

MINUTES

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting
January 2, 2024
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 Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

Judge Rhathelia Stroud administered the oath of office to Commissioner Dusenbury.

Andrea Threet administered the oath of office to Commissioner Mayer.

Judge Cinque Axam administered the oath of office to Commissioner Powers.

ELECTION OF MAYOR/CHAIR FOR 2024.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye,” Commissioner Garrett was elected to serve as Mayor/Chair for 2024.

City Manager Arnold transferred the chair to Mayor Garrett.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM/VICE CHAIR FOR 2024.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Mayer; second by Commissioner Dusenbury; and, all voting “aye,” Commissioner Powers was elected to serve as Mayor pro tem/Vice Chair for 2024.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2023 were approved on a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye.”

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

Mayor Garrett opened the meeting for public comment.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Garrett closed the public comment portion of the 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. She stated that Mr. Downs had indicated that he was willing to serve.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Powers, second by Commissioner Walsh; and, all voting “aye,” the City Manager was authorized to enter into an agreement with Wilson, Morton and Downs for legal services and Bryan Downs was reappointed as City Attorney.

DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL COURT CHIEF JUDGE.

Assistant City Manager Teresa de Castro stated that in accordance with State law (O.C.G.A. 36-32-2), she was recommending the reappointment of Rhathelia Stroud as chief judge of the municipal court for a one-year term in 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Dusenbury, second by Commissioner Mayer; and, all voting “aye,” Rhathelia Stroud was reappointed and designated as Municipal Court Chief Judge.

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES.

Ms. de Castro 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 2024:

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

Reappoint Cinque Axam, Tyler Edgerton, F. Robert “Bobby” Slotkin, Jr. and Tom Stubbs as substitute municipal judges.

On a motion by Commissioner Walsh; second by Mayor pro tem Powers; and, all voting “aye,” Berryl Anderson, Hollie Manheimer and Denise VanLanduyt were appointed as part-time municipal court judges and Cinque Axam, Tyler Edgerton, F. Robert “Bobby” Slotkin, Jr. and Tom Stubbs were appointed as substitute municipal court judges.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.

There were no requests or petitions.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

City Manager Arnold announced that the City Commission and leadership staff would be attending the annual planning retreat on Thursday, January 4 and Friday, January 5 at the Brasstown Valley conference center in Young Harris, Georgia.

Commissioner Mayer thanked her sister for attending and administering the oath of office. She also recognized her partner and children and thanked them for their support.

Commissioner Mayer stated she was excited to continue working for and with the City over the next four years.

Commissioner Dusenbury thanked Judge Stroud for administering the oath of office. He recognized his wife, Courtenay, and thanked her and his children for their support.

Commissioner Dusenbury stated he was looking forward to serving during the next four years.

Commissioner Walsh stated that she was looking forward to working with her fellow Commissioners for another year.

Commissioner Walsh stated she was looking forward to the time at the annual retreat.

Commissioner Walsh thanked City Attorney Bryan Downs and the municipal court judges for their continued service to the City.

Mayor pro tem Powers thanked his wife Leisa for her support and Mr. Axam for administering the oath of office. He stated that he loved showing up to do the work of the City.

Mayor pro tem Powers thanked his fellow Commissioners for trusting him to serve as the Mayor pro tem for another year.

Mayor Garrett expressed gratitude to her fellow Commissioners for allowing her to serve as Mayor for another year.

Mayor Garrett ended the meeting by sharing that she was looking forward to the upcoming year.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Meredith Roark
City Clerk