditions including City use of the facility and standard insurance requirements. She recognized Junior League representatives Lisa Moultrie and Rashidah Hasan.

Mayor Garrett thanked Ms. Moultrie and Ms. Hasan for attending the meeting.

Ms. Moultrie thanked the City Commission for considering the lease agreement.

In response to a question from Ms. Moultrie, City Manager Arnold stated that the lease term would be set at five years with automatic renewals.

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

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES.

Assistant City Manager David Junger recommended that a project budget be established in the amount of \$25,000 and that an agreement with AECOM in the amount of \$19,713 be approved for geotechnical services to determine the cause of roadway failures on Swanton Way as well as Jefferson Place. He stated that standard asphalt paving and patching practices were recently used at both locations, but continued deterioration indicated more extensive remedial measures may be required. He added that AECOM was currently under contract as an on-call consultant, with Accura Engineering as a sub-consultant, to perform specialized geotechnical tasks for the project. He stated that funds for the project were available in the Streets Division budget of the FY 2020-2021 General Fund.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Powers, Mr. Junger stated that similar geotechnical tasks could be performed at other locations with roadway failures as well.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, Mr. Junger stated that if the issues were related to the water and sewer lines, DeKalb County would be notified.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, Mr. Junger explained the potential causes for a roadway failure.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Dusenbury; and, all voting “aye,” the agreement and budget were approved as recommended.

PROJECT BUDGET AND AWARD OF BID FOR MILLING AND REPAIR OF LOCAL STREETS.

Mr. Junger recommended establishing a project budget of \$1,050,000 and award of a contract in the amount of \$856,142 for milling and repairing local streets to the low bidder, Blount Construction Company, Inc. of Marietta. He stated that the budget included a 22% contingency. He stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) had provided funding in the amount of \$221,570 as part of its Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. He added that the City was required to provide a minimum local match of 30%. He stated that the repair and repaving program would cover approximately 0.98 miles and include South Columbia

Drive from East College Avenue to the city limit. He added that the project would include sidewalk repairs on South Columbia Drive and Kings Highway. He stated that funds for the project were available in the FY 2020-2021 budget.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Powers, Mr. Junger stated that a pavement assessment tool report was being reviewed by staff to identify seal coating needs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, Mr. Junger stated that the lane miles were calculated annually and submitted to GDOT. He stated that the unit of measurement used was centerline miles.

City Clerk Meredith Roark added that there were 69.5 miles of paved streets currently in the city.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walsh, Mr. Junger stated that the streets for 2020-2021 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) had been approved. He added that the pavement assessment tool had been helpful in selecting and recommending streets for inclusion in this year's program.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, Mr. Junger explained the process that would be followed to notify the residents about the project, if approved. He stated that it would be ideal to keep one lane open for traffic at all times on South Columbia Drive.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting "aye," the project budget and bid award were approved as recommended.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.

Lynn Gathercole, 1003 Katie Kerr Drive, stated that she would be conducting a survey of city residents to gauge interest in a request that the City reopen the planning process for input regarding the number of affordable housing units proposed for development in the Decatur Legacy Park master plan housing addendum. She accused Mayor pro tem Powers of hiring someone to perform a background investigation on her. Her statement did not include evidence to support the claim.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

Mayor Garrett read the Planning Commission Agenda for October 13, 2020.

Mayor Garrett read the Zoning Board of Appeals Agenda for October 12, 2020.

City Manager Arnold provided an update regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funds that the City had recently received from DeKalb County. She added the further details about a spending plan would be presented at the next meeting.

Design, Environment and Construction Director John Maximuk presented an update to the work done by the Zoning Board of Appeals on revising its rules of procedures.

Assistant City Manager Linda Harris encouraged everyone to participate in the Decorate Decatur Halloween decorating contest and to submit entries by October 23, 2020.

Ms. Harris stated that the Better Together Advisory Board had opened the second annual Welcoming Business Award for nominations and encouraged residents to nominate their favorite local businesses by October 23, 2020.

Mayor Garrett noted that the winners of the Welcoming Business Award, along with the recipients of the 2020 Hometown Hero Awards, would be announced at the December meeting of the Decatur Business Association

Mr. Junger presented an update on the work done by the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB).

Mayor pro tem Powers addressed the complaint brought forward by Ms. Gathercole.

Commissioner Mayer reminded everyone of the role of the City Commission. She encouraged everyone to maintain civility, decorum and mutual respect during the meetings. She reiterated the importance of referencing information from reliable sources.

Commissioner Mayer stated that the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights would be hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Day event on October 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. on the Square.

Commissioner Dusenbury encouraged everyone to do better and to work for the benefit of the community.

Commissioner Walsh thanked Mr. Maximuk for the presentation during the evening's work session.

Commissioner Walsh stated that affordable housing concerns had been reviewed and addressed differently by different City Commissions.

Commissioner Walsh shared her excitement that the Fall season was upon us.

Commissioner Walsh commended the local businesses for working with each other and accepting patrons while enforcing social distancing guidelines.

Commissioner Walsh encouraged everyone to get a flu shot; participate in the Census; and, vote.

Mayor Garrett thanked her fellow Commissioners for all the comments.

Mayor Garrett commended the religious institutions that came together to toll their bells 200 times in remembrance of all the individuals whose lives had been lost due to COVID-19.

Mayor Garrett encouraged everyone to view the virtual sessions from the 2020 AJC Decatur Book Festival. She stated that she enjoyed watching the endnote session featuring Natasha Trethewey. Mayor Garrett congratulated AJC Decatur Book Festival Interim Executive Director Joy Pope and her team on their hard work and accomplishments.

Mayor Garrett stated that the Atlanta Region Transit Link Authority's district meeting would be held on October 6, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Garrett stated that International Walk and Roll to School Day would be held on October 7, 2020 and she encouraged everyone to walk or bicycle around the community.

Mayor Garrett thanked Communications Manager Renae Madison and her team for their work on the October edition of the Decatur Focus. She also recognized the women who operated small businesses in the City and had been featured in the Decatur Focus in honor of National Women's Small Business Month.

Mayor Garrett stated that at the end of Census Smackdown Challenge with the City of Avondale Estates, Decatur (74.6% participation rate) had lost to Avondale Estates (75.5% participation rate). As a result of the loss, Mayor Garrett shared 10 reasons why she liked Avondale Estates.

Mayor Garrett thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meredith Roark
City Clerk