

City of Donalsonville
Council Meeting-August 17, 2020

Official Minutes

Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr. called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. After which Councilmember Flossie Smith gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. Councilmembers present for the meeting included, Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Flossie Smith, CP Travis Brooks, and CP Lindsay Register. CP Moses James, Jr. was absent. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Fire Chief Dean King, Police Chief Woodrow Blue, Communications Director Jeffrey Hatcher, and Public Works Superintendent Bert Adams. City Attorney Billy Grantham was absent.

Approval of the Agenda: CP Brooks made a motion to approve the Agenda, with CP Smith seconding. Motion passed. Next, the approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2020 Council Meeting. A name correction under the first item under new business was noted. CP Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 Council Meeting with the noted name correction. Mayor Pro Tem Bond seconded; motion carried.

APPEARANCES: Sarah Avery spoke on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority, as Mrs. Virginia Harrison was not able to attend the meeting. Sarah Avery stated that the DDA requests the approval to fill the vacant position on the DDA Board with Shandora Hopkins to replace Amy Hornsby. CP Smith made a motion to approve filling the vacant position with Shandora Hopkins as the new board member. Mayor Pro Tem Bond seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Sarah Avery then stated that the DDA requests the following items to be considered by the Mayor and Council:

- Adding a panel fence on 1st Street
- Adding a screen fence to conceal the garbage cans in the downtown business district

Sarah Avery stated that the Chamber of Commerce and the DDA jointly request the following items to be considered by the Mayor and Council:

- Utilizing the hook-ups on the property beside the new Fire Station as a potential RV site for temporary housing
- Possible adoption of a new ordinance to prohibit vending machines on sidewalks

Lastly, Sarah Avery gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce and stated that the Chamber Board approved the proposed yearly contract with the City of Donalsonville. Sarah Avery then gave a brief update on the Rural Zone Application stating that it was finalized and submitted last week.

Next, Carol Williams/Angela Hagen appeared before the Mayor and Council to request the City of Donalsonville's support regarding an Animal Shelter. Carol Williams presented construction plans and requested the City consider adding the purchase of the land and construction of the building for an Animal Shelter to the project list for the upcoming November ballot for SPLOST VI. After some discussion, the Mayor and Council thanked Carol Williams for the presentation and stated they would consider the request.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

INTERNAL BUSINESS: The Financial Statements for June 2020 were presented and reviewed with comments made by City Manager Hicks on the current status, along with discussion on the three-month analysis.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks recommended to approve the renewal of the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce Contract for the period beginning

June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. The City of Donalsonville agrees to pay the Chamber of Commerce for a term of one year, commencing on June 1, 2020, the total sum of \$30,200.00 to be paid in no less than quarterly payments with the balance of \$6,880.00 to be paid as herein provided subject to approval by the City Council.

The funding breakdown for the term of the contract is as follows:

\$30,200.00 - General Funding to include annual dues (Items 1 through 5)
4,000.00 - Economic Development Assistance (Item 6)
2,880.00 - Events (Item 7)
\$37,080.00 – Total

Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the renewal of the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce Contract for the period beginning June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. CP Brooks seconded. Motion carried.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to adopt Resolution 08-17-20, providing for an agreement with the State of Georgia for the City's participation in the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The City was approved for a total allocation of \$129,089.40 subject to the submission of approved documentation. Advance funding has been received in the amount of \$38,726.82. City Attorney Grantham has reviewed the agreement. CP Register made a motion to adopt Resolution 08-17-20, providing for an agreement with the State of Georgia for the City's participation in the Coronavirus Relief Fund. CP Smith seconded; motion passed.

City Manager Hicks then recommended to approve an Ordinance amending the gas supply contract and supplemental contract (Gas Portfolio V Project) between the City of Donalsonville and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Among the changes in the agreement is the term of the gas supply contract to issue bonds is extended until December 31, 2020 and the limitation on total outstanding debt will be reduced from \$1.5 billion to \$1 billion. The Ordinance amending the gas supply contract and supplemental contract (Gas Portfolio V Project) has been reviewed by City Attorney Grantham. Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve an Ordinance amending the gas supply contract and supplemental contract (Gas Portfolio V Project) between the City of Donalsonville and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to enter into an agreement with Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc. (PRS) for property damage recovery services (third party responsible). The City will pay 16.5% for payments recovered under this agreement. This service is endorsed by the Georgia Municipal Association. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to enter into an agreement with Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc. (PRS) for property damage recovery services (third party responsible). CP Brooks seconded; motion passed.

City Manager Hicks stated that the Census deadline is September 30, 2020 and there are no plans for census takers to go door-to-door in Seminole County. As of July 29, the City of Donalsonville had a response rate of 49.3% to the 2020 Census Count. The national average is 62.8% with Georgia at 58.6% and Seminole County at 39%. Other cities have implemented a \$5.00 credit on the utility bills to encourage participation from those who have not yet signed up for the census. City Manager Hicks recommended to implement this incentive for the City of Donalsonville residents by offering a \$5.00 credit on the utility bills to encourage participation from those who have not yet signed up for the 2020 Census. Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to implement this incentive for the City of Donalsonville residents by offering a \$5.00 credit on the utility bills to encourage participation from those who have not yet signed up for the 2020 Census. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to reappoint City Manager Steve Hicks as the City's delegate and designate Mayor Ron Johnson as the alternate delegate for the Municipal Gas Authority annual election to be held on October 9, 2020 at 10:30 AM. City Manager Hicks stated that this would be a virtual event. CP Register made a motion to reappoint City Manager Steve Hicks as the City's delegate and designate Mayor Ron Johnson as the alternate delegate for the Municipal Gas Authority annual election to be held on October 9, 2020 at 10:30 AM. CP Smith seconded; motion passed.

