

**MINUTES
DECATUR CITY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting
November 16, 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, November 16, 2020.

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

MINUTES of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of November 2, 2020 were approved on a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye.”

PRESENTATION.

Active Living Director Greg White presented the Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) Awards. He presented GRPA’s State Volunteer of the Year Award to resident Lee Goldsmith. He thanked Mr. Goldsmith for his work at the Oakhurst dog park.

GRPA Executive Director Steve Card presented the Marketing and Visibility Publication Award for Online Media to the Active Living Division. Active Living Assistant Director Cheryl Burnette received the award and thanked the community for staying engaged in the efforts led by the division.

Mr. Card presented GRPA’s prestigious Mike Daniel Award to Active Living Program Supervisor Sara Holmes for excellence in programming. He commended her for organizing GRPA’s inaugural Women’s Leadership Summit and for involvement in the field.

Mayor Garrett congratulated the Active Living Division for providing excellent service to the community.

City Manager Arnold recognized Mr. White for creating a new GRPA logo and commended him and his team for their hard work and dedication.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS.

Mayor Garrett opened the meeting for public comment.

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

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING ETHICS ORDINANCE.

City Manager Arnold recommended adoption of Resolution R-20-27 that would reaffirm the City Commission’s commitment to the five ethics principles as outlined in the resolution and embodied in the City’s Ethics Ordinance. She said that adoption of the resolution would allow the City to remain certified in the Georgia Municipal Association’s “Cities of Ethics” program and

would reaffirm the City Commission's dedication to open, honest and transparent government. She added that the ordinance was initially adopted in January 2000 and amended in October 2016 and there had been no complaints that members of the City Commission had violated the ordinance and no complaints had been filed with the Ethics Committee. She stated that the initial Ethics Committee was appointed in May, 2001 and the current members were Charlie Bailey, Mark Douglas and Elizabeth Wilson.

Mayor Garrett stated that the resolution would need to be signed by each member of the City Commission.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Mayer; and, all voting "aye," Resolution R-20-27 was approved.

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE.

City Manager Arnold stated that on July 20, 2020, the City Commission adopted Ordinance O-20-09, as amended, requiring face coverings to be worn in public during the COVID-19 public health emergency. She stated that the ordinance was extended on October 19, 2020 and would remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on November 16, 2020, or until it was extended, rescinded, or amended by ordinance of the City Commission. She stated that since the public health emergency described in the ordinance continued, it was recommended that the face covering ordinance be extended through December 21, 2020 through the adoption of Ordinance O-20-16. City Manager Arnold emphasized that compliance with the face covering ordinance has remained high throughout the city.

In response to a question by Commissioner Dusenbury, City Manager Arnold stated that the ordinance mandated the usage of facial coverings or masks inside all establishments as defined in Ordinance O-20-09, except while drinking or eating.

In response to a question by Commissioner Dusenbury, City Manager Arnold clarified that when a person was alone in an enclosed space or only with other household members they were not required to wear a mask.

In response to a question by Commissioner Dusenbury, City Manager Arnold stated that the requirement to wear a facial covering did not apply to religious establishments but it did apply to schools.

In response to a question by Commissioner Mayer, City Manager Arnold stated that the use of facial coverings was not mandated at religious establishments due to concerns about potential legal implications. She stated that most of the religious establishments were holding services virtually or requiring the use of facial coverings for in-person events and limiting attendance numbers according to regular surveys of religious establishments within the city limits conducted by city staff.

Mayor Garrett concurred with City Manager Arnold.

Commissioner Mayer stated that she was proud of the work done by staff and City Commission in implementing the ordinance. She added that she had received comments from residents about taking stronger measures to protect the community from the effects of the pandemic. She stated the importance of implementing the regulation at all establishments in a consistent manner.

Commissioner Dusenbury concurred with Commissioner Mayer and added that the use of facial coverings would not affect an individual's ability to participate in a religious service. He stated that extending the ordinance to include as many of the current exceptions as practically possible would make it more effective.

Commissioner Mayer stated that the goal was to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 disease by using measures such as creating awareness and making facial coverings available.

Mayor Garrett concurred with Commissioner Mayer about increasing the education and outreach efforts regarding the importance of social distancing and use of face coverings. She encouraged community members to inform staff if they found that certain establishments were not meeting the requirements of the ordinance.

Mayor pro tem Powers encouraged business owners to reach out to staff if they had questions about the ordinance. He added that certain publications reflected a growth in sales in regions where the use of face coverings was mandated.

Commissioner Walsh stated that the ordinance had introduced a strong culture of using face coverings. She added that the spirit of the community was worth commending as most religious establishments voluntarily complied with the requirements of the ordinance even if they were exempt.

Commissioner Dusenbury reiterated that the data proved that the City had done a good job in limiting the spread of the disease.

On a motion by Commissioner Mayer, second by Commissioner Dusenbury; and, all voting "aye," Ordinance O-20-16 was approved.

LOGO LICENSE AGREEMENT.

