

City of Donalsonville
Council Meeting-March 5, 2019

Official Minutes

Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. After which Councilmember Lindsay Register gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Councilmembers present for the meeting included, Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Travis Brooks, CP Mitzy Moye, CP Lindsay Register and CP Flossie Smith. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Public Works Superintendent Don Gambrell, Fire Chief Dean King, Police Chief Woodrow Blue, Communications Director Jeffrey Hatcher, and City Attorney Billy Grantham. Guests present were David Maxwell and Perry Henry, CPA.

Approval of the Agenda: CP Blanks made a motion to approve the Agenda, with CP Moye seconding. Motion passed. Next, the approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting held on February 11, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the minutes from the February Council Meeting, with CP Blanks seconding. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Ponder first presented a Recognition of Award to Councilmember Travis Brooks from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the Georgia Municipal Association for completing the required courses of study for Municipal Government.

Lastly, Mayor Ponder presented Fire Chief Dean King with A Commendation from Governor Brian Kemp which read the following:

Whereas: The Georgia State Firefighters Association (GSFA) recognizes the importance of acknowledging outstanding service to the profession; and

Whereas: Donalsonville Fire Chief Dean King recently completed his tenure on the GSFA Board of Directors, having served in many officer positions, including President from 2014-2016 and Immediate Past President from 2016-2018; and

Whereas: Chief Dean King has served in the fire service for over 40 years and has been an instructor and mentor locally, across the state, and nationally. He has helped many departments design and build fire training grounds and worked at the Georgia Fire academy; and

Whereas: Chief Dean King is credited with pulling together the group of individuals to create the Georgia Cancer Coalition and begin work on the Firefighters Cancer Bill; and

Whereas: Chief Dean King is also a charter member and Past President of the Southwest Georgia Committee; now

Therefore: I, Brian P. Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia do hereby commend Donalsonville Fire Chief Dean King for his outstanding service to the profession.

INTERNAL BUSINESS: Perry Henry then presented the City of Donalsonville's FY 17-18 Audited Financial Reports. After the presentation of the FY 17-18 Audited Financial Reports, City Manager Hicks recommended to approve the audit as presented. CP Smith made a motion to approve the FY 17-18 Audited Financial Reports as presented, with CP Register seconding. Motion passed.

Next, the Financial Statements for January 2019 were presented and reviewed with comments made by City Manager Hicks on the current status, along with discussion on the three-month analysis.

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks gave an update on Hurricane Michael Activities which included the following:

- The City of Donalsonville was given authorization to utilize the Iron City location for the vegetative debris and began the removal process a couple of weeks back. The State is handling debris on its right-of-way.
- The City of Donalsonville obtained a permit from EPD this week to utilize the Farmers Market Property for C&D staging area and will begin that work after the first pass of the vegetative debris removal is complete, which will possibly be next week. As per FEMA guidelines the City of Donalsonville will have to secure quotes when we are ready to haul the debris to the landfill, all of which is reimbursable.
- Commercial debris and any debris placed by private contractors will be the responsibility of the owners and contractors. Tires are not eligible for pickup. The property owner is responsible for tires or if the City picks it up it is \$7.00 per tire with rims and \$5.00 for tire without rims.

Next, City Manager Hicks stated that the appointment of the Historical Board was on the agenda prior to the Hurricane and as the City of Donalsonville is working with the Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority to establish a Rural Development Zone, the implementation of this Board is a requirement. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to table the appointment of the Historical Board until the next Council Meeting. CP Smith seconded; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks presented the first reading of Ordinance 03-05-19, providing for the adoption of an agreement and general addendum to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS); Restated Defined Retirement Benefit Plan. This is required under IRS regulations to be adopted by all GMEBS members. The change will primarily apply as follows:

Ability for Eligible Regular Employees Employed on July 1, 1993 to Count Prior Credited Service as Elected or Appointed Member of the Governing Authority as Total Credited Service for Benefit Computation Purposes: With respect to an Eligible Regular Employee employed on July 1, 1993, who has at least ten (10) years of Total Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority as of such date, all Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority prior to July 1, 1993 shall be considered Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee for purposes of determining the amount of the retirement benefit payable to the Eligible Regular Employee. Such Credited Service shall not be otherwise creditable for purposes of computing retirement benefits under the Plan.

Next, City Manager Hicks informed the Council that a request had been made by Public Works Superintendent Don Gambrell to consider allowing dumpsters to be available for Commercial use outside the City limits. If approved, a \$25.00 additional charge is recommended to be added to the current fee schedule. After some discussion, CP Smith made a motion to approve the request allowing dumpsters to be available for Commercial use outside the City limits. CP Moye seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Communications Director Hatcher then gave an update on eDonalsonville activities, along with the systems continued growth. Communications Director Hatcher stated that he is currently working on an outage that started right before the Council Meeting. He also gave an update on the two additional outages, one due to a fiber cut in Sasser, Georgia and the other being the fiber cut and two damaged poles due to a Semi-Truck driving down Woolfork Avenue. Communication Director Hatcher stated that every time eDonalsonville experiences outages, updates are provided on the website to keep customers informed. Lastly, Communication Director Hatcher stated that eDonalsonville is working on having a table set up at the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce Annual Rodeo, in order to have a face-to-face presence for our customers and raise awareness about the products offered.