City Manager Hicks then introduced Resolution 08-17-20-A, providing for an agreement with Seminole County and Iron City for the disbursement of proposed SPLOST VI funding subject to

a referendum on November 3, 2020. The current SPLOST V funding ends March 31, 2021. The estimated proceeds to the City, based on SPLOST V collections, would be about \$1.8 million.

The division of proceeds was based on the 2010 Census as follows:

- Donalsonville, 30.36%
- Iron City, 3.55%
- Seminole County, 66.09%.

The following is a proposed list of City funding uses:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Remove Blighted Property	\$ 50,000.00
Purchase Farmers Market	198,000.00
City Admin/Police Facilities/Other	352,000.00
Communication Upgrades-City	50,000.00
6-Vehicles-Police	285,000.00
Radios-Police	60,000.00
Tag Reader-Police	35,000.00
2-Vehicles-Fire	80,000.00
Pumper-Fire	350,000.00
Generator-Fire Station	70,000.00
Crew Cab Truck-Gas	40,000.00
PU Truck-Street	30,000.00
Tractor/Loader/Mower-Sewer	50,000.00
Sewer Jet/Vac Truck	140,000.00
2-Zero Turn Mowers-Street	16,000.00
Street Sweeper-Street	120,000.00
Mini Excavator/Trailer-Variou	50,000.00
Garbage Truck	160,000.00
Economic Development	25,000.00
	\$ 1,913,000.00

After some discussion, CP Register made a motion to table the item until the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting in order for City Attorney Grantham to review the necessary documentation. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

Next, Communications Director Hatcher gave an update on the eDonalsonville activities, along with the systems continued growth. Communications Director Hatcher stated that the City is still in the auction for new spectrum to cover Donalsonville and Seminole County, which will allow eDonalsonville to increase the number of customers and increase the service provided to customers. Communications Director Hatcher stated that the security camera system for Donalsonville was moving forward, as the installer plans to have the project complete by the end of the month. Lastly, Communications Director Hatcher stated that there has been some discussion on adding more products to the eDonalsonville portfolio, as there are options available to provide additional services besides wireless internet to eDonalsonville customers.

Fire Chief King then gave an update on the Fire Department, with review of the run summary from the month of July. Chief King also gave an update on FEMA Breathing Air Compressor Grant stating that he was recently notified that the grant in the amount of \$48,000.00 was awarded to the Donalsonville Fire Department for the purchase of a new Breathing Air Compressor. Once all necessary documentation has been processed, the Department will begin with the bidding process for the Air Compressor. Lastly, Chief King gave an update on the construction of the new training building, stating that it should be completed within the next three months. The training building is being built to replace the one that was destroyed by Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Funding to cover expenses to replace the training building were paid by FEMA.

Next, Police Chief Blue gave a brief update on the Police Department and stated that the department was back running at full capacity. Lastly, Chief Blue stated that the Donalsonville Police Department would be hosting the Southwest Georgia Traffic Network towards the end of the month.

Public Works Superintendent Adams then gave a brief update on the Gas Line Project for APG and the Terill Scott property; stating that the project is currently on track for the projected deadline.

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

- (1) GDOT Meeting-Broome/1st Street Improvement: A video conference was held this week with GDOT to discuss proposed improvements to road infrastructure to the intersection of Broome Avenue and 1st Street to improve conditions for traffic. GDOT gave a preliminary go-ahead for the project. Engineering documentation is being prepared to submit for approval. The City will submit a letter to GDOT requesting approval for the project to include a request for funding assistance. The City will also finalize the agreement with Cloverleaf to secure the property needed to make the improvements. Requests for a turn signal at the intersection of Hwy 91 and Hwy 84 and a light at the intersection of Hwy 84 and North Dowling will be reviewed pending updated traffic count information when schools are back in session.
- (2) Nuisance Property Enforcement: The City continues to receive various complaints regarding nuisance properties and code violations. While the City is in the process of issuing citations and initiating court action, the process has been delayed due to the court shutdowns by the COVID-19 restrictions. In an attempt to expedite enforcement operations and follow-up, Chief Blue, Chief King, and I are working to reorganize the enforcement of violations. A plan will be presented at the September meeting for your input and consideration.

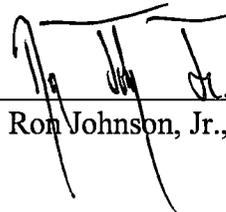
Lastly, City Manager Hicks reminded the Council of the following upcoming event:

- City Council Meeting-September 1, 2020 6:00 PM
- FCC 105 Auction (Live)-eDonalsonville Licensing July 23, 2020- (ongoing)
- Windstream Meeting-Service Discussion August 18, 2020 4:00 PM (Video Conference)

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 7:04 PM, CP Smith a motion to adjourn, with Mayor Pro Tem Bond making a second; and the motion carried.

ADJOURNED

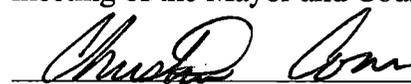
City of Donalsonville



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 August 17, 2020
meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.


Christina Corvers, City Clerk