

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
5:30 p.m.  
VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor  
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner  
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner  
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager  
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Commissioner Laratte motions to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconds. All ayes.

Item #3 **Resolution to Continue Virtual Meetings**  
Commissioner Laratte moves to approve. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

The group clarified that this resolution will only be in effect until the number Of covid cases is low enough that it's safe to return to in-person meetings.

Item #4 **Hearing to Receive Public Comment on the New Sign Ordinance**  
No comments.

Item #5 **Hearing to Receive Public Comment on the Amended Tree Ordinance**  
No comments.

Item #6 **Commissioner Comments**  
Commissioner Merriam said it's just another beautiful day in Avondale Estates. Commissioner Laratte said he'll be posting some new ideas to Facebook later in the week. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher wished everyone a happy new year. He encouraged everyone to walk around downtown to see how the area is

progressing. He was also pleased that the University of Alabama lost the national football championship. Mayor Elmore logged off temporarily to fix his internet connection and Mayor Pro Tem Fisher took over. City Manager Bryant updated the BOMC on staff's current covid protocols, including an explanation about scheduling in the sanitation departments.

Item #7

**Approval of Minutes**

December 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting  
December 8<sup>th</sup> work session  
December 15<sup>th</sup> special called meeting

Commissioner Shortell moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #8

**Consideration of New Sign Ordinance**

The first reading of this ordinance took place at the last regular meeting. The new, updated ordinance was completed by city staff and consultants at Clark Patterson Lee.

Commissioner Merriam moved to adopt. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant recalled that Assistant City Manager Powell gave a presentation on this item the previous month when the first reading of this ordinance also took place. Commissioner Shortell thanked staff for their work on this and she knows everyone is glad to have this completed. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher said he was also happy with the ordinance.

Item #9

**Consideration of Amended Tree Ordinance**

The first reading of this ordinance took place at the last regular meeting. Amendments include increasing desired canopy coverage and tying the requirement of a tree replacement plan to land disturbance permits. The approved tree list has also been updated.

Commissioner Laratte moved to approve. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant thanked the BOMC for their dedication to working through the details of this ordinance. Commissioner Shortell noted it was a compromise and she appreciated the work of her fellow BOMC members. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher showed appreciation to Ms. Shortell for her work on this. Commissioner Merriam mentioned that photography to accompany the tree survey should be available soon. Mr. Fisher said that could be on a future work session agenda.

Item #10

**Resolution to Reject Northwoods Bid Proposal**

The city received one response to this request for proposal (RFP) which was much higher than the amount budgeted. Staff recommends not contracting with the sole bidder.

Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Mayor Elmore rejoined the meeting. City Manager Bryant explained why this resolution was needed. He described the steps moving forward that are being considered, including going through a state bid process. Commissioner Laratte asked about any deadlines associated with the grants for the project and Mr. Bryant responded. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher had questions about the timeline for getting bids through the state process.

Item #11 **Fenner Dunlop "Gap in Title" Property Purchase**

This item concerns a small amount of property near the Town Green site.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to approve. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant said it's been discussed in executive session that there is a piece of property just north of the Town Green site. After doing title searches, it was discovered that it still belonged to Fenner Dunlop. The BOMC instructed staff to pursue purchasing the property. An agreement was reached to buy it for \$23,000. If this resolution is approved, staff will complete the transaction. Commissioner Laratte asked why the property was needed. City Attorney Quinn explained that it was needed for the Town Green project. He gave more details about how this came about. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher felt this was a smart move.

Item #12 **Approve Grant of Easements to Georgia Power to Allow Installation of Electrical Lines on Property Owned by the City Located at:**

a. 139 Oak Street

Commissioner Shortell moved to approve. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

b. 19 Lake Street

Commissioner Shortell moved to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

c. 2950 Franklin Street

Commissioner Laratte moved to approve. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant explained why these easements are needed. Commissioner Merriam spoke out against overhead powerlines. She would like it to be taken into consideration with further development. Ms. Merriam would also like a diagram of where these poles are to be located to be included in the packet.

Item #13 **Approve Future Grant of Easement to Georgia Power to Allow Installation of Electrical Lines on Property Currently Owned by 278 Oak Holdings, LLC located at 147 Oak Street**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to approve. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

Item #14 Public Comment\*

None

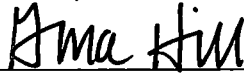
Item #15 Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

**\*Comments are limited to one per person, two minutes per comment.**

**\*Any questions are to be directed to the BOMC, not city staff.**

APPROVED FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gina Hill, City Clerk