

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 9TH, 2022
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Member Absent: Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem

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

Item #3 **Police Update**
City Manager Bryant authorized the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police to Invite nine applicants for the police chief position for an assessment, which is scheduled for March 2nd. The pool of candidates would decrease and then interviews would take place. Mr. Bryant hoped to have a new chief in place sometime in May. Commissioner Laratte believed it would be best to move forward with getting an evaluation from outside consultants about changes to be made to the police department. Mr. Bryant felt doing so before bringing a new chief on board would create an adversarial relationship. He believed the chief should be able to participate in shaping the new department. Mr. Laratte still felt it best to move forward with the request for proposals for an outside consultant. He encouraged other members of the BOMC to consider his viewpoint. Mayor Elmore said he agreed that the new chief should be involved in the review, especially if they have to be the one to implement changes. Commissioners Shortell and Merriam agreed with Mr. Elmore. Mr. Laratte added that this process is taking a long time, just like the public works building renovation he mentioned earlier. Mr. Elmore pointed out that the delays with public works are directly related to supply chain issues. He did not want the

impression to be that the BOMC was responsible for the delays. Mr. Bryant listed the few items that were holding up completion. Mr. Laratte thought the absence of the director of public works was also a factor but Mr. Bryant said that's not the case.

Item #4

North Woods Work Order Package

Staff will propose separating the project into two phases and present the cost of the first phase under the state bid contracting procedure. Phase One is primarily the construction of recreational trails and must be complete by June 30, 2022, under the terms of the land and Water Conservation Fund grant already awarded to the City.

City Manager Bryant gave background on this project. He added that a deadline was looming for one of the grant awards. He recommended the BOMC sign off on starting phase one of the project in order to meet this deadline.

Commissioner Merriam requested a site plan be added to the package before they approve it. Commissioner Shortell wanted confirmation that the design hasn't changed and Mr. Bryant said it had not. Commissioner Laratte had a question about tree removal in the area. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth gave some clarification. Mr. Bryant offered that funding aside from grant awards would be paid for from the city's stormwater fund. The timeline has not been set, he added. This item will be up for a vote at the next regular meeting.

Item #5

Stormwater Unit Fees

Staff will propose keeping fees constant for 2022 and indexing fees in future years to the Construction Cost Index.

City Manager Bryant said that by indexing these fees, staff believes the city can pay for work that needs to be done over the next 30 years. He added the increase would be 4.5% annually. Mayor Elmore said that rate could vary and he thinks this is a good idea. Commissioner Merriam was in agreement but was concerned about any spikes in construction costs. Mr. Bryant responded that the 4.5% has been the average for several decades. Commissioner Laratte asked if staff considered putting a cap on any single increases. There was discussion about the BOMC having the discretion to amend this arrangement in the future. Commissioner Shortell was supportive. Ms. Merriam suggested bringing this back before the BOMC if the rate exceeded a 5% increase. Mr. Bryant said staff will know way ahead of time if the rate is going to rise too much. Mr. Elmore suggests it be reviewed every year. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth also felt there would be enough time to flag a steep rise in the construction cost index.

Item #6

Water Waste Policy

The Water Resource Management Plan of the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District requires local policies to discourage the waste of water and thereby decrease the volume of flows into the storm water system. Staff will respond to BOMC questions raised at the last work session.

City Manager Bryant gave some background on this proposed policy. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth provided more detail about the draft. Commissioner

Laratte had questions about how "significant amount of water" would be determined. Mr. Hanebuth said a certain amount of subjectivity would be required. The policy was further tweaked during discussion. This will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Item #7

Commercial Janitorial Services for City Facilities

Staff have acquired quotes from three firms willing to provide janitorial and sanitation services for City facilities and will provide a recommendation regarding which quote to accept.

City Manager Bryant explained the need for this service. Commissioner Laratte asked about scope of work. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth said they would make sure that's reviewed before signing the contract.

Item #8

Public Comment

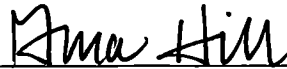
Liz Goodstein was pleased about the work on the North Woods. She thanked Commissioner Merriam for asking for a site plan. She also agreed with Commissioner Laratte's opinions on the hiring of a new police chief.

Item #9

Adjournment

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

APPROVED MARCH 9TH, 2022



Gina Hill, City Clerk