

BOARD OF MAYOR
AND COMMISSIONERS

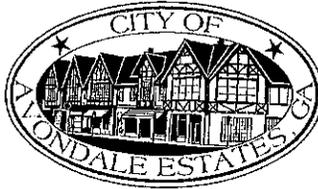
JONATHAN ELMORE
MAYOR

TERRY GIAGER
MAYOR PRO TEM

RANDY BEEBE
COMMISSIONER

BRIAN FISHER
COMMISSIONER

ADELA YELTON
COMMISSIONER



R. CLAI BROWN
CITY MANAGER

GINA HILL
CITY CLERK

ROBERT E. WILSON
CITY ATTORNEY

STEPHEN W. NICHOLAS
CITY JUDGE

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 20, 2016

(Immediately following the Public Hearing for the 2016 Tax Millage Rate)

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Terry Giager, Mayor Pro Tem
Randy Beebe, Commissioner
Brian Fisher, Commissioner
Adela Yelton, Commissioner

Staff Present: Clai Brown, City Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk
Oscar Griffin, Public Works Director
Jason Browen, Police Sergeant

Item No. 1 Meeting Called to Order at 7:37 p.m.

Item No. 2 Invocation (Mayor Pro Tem Giager)

Item No. 3 Pledge to the Flag

Item No. 4 Adoption of Agenda
Mayor Elmore moves to adopt agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Giager seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 5 Commissioner Updates – Subjects of General Interest and Concern

Commissioner Yelton: I would like to remember the victims of the Orlando shooting tragedy and their families. Also, I'm very thankful to our law enforcement and first responders. We need to perpetuate love and not hate.

Commissioner Fisher: I'm excited to see everyone here tonight. I'm excited about a lot of things going on in our community. There is so much going on and moving quickly that I just ask that you bear with us and hold us accountable. There will always be opinions on both sides of an issue but just please remember that we're trying to do what's best for the City in the long term. There are going to be a lot of meetings. I ask you to be here.

Mayor Pro Tem Giager: The 4th of July is coming up and City Hall has t-shirts and signs for sale and could use donations. Every year the celebration gets bigger.

Mayor Elmore: Friday was Chief Broden's last day and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank him for his service.

Item No. 6

Monthly Report by the City Manager Concerning the Status of Matters in Progress and Upcoming Issues and Events

City Manager Brown: I want to thank Oscar Griffin and Jason Browen for being here. We opened sealed bids for our road maintenance project this past Friday. We hope to pave Hess Drive from the cul-de-sac all the way to Wiltshire Drive and Lakeshore Drive from Hess to where it dead ends in Fletcher Park. Also, North Clarendon from North Avondale to our city limits of Rockbridge Road. Berkeley Road by the high school from Clarendon down to Dunwick. Bids range from \$432 thousand to \$662 thousand. I'm going through the bids now and will bring them before the Board for approval.

The City has gotten a grant and just completed the first two phases of the historic resources survey. It was partially funding by the Historic Preservation Division. A picture of every property in the City was taken. We have them in books at City Hall. Along with that are explanations of all the architectural features of that individual property. So now we have a database of what every property looks like. It will really be beneficial years down the road. Eventually it will be on the website.

Also, please get your July 4th t-shirts and signs. The holiday is only two weeks away. The money will help pay for the parade and fireworks. The parade line up is unbelievable this year.

Item No. 7

Citizens' Comments:

"It's another beautiful day in Avondale Estates" – Thomas P. Samford

Martha McDermott/6 Kingstone Rd: It seems like more and more ducks are getting tangled up in fishing line at the lake. Is there anything we can do?

City Manager Brown: We can distribute educational information.

Lisa Shortell/6 Clarendon Pl: I'd like to thank Oscar Griffin and the public works department on the great job they're doing at Willis Park.

Dee Merriam/8 Lakeview Pl: What's the status of the city directories?

City Manager Brown: They're in the process. We've put out another "last call" request for information just to try and get more participation. Hopefully in 6-8 weeks they'll be at your doorstep.

Melissa O'Shields/1170 Bromley Rd: I want to thank City staff for the prompt response with the duck problem. I wish I had called sooner. We have a lot of new people fishing at the lake and I don't think educating residents will help the problem. A lot of these people don't have fishing licenses. Is there anything that can be done about that? That would be more effective way to get information to the fishermen.

