

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 12TH, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

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

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte moved to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Police Department Update**

City Manager Bryant updated the group on the process to hire a new police chief. The application window has closed and the resulting applications and resumes have been sent to the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr Bryant said that over the next couple of weeks, the Association will cull the applicant pool to eight people. After a one-day assessment, the number of candidates will be reduced to three or four. Mr. Bryant is also working with a consultant on subjective interview criteria. He will also assemble a panel consisting of himself and community members to conduct the interviews. He also went over the process of hiring a third-party consultant through an RFP (request for proposals) process. Mr. Bryant fielded questions and comments from the BOMC about timeline, publicizing of candidates, racial bias, the citizens panel, subjective versus objective measures, etc. He said he would like to keep the members of the citizens panel members anonymous. Commissioner Merriam was concerned about transparency. He reminded her that was not in the BOMC purview, legally.

Item #4 **Budget Request from the Welcoming Committee**

Commissioner Laratte introduced this item and the chair of the Welcoming Committee, Connie Bryans. Ms. Bryans gave a presentation about the committee's activities and plans for the coming year. The group was requesting \$20,000 to carry those out. Ms. Bryans responded to questions and comments from members of the BOMC. Commissioner Shortell commented that a larger discussion needs to be had surrounding events and manpower. City Manager Bryant listed some of the issues to consider where events are concerned. In summary, additional staff is needed or a reduction in the number of events, especially with the opening of the town green. Commissioner Merriam referred to a placeholder amount for the Welcoming Committee in the 2022 budget. She also wanted to see teambuilding activities for the other boards as well. Mr. Laratte wanted attention paid to the city's focus on property versus people. He added he thought there were ways to reduce the need for staff involvement and he doesn't see a strain on staff as being an obstacle.

Item #5 **Update to Classification & Compensation Plan with Job Descriptions**
The plan must be updated in preparation of adding city staff.

City Manager Bryant reminded the group that the budget approved for 2022 included money for some new job positions. He described three of those positions. He said the jobs could not be advertised until the classification and compensation plan was officially amended by the BOMC. Mr. Bryant added this would be voted on as a resolution at the next meeting. Commissioner Merriam had questions about the greenspace manager and stormwater manager positions. Commissioner Laratte asked if the police ever got involved in code enforcement. Mr. Bryant said that they could and outlined some code enforcement job responsibilities.

Item #6 **Presentation of Stormwater Extent of Service Proposals**
Staff seeks direction from the BOMC regarding the level of extent of service policy the city should put in place. These policies concern stormwater infrastructure maintenance and repair on public versus private property.

City Manager Bryant said this decision would have a great deal of impact since it will determine who is responsible for stormwater repair and maintenance in certain areas of the city. Assistant City Manager gives a presentation on the issue. Mayor Elmore felt like the BOMC needed more time to think about these options. There was lots of discussion about the culvert that runs parallel to Hess Drive and what the city was responsible for and what the residents were responsible for. Talk continued on the topic. Consultant David Elliott said that easements were usually utilized when there was infrastructure that needed to be maintained on private property by a city.

Item #7 Public Comment: None

Item #8 **Executive Session with the Downtown Development Authority
Regarding Real Estate**

- Commissioner Shortell motioned to enter executive session at 8:08 p.m. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

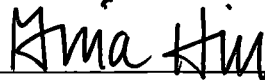
- Leigh Lynch motioned to enter executive session on behalf of the DDA. Walter Barineau seconded. All ayes.
- Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to exit executive session at 8:12 p.m. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.
- Tom Trocheck moved to exit executive session on behalf o the DDA. Walter Barineau seconded. All ayes.

Item #9

Adjournment

- Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.
- Tom Trocheck moved to adjourn on behalf of the DDA. Leigh Lynch seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED FEBRUARY 9TH, 2022



Gina Hill, City Clerk