Assistant City Manager Linda Harris recommended approval of Robin Hill Design Studio (Huckmade.com) to license the City of Decatur logo and the historic City of Decatur logo on custom line products. She stated that the owner of Robin Hill Design Studio was Oakhurst resident Huckleberry Starnes and he would sell the items online as well as work with local retailers to supply them with wholesale merchandise. She added that Robin Hill Design Studio had requested to have an exclusive license in that the City of Decatur would not grant other parties permission to produce competing items. She recommended that the annual licensing fee be increased from \$500 to \$750, 5% of net proceeds beyond the initial \$750 be paid to the City and that the request be granted for one year and reevaluated at that time. She explained that the agreement would not change the ability to purchase City of Decatur items in bulk from other vendors.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, Ms. Harris stated that the terms of the previous agreements had been similar to the proposed agreement. She added that the request for an exclusive license had not been made before.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, Ms. Harris explained the process of allowing the usage of the City of Decatur logo on different merchandise by vendors.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, Ms. Harris stated that staff had met with Mr. Starnes several times to discuss the importance and value of Decatur's brand and the high standard that was expected when producing logo items.

In response to a question from Commissioner Dusenbury, Ms. Harris explained that the exclusive license would be reevaluated by the City Commission after one year.

Commissioner Dusenbury commended staff for creating an opportunity to reevaluate the exclusivity of the license after a period of one year. He stated that the transparent process could motivate other interested parties to come forward if there was a market for the products and bid for the license after one year.

Mayor pro tem Powers concurred with Ms. Harris and stated that the request for an exclusive license was logical as there would be a significant initial investment that would need to be made by the vendor.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Starnes would have a special section on his website to promote the logo items.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, Ms. Harris stated that Robin Hill Design Studio would need to use colors that would match the exact colors of the City of Decatur logo on the merchandise. She added that the sample products were used to display the nature of the products that could be offered if the authorization of the agreement was approved.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mayer, Ms. Harris stated that the City would be indemnified against any safety or quality issues raised by potential customers. She stated that Robin Hill Design Studio would respond to such issues.

On a motion by Commissioner Mayer, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting "aye," the City Manager was authorized to execute a licensing agreement with Robin Hill Design Studio for the use of the City of Decatur logo as recommended.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.

There were no requests or petitions.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Dusenbury; and, all voting "aye," Resolution R-20-28 confirming the Executive Session of November 2, 2020 was adopted.

City Manager Arnold presented an update to the estimated spending plan to utilize the Coronavirus Relief Fund funds that the City had received from DeKalb County. She stated that the community-related expenses would be disbursed prior to December 20, 2020 as included in the intergovernmental agreement with the County. She explained that any remaining balance would be used to reimburse the City's General Fund for public safety payroll expenses and other eligible expenses under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. She stated that the expenses related to the funds would continue to be tracked, documented and reported to the City Commission on a monthly basis and the budget modifications would be brought before the City Commission as needed.

In response to a question from Mayor Garrett, City Manager Arnold stated that the City had accepted bids and proposals for the installation of ultraviolet lights for City-owned HVAC units at multiple city facilities. She stated that a project proposal would be presented at the next meeting.

Mayor Garrett read the Planning Commission Agenda for December 8, 2020.

Commissioner Mayer recognized Mr. Goldsmith, Ms. Holmes and the Active Living Division for serving the community and keeping residents active and engaged throughout the pandemic.

Commissioner Mayer stated that the National Center for Civil and Human Rights would be hosting a virtual panel discussion on November 18, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. She stated that Decatur High School students Daxton Pettus and Genesis Reddicks, historical figures from the civil rights movement Charles Black and Roslyn Pope along with Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson would be part of the discussion.

Commissioner Mayer expressed her solidarity to community members who had recently experienced a personal and profound loss.

Commissioner Dusenbury concurred with Commissioner Mayer and expressed his support to the community.

Commissioner Dusenbury congratulated the Active Living Division on all of its accolades.

Commissioner Dusenbury thanked Project Civil Engineer Jennings Bell and his team for the presentation during the evening's work session on the City's Storm Water Master Plan.

Commissioner Walsh thanked staff for the evening's work session.

Commissioner Walsh lauded the initiatives led by the Active Living Division and congratulated staff for its accomplishments.

Commissioner Walsh encouraged everyone to connect with each other in a safe way over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mayor pro tem Powers shared his appreciation for the work done by the Active Living Division.

Mayor pro tem Powers stated that he was thankful to be a part of a resilient community and reminded everyone that there were several resources available for those in need.

Mayor pro tem Powers lauded staff for the evening's work session.

Mayor Garrett presented updates about the work done by the Georgia Municipal Association's Equity and Inclusion Commission.

Mayor Garrett stated that the strategic planning activities would resume soon through online sessions called Decatur 202s. She added that a session on Transportation and Mobility would be held on November 19, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mayor Garrett invited everyone to the Environmental Sustainability Board's online talk on climate change and health led by Dr. Rebecca Philipsborn on November 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. She added that more information could be found on the city website.

Mayor Garrett encouraged the community to participate in the City's recycling services survey by visiting www.opentownhall.com/9966 before November 30, 2020.

Mayor Garrett expressed her condolences to the family and community members that were mourning a loss due to a recent tragedy.

The City Commission wished the community a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meredith Roark
City Clerk