



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL  
21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA  
AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

**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  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney  
Lori Leland, Permitting Coordinator  
Helen Menefee, Admin Coordinator  
Harry Hess, Police Chief  
Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects Mgr.

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

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

Item #3 **Commissioner Comments**  
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher announced that he would not run for another term as commissioner. He said he was proud to have had the opportunity to serve and he was proud of what the BOMC has accomplished during his terms. Mayor Elmore said the things accomplished in the city in the past eight years would not have been possible without Mr. Fisher. Commissioner Shortell also thanked Mr. Fisher and Commissioner Merriam for their service. She then promoted the upcoming strategic planning retreat. Mr. Merriam provided more details about the retreat. She also said she would not be seeking another term and said serving on the BOMC was a pleasure. Commissioner Laratte lamented the end of Mr. Fisher and Ms. Merriam's terms. City Manager Bryant said the commissioners would be missed and he has enjoyed working with them.

Item #4 **Approval of Minutes**  
August 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting  
August 9<sup>th</sup> work session

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

Item #5 **Ordinance to Regulate Land Disturbance**

City Manager Bryant explained this ordinance had its first reading at the previous regular meeting but changes had been made since then so it was placed on tonight's agenda for another first reading to allow time to consider these changes. Assistant City Manager Powell showed a video of a residential stormwater problem before and after the homeowner made landscaping changes. She talked about how approaches to stormwater management have changed over the years. Ms. Powell described how staff works with property owners to come up with stormwater solutions. Since this issue is being seen often, there is now a need for an ordinance like this, she said. Mayor Elmore was supportive. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher talked about stormwater issues and said he understands the need for this ordinance. Commissioner Shortell really liked the ordinance. She did have questions about what types of professionals are needed to help the homeowners and if city staff would help recommend such professionals. Mr. Bryant said that staff cannot recommend businesses. Commissioner Merriam explained that she's a big proponent of green infrastructure. She shared some concerns and is interested in hearing from residents. Commissioner Laratte was supportive of the ordinance. He asked about avenues for appeal. Mr. Elmore described the process moving forward.

Item #6 **Resolution to Continue the Suspension of HOST, Continue the Levy of EHOST, Continue the 1% SPLOST, Approve the City's SPLOST Project List, Call a Referendum Election and Approve the City's Portion of the Ballot Form**

City Manager Bryant recommended the BOMC table these items until the upcoming strategic planning session. He said staff is still in discussions with the county about the language being used in the intragovernmental agreement (IGA). These items must be wrapped up, however, by the next BOMC regular scheduled meeting. Mr. Bryant gave background on this issue and described negotiations with the county regarding the methods for distributing SPLOST funds based on population. Mr. Bryant argued for more funding for smaller cities. The city should receive \$6.35 million over the next six year period. Mr. Bryant talked about the various project categories within the city that these funds could be used for. City Attorney Quinn also provided more information. The group discussed how fixing stormwater issues in the city also benefits the county. Mayor Elmore voiced gratitude to the county CEO Thurmond for his willingness to cooperate on a number of issues. Commissioner Merriam asked about specific projects and Mr. Bryant explained that extra SPLOST funds from the county would be going to projects that benefit both only. Commissioner Shortell pointed out what a huge accomplishment this negotiation has been.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher motioned to table this item. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

Item #7 **Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with DeKalb County Relating to the Continuation of a 1% Sales and Use Tax**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher motioned to table this item. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

Item #8

Public Comment

Jan Hover was impressed by the city staff's negotiations with the county on the SPLOST matter. John Mizell had questions and comments about specific areas of stormwater problems. Paul Dorroh praised staff on their work with the land disturbance ordinance as well as the SPLOST funds. Commissioner Merriam agreed.

Item #9

Adjournment

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

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

  
Gina Hill, City Clerk