City Manager Brown: We can attack it from several different angles. The ordinance says you have to be a resident to fish or have a resident sponsor you. That ordinance is very old. These days, you need to be careful and consistent about how you approach things. Our police force does not have time currently to patrol the lake for fishing licenses.

Melissa O'Shields/1170 Bromley Rd: Could it be the responsibility of citizens patrol?

City Manager Brown: No. It's too dangerous. You just never know how someone will react.

Melissa O'Shields/1170 Bromley Rd: A lot of people who fish down there don't know you have to have a license.

City Manager Brown: The ordinance is posted on signs down there.

Peter Plishka/1126 Chatsworth Dr: I'm here to express support for the ArtLot. I'd like to see more support for creative, avant garde ideas.

Howard Wurtzel/30 Wiltshire Dr: It would be amazing to have the ArtLot as a place to meet, gather, have coffee. I think it's a fabulous idea. The plans I've seen are great. It would make this an arty and more attractive area. It could put Avondale on the map.

Lisa Shaw/3 Clarendon Ave: Avondale has so much potential and we need a start. The ArtLot could be the beginning.

Nick Purdy/42 Clarendon Ave: I like the idea of the ArtLot because it could get people to stop in the City and it's something that can happen without years of discussion. I hope it gets done and soon. It's also temporary and doesn't get in the way of any future development.

Lisa Shaw/3 Clarendon Ave: Doing sports field on blighted property could be temporary too.

Candace Jones/9 Fairfield Rd: I think the ArtLot proposal is going too fast and hasn't been properly vetted. It's a lot of money for a city this size. We've already put in money for the community promotion program. This needs to go through a process and fit into an overall plan. We have a long list of things that need to be done and we don't need a lot of quick fixes.

Lawson Wright/My Parents' Basement: I think it's a great idea. There needs to be due diligence about how to pay for it but it can't happen soon enough.

Unknown Resident/Sussex Rd: I support the ArtLot. I'd like to see the arts in the community grow.

Rachel Herzog/Garage Door Studio: I love this idea and it can't happen soon enough. It's something that can happen quick and it's moveable and temporary.

Dave Deiters/DDA: I agree with everyone. I think the pursuit of perfect process can be the enemy of progress. We are in desperate need of momentum. The DDA has received overwhelming support from our business community for the ArtLot. I ask the Board to think about the merit of the idea instead of was perfect process followed. I hope we can be good stewards of the public's money but do it quickly.

Howard Wurtzel/30 Wiltshire Dr: It's my understanding there are many volunteers who are helping develop this. We're not talking about bringing in contractors for every little thing. It will be done by the Avondale Arts Alliance who have promoted arts in the City for years and they've always been underfunded. They are giving a lot of themselves in doing this. Trying to do good things to have them go nowhere can be very discouraging. We should capitalize on this momentum. It's not that expensive and there are people willing to do the work.

Claire ???/Majestic Cir: It would be nice to have a vibrant area where people wanted to stop.

Dee Merriam/8 Lakeview Pl: I'm excited about the ArtLot and I thank those trying to make it happen. They need the Board's support to move forward.

John Pomberg/3288 Kensington Rd: I support the ArtLot. I think the Board should get behind it and help make it happen.

Item No. 8

Old Business:

- 2016 Tax Millage Rate Ordinance – Second of three required readings
- Board of Mayor and Commissioners Stipend -- Third of three required readings.

Mayor Pro Tem Giager moves to defer this item to the July 27th regular meeting. Commissioner Fisher seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 9

New Business:

- Conditional Use Permit -- 2864 Franklin Street-Jessica L. Bilz-Batting Cages and Associated Uses
Mayor Pro Tem Giager moves to approve. Commissioner Fisher seconds. All ayes.
- Board of Mayor and Commissioners Regular Meeting Time Change to 6:30 p.m. -- First of Three Readings
- City Manager Spending Threshold on Non-Budgeted Purchases -- First of Three Readings
- 2015 Budget Amendment Resolution

Commissioner Yelton: Does this allow the city manager to move money around?

City Manager Brown: Every year before the audit, which we're finalizing now, the auditor requests that the budget amendments are completed to ensure the city manager and Board has looked at the numbers.

Mayor Elmore moves to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Giager seconds. All ayes.

