

City of Donalsonville
Called Council Meeting-May 5, 2020

Official Minutes

After working through some technical glitches with the teleconference system, Mayor Ed Bond called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM via teleconference. After which Lindsay Register gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Councilmembers present for the teleconference included, Mayor Ed Bond, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Flossie Smith, CP Travis Brooks, CP Lindsay Register, and CP Moses James, Jr. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Public Works Superintendent Bert Adams, Fire Chief Dean King, Police Chief Woodrow Blue, Communications Director Jeffrey Hatcher and City Attorney Billy Grantham.

Approval of the Agenda: CP Blanks made a motion to approve the Agenda, with CP Smith seconding. Motion passed. Next, the approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting held on March 3, 2020, the Called Council Meeting held on March 24, 2020, and the Called Council Meeting on April 3, 2020. CP Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2020 Council Meeting, the March 24, 2020 Called Council Meeting, and the April 3, 2020 Called Council Meeting. CP Register seconded; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks stated that a request had been made from South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority (SGRITA) for the City's consent to an assignment of an intergovernmental agreement/lease between SGRITA and the City of Donalsonville on April 5, 2011 for the installation and operation of Radio Frequency (RF) Distribution Equipment. The assignment of the lease will be to Diverse Power Incorporated and its subsidiary, Kudzu Networks, Inc. and would require the consent of the City. City Manager Hicks recommended to deny the request to assign the lease due to the fact that approximately 10 years remains on the lease and there was never any further action by SGRITA to fulfill the terms of the agreement. The equipment that was installed is not operational. City Manager Hicks also stated that City Attorney Grantham sent in a request for additional information to SGRITA and that information has not been provided. CP Blanks made a motion to deny the request to assign the lease due to the fact that approximately 10 years remains on the lease and there was never any further action by SGRITA to fulfill the terms of the agreement. CP Smith seconded; motion carried.

Next, City Manager Hicks stated that a request had been made to enter into agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to include the work to adjust sewer line manholes and valves in the following projects. City Manager Hicks recommended to approve the agreements in that the State roads in the City limits will be resurfaced at a cost to the City of \$79,100.00 complementing our current TSPLOST projects. US Hwy 84 (3rd Street) will also be resurfaced but there are no required utility adjustments. The breakdown for each project is as follows:

GDOT PI: M005059 for the milling and resurfacing of 2.338 miles on SR 39 and SR 91 ALT at an estimated cost of the required adjustments at \$64,100.00.

GDOT PI: M005614 for the milling and resurfacing of 8.753 miles on SR 91 from the Florida State Line to SR 39 at an estimated cost of the required adjustments at \$15,000.00.

CP Brooks made a motion to approve the agreements in that the State roads in the City limits will be resurfaced at a cost to the City of \$79,100.00 complementing our current TSPLOST projects. CP Smith seconded; motion passed.

City Manager Hicks then stated that a request had been made to place a streetlight on an existing pole at 803 Cloud Street. The cost is \$20.00 per month. CP Smith made a motion to approve placing a streetlight on the existing pole located at 803 Cloud Street, with CP Register seconding. Motion carried.

Next, City Manager Hicks stated that Scott Mitchell with Cloverleaf Development is in the process of developing a potential project with a significant investment of \$4-\$5 million and the creation of 5-10 new jobs. He is requesting the City to close a portion of South Morris Street between West 1st Street and the railroad crossing. The City of Donalsonville is working with Scott Mitchell, our engineer, CSX and economic development contacts. The City's engineer is in the process of preparing a plan to address traffic issues in the Morris and Broome Avenue area. A recent traffic study run from March 12, 2020-April 13, 2020 recorded 2,138 vehicles on the south side of North Morris from the railroad track to 1st Street which averages at about 6 vehicles per hour over a 12-hour period. The property is also zoned M (Industrial District) which is the proper classification for this activity. City Manager Hicks requested authorization to post a public notice in the Donalsonville News and on the City's website requesting comments from the public in writing by letter or e-mail to the City Manager at shicks@donalsonvillega.org. The request will be considered at our meeting scheduled for June 2, 2020 following a public hearing. CP Smith made a motion to authorize City Manager Hicks to post a public notice in the Donalsonville News and on the City's website requesting comments from the public in writing by letter or e-mail to the City Manager at shicks@donalsonvillega.org. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

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

- (1) City Attorney Report: Council Vacancy Issue-City Attorney Grantham gave an update from his findings regarding the Council seat vacancy for District 1, Post 1. City Attorney Grantham stated that per Article II, Section II, Paragraph V of the Georgia Constitution, the Council Seat was in fact a vacant seat on the Council when Councilperson Mitzy Moye qualified to run as Mayor. City Attorney Grantham also stated that the Attorney General Opinion 2000-03 quotes the same findings that the Council seat was vacant. Furthermore, City Attorney Grantham stated that per the City Charter Section 5.15, the Mayor and Council shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term of that office. City Attorney Grantham concluded that the action taken to appointment Moses James, Jr. during the April 3, 2020 Called Council Meeting to fill the vacancy was proper and legal. Lastly, City Attorney Grantham stated that appointee Moses James, Jr. meets all the necessary credentials and was sworn into office on May 1, 2020.
- (2) FY 2020-2021 Budget: The revised Budget Schedule is as follows:


April 21, 2020	Budget Requests Due/Completed
April 22-28, 2020	Departmental Budget Review/City Manager/In Process
May 5-19, 2020	Budget Review/City Council/Will submit by e-mail for review for input and any necessary adjustments
June 11, 2020	Public Notice for Budget Work Session
June 15, 2020	Work Session-Council Review of Proposed Budget
June 18, 2020	Public Notice of Proposed Budget and Call for Public Hearing
June 23, 2020	Public Hearing on FY 20-21 Budget
July 2, 2020	Final Budget Approval
- (3) Utility Collections- As of May 20, 2020, utility collections operations will resume cut-offs for unpaid bills. The City will work with persons needing assistance as the result of COVID-19 issues on a case-by-case basis.

Lastly, CP Register thanked Mr. Moses James, Jr. for accepting the vacancy as Councilperson for District 1, Post 1. CP James stated that he was grateful for the opportunity and would do his best to serve the City of Donalsonville.

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 6:28 PM, CP Register made a motion to adjourn, with CP Smith making a second; and the motion carried.

ADJOURNED

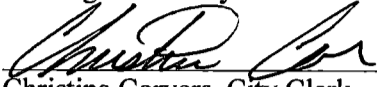
City of Donalsonville



Ron Johnson, 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 May 5, 2020
meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.



Christina Corvers, City Clerk