Next, Fire Chief King gave a brief update on the continued burns for property owners whose homes were unrepairable due to Hurricane Michael damage. Fire Chief King stated that they will be burning one on Chason Street in the coming week and the home owner will be rebuilding at the same location. Fire Chief King also stated that the variance that Ms. Lena White previously requested regarding placement of a new Mobile Home at 505 Baldwin Street was almost

complete. Lastly, Fire Chief King stated that the Donalsonville Fire Department would be testing all Fire Hoses once the weather warmed up, and would begin flushing Fire Hydrants in the South West portion of town once the Contractor is finished with the new install of the Water/Sewer Line Project.

Police Chief Blue then gave an update on the new Police Vehicles that are in the process of being built, stating that they are nearing completion. These Police Vehicles were previously approved through a USDA Loan/Grant. Chief Blue also gave an update on the recently approved install of the 4-way stop signs on Pugh Avenue and 7th Street. Lastly, Police Chief Blue reminded the Council to mark their calendars for Police Memorial Week-May 18, 2019.

Next, Public Works Superintendent Gambrell gave an update on the Water/Sewer Line Project, stating that the project is coming to an end. Public Works Superintendent Gambrell also stated that 85%-90% of Phase #1 for the vegetative debris cleanup is complete. Next, the City of Donalsonville will begin picking up category C & D, and then decide how to proceed with the disposal process. Lastly, Public Works Superintendent Gambrell gave an update to the Council on the recently approved install of the 4-way stop signs on Pugh Avenue and 7th Street, stating that both intersections on 7th Street should be complete by the end of the week.

Next, City Manager Hicks gave an update on the following:

- (1) Updates to City Ordinances- The City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Manager have been working with Municode to finalize necessary changes to the City Code. We will have a summary of recommended changes for your review in a few days.
- (2) Rent Farmers Market (Grayson Hall)- Grayson Hall has agreed to lease the Farmers Market facilities for a watermelon processing site for \$600.00 per month. He wishes to start using the facility immediately. We will work with him on implementation. The Mayor and I were authorized to negotiate and execute leases for the use of the facilities at the June 5, 2018 meeting.
- (3) Downtown Parking- Requests have been made for the City to reserve downtown parking spots for businesses as the result of increased traffic during the lunch hours. My response is that the downtown parking is public access and we cannot designate parking. We will have to put an additional handicap space in that area. Also, we will restrict parking to postal customers only in the post office parking lot for which they are paying rent but will not reserve parking spaces on the street for postal customers. This is an issue in most cities with restaurants in the downtown area during lunch. In evaluating this, I find that there is ample parking in the downtown area on Cherry Street, East 2nd Street, Woolfork Avenue, and Wiley, but it would require walking to/from the location.
- (4) Semi-Truck Accident at City Hall- A delivery truck pulled down the electrical lines at City Hall as it went under a cable owned by MediaCom. Power was fully restored by 7:00 Friday night. Except for City Hall, the Police Department, and First Port City Bank, most of the 43 customers that lost power had power restored within a couple of hours. The Georgia State Patrol was called to investigate the accident since it involved City property. Preliminary indications are that MediaCom will be held responsible due to the sagging cable line. Kudos to Kale King and Kolby Bush with the Fire Department for their quick work in getting the situation under control and staying with it until the work was complete. Jeremy Smith and Phillip Hornsby were immediately on the scene to work with Georgia Power to help restore power to City Hall and First Port City Bank. It is my understanding that Georgia Power's immediate response was a key factor in this event. Fred Rudbek, the District Manager, kept in touch with me to ensure that we were receiving the needed help from his crews. Also note that our insurance contractor, Parker Young, sent a crew to inspect our buildings for any potential damage issues.
- (5) Tornado Damage Assistance-For discussion purposes, it has been mentioned that we consider providing a relief effort to the tornado damaged areas. Events in Cairo, Georgia and Lee County, Alabama resulted in catastrophic losses. Officials contacted in both locations have indicated there are not any needs for supplies at this time. Looking forward, monetary donations would be welcomed. We can provide information as these officials provide credible organizations to which funds can be donated.

(6) 2019 Annual GMA Convention (Savannah, GA June 21-25, 2019)- Please get with City Clerk Corvers after the meeting to coordinate the registration process.

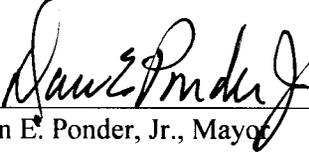
Finally, City Manager Hicks reminded the Council of the following upcoming events:

2020 Census Workshop (Macon, GA)-March 6, 2019
Rural Zone Designation Workshop (Macon, GA)-March 13, 2019
Personal Day (City Manager-Medical)-March 18, 2019
Council Meeting-April 2, 2019 6:00 PM

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 7:12 PM, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to adjourn, with CP Smith making a second; and the motion carried.

ADJOURNED

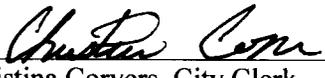
City of Donalsonville



Dan E. Ponder, Jr., Mayor

Attest and Certification:

I, Christina Corvers, do here Attest and Certify that
The above written is a true and correct representation
of the business and actions conducted during the March 5, 2019
meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.



Christina Corvers, City Clerk