- DDA Funding

Mayor Elmore: We've been talking quite some time about rejuvenating the DDA. We're still working on the intergovernmental agreement but, in the meantime, the DDA is starting to do the things we've asked of them and that includes spending some money. I'd like to sign an interim measure to fund them \$10 thousand a month for three months while we get the long-term IGA worked out. There was a lot of talk about ArtLot at the last DDA meeting and I think it's a great idea. The people behind it are residents who also did AutumnFest. It's in line with the DDA's mission. I'd like to begin the discussion tonight about providing them with interim funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Giager: I don't have a problem with funding the DDA. I would like to see some kind of plan – expense plan, work plan, etc. showing what they plan to do with the money.

Commissioner Fisher: I think the ArtLot is an opportunity for the City to do something new and different. I like what I've heard and I understand the need for due diligence. I keep hearing the number \$50 thousand but what's been asked of us is \$12,500. I think the Avondale Arts Alliance has earned that. I think the DDA will do a good job of overseeing the money. I would like to keep our contribution to the ArtLot separate from the DDA funding. I think it's important to enter into an IGA within the 90 day time frame of the interim agreement. It would be good if it was done by the end of the summer. I think we should replenish some of the money the DDA has spent.

Commissioner Yelton: I agree with what Commissioner Fisher said, especially around interim funding. Everyone wants the IGA to happen quickly and I think 90 days is a good time frame. I think the ArtLot is innovative and grass roots. It's great that there are so many volunteers wanting to help with this.

Commissioner Beebe: I agree with everything that's been said up here. I think funding for the ArtLot should come from the DDA. I fully support the project. Maybe we should say do \$10 thousand a month until an IGA is done in case we don't get one in 90 days.

Commissioner Fisher: I feel like the ArtLot should be separate from us temporarily funding the DDA because I wouldn't want one to hold up the other.

Mayor Elmore: So maybe the first month is \$22.5 thousand and the following 2 months are \$10 thousand.

Commissioner Fisher: Yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Giager: We need to give the historic preservation committee (HPC) 45 days notice to get a comment. If we leave this temporary IGA open ended then we need to know what they're going to do. I would rather keep it at 90 days. And we should have as many meetings as it takes to accomplish that. I think the businesses deserve that. I know the businesses are frustrated that things take so long and this is the best way to help them, I think.

Mayor Elmore: I'd like to know if that HPC rule applies to temporary structures.

Commissioner Fisher: I wonder if the HPC rules would apply if it's a DDA project.

Commissioner Yelton: I think we can be good stewards of tax money and fund the ArtLot at the same time. Everything can be outlined in the IGA. The DDA is subject to audits too.

Public Comment

Lisa Shortell/6 Clarendon Pl: I like that the Board is committed to funding the DDA. A robust DDA is the only way for the City to move forward.

Candace Jones/9 Fairfield Rd: I agree we need to fund the DDA. I'm not in favor of a \$120,000 annual budget for them. It's too much too soon. I would also like to see a work plan. I think we need to be extra cautious with our funds.

Jen Singh/Garage Door Studio: I think it's time to put some faith in the DDA. They've been patient for 9 months and they're ready to get started. The Arts Alliance is enthusiastic and ready to start.

Dee Merriam/8 Lakeview Pl: I am all for process but we need to remember it's not a long term project.

John Pomberg/3288 Kensington Rd: Is the income from the DJJ building going to the City?

Dave Deiters/DDA: All that income goes to service the bond.

Mayor Elmore: This is a great idea and an investment in our City proposed by a great team of volunteer residents with a proven track record. We will discuss this again along with the interim IGA on Wednesday.

Commissioner Fisher: If we get a plan or budget from the DDA before then perhaps it could be put on the website.

Item No. 10

Announcements (Mayor Pro Tem Giager)

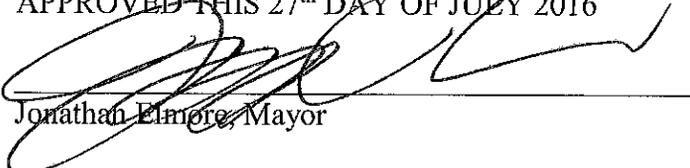
- The City's beloved 4th of July celebration is coming up. The day will start with the parade up Clarendon Avenue at 10 a.m. and wrap up with fireworks at the Lake Avondale that night.
- DeKalb County is having a very important run-off election on Tuesday, July 26th. Please get out and vote!

Item No. 11

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Giager moves to adjourn. Mayor Elmore seconds. All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF JULY 2016


Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:


Gina Hill, City Clerk