



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
MARCH 9th, 2022
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
Ken Morris, Permit Coordinator

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Police Update**
City Manager Bryant said that the first round of screening applicants took place the previous week where six candidates were evaluated. Mr. Bryant expected results from that assessment at any time. The next step would be to schedule interviews. Responding to a question from Commissioner Laratte, Mr. Bryant said members of the BOMC could see the assessments but not weigh in on the candidates.

Item #4 **Laredo Drive Improvements**
The City is requesting approval of a contract for engineering services with Pond Engineering in the amount of \$28,300 for Laredo Drive improvements. The scope of work includes

1. A survey of the area to use.
2. Evaluation of the subgrade conditions and pavement rehabilitation options.
3. Concept design for pedestrian and landscaping improvements.
4. Construction documents.

City Manager Bryant explained that staff was putting together a paving plan for the city and this stretch of road was a priority. He said, however, that this

stretch of road would need more intensive evaluation and work than just milling and paving. Commissioner Merriam asked if any design concepts would be brought before the public and Mr. Bryant confirmed. There was discussion about roundabouts, bike lanes, any right of way acquisition, etc.

Item #5

US 278 Design Fees & Grants

The BOMC approved two change orders in the amount of \$107,636 for additional fees. Staff is now requesting approval for two new change orders for additional costs due to the number of unexpected planning documents required by GDOT during the concept development phase and additional engineering associated with the signal designs in the amount of \$93,673. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has granted an additional \$160,909 in federal funds with a local match of \$40,400 to be allocated for all of the above design costs.

City Manager Bryant explained the situation outlined in the description above. There were no questions from the BOMC and members were supportive.

Item #6

Variance for 3125 Kensington Road

The owners of this property on the corner of Kensington and Stratford request a reduction in front and side setbacks. They plan to demolish the current home and rebuild. The Planning Architecture and Zoning Board voted to recommend the variance be approved.

City Manager Bryant said that after further discussions with the city attorney, staff would like to change their recommendation for this variance. Staff's position is that there is insufficient evidence of a hardship and the work could be completed. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher did not have a problem with the variance. Mr. Bryant explained that any new construction would need to conform to the setbacks outlined in the new zoning code. Mayor Elmore did not support a variance. Commissioner Merriam asked if the Planning Architectural and Zoning Board could weigh in on the matter and the city attorney commented about inherent time constraints. Discussion of the setbacks, hardship, and process continued.

Item #7

Public Comment

Richard Stevens, the architect for the project at 3125 Kensington Road, outlined some of the issues with case, including the desire to preserve trees. Resident Bill Hover felt the code was clear and the variance should be denied.

Item #8

Executive Session with the DDA -- Real Estate

- Commissioner Merriam moved to enter executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.
- Commissioner Shortell moved to exit executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #9

Adjournment

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

APPROVED APRIL 13TH, 2022

Gina Hill

Gina Hill, City Clerk