

City of Donalsonville
Council Meeting-October 6, 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 Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr. 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., CP Mitch Blanks, CP Flossie Smith, CP Travis Brooks, CP Moses James, Jr., and CP Lindsay Register. Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond 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, Public Works Superintendent Bert Adams, and City Attorney Billy Grantham.

Approval of the Agenda: CP Smith made a motion to approve the Agenda, with CP James seconding. Motion passed. Next, the approval of the minutes from the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting. CP Blanks made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting with CP Register seconding. Motion carried.

APPEARANCES: Anthony and Kathy King requested that the City of Donalsonville abandon and close the alley located on 1002 S. Wiley Avenue in order for them to build a privacy fence around their property. City Manager Hicks stated that if the City closes/abandons the alley, the alley will need to be deeded to the adjoining property owners. City Manager Hicks also stated that Mr. and Mrs. King would need to work with the adjoining property owners as to acquire their portion of the property. Lastly, City Manager Hicks stated that the cost of the closing process to include the legal work and surveys will be the responsibility of the owners. After some discussion, CP Brooks made a motion to abandon the alley so that Mr. and Mrs. King can move further to accomplish the transfer of the property and also give City Manager Hicks authorization to make sure that all legal aspects are completed. CP Blanks seconded; motion passed.

PERMITS & LICENSING

City Manager Hicks and Police Chief Blue gave their recommendation on the approval of an Off-Premise Wine and Malt Beverage License to Rabia Ashraf, dba D-Ville Food Mart located at 102 W. 3rd Street as all background requirements had been met. CP Blanks made a motion to approve the Off-Premise Wine and Malt Beverage License, with CP Brooks seconding. AYES: CP Blanks, CP Register, CP James, CP Brooks, and CP Smith. Motion passed.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

INTERNAL BUSINESS: The Financial Statements for August 2020 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: CP James stated that per the Governor's orders the City of Donalsonville can strongly encourage wearing a mask on private property but cannot mandate it. However, the City of Donalsonville can mandate that all visitors must wear a mask while on City property. After some discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed to look into the purchase of a stationary infrared thermometer which would take the temperature for everyone who enters City buildings, as well as invest in a possible disinfectant machine(mister) to treat high-traffic areas in City buildings.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks stated that the City of Donalsonville has experienced lightning damage to radio equipment and water system machinery at the 7th Street Water Tower on several occasions. A solution to mitigate future damage from lightning is to create a lightning ring around the property. City Manager Hicks stated that Verizon has created a lightning ring around their equipment which has proven successful. Recommendation is to authorize the

implementation of a tank and well grounding project at this location and to proceed with the procurement process under State guidelines. CP Register made a motion to authorize the implementation of a tank and well grounding project at this location and to proceed with the procurement process under State guidelines. CP Brooks seconded; motion passed.

Next, Councilmember Register recommended installing guard rails around the ditches throughout town to help protect the citizens during heavy rain fall events. City Manager Hicks stated that the City of Donalsonville was still in the process of attempting to secure grants to address the drainage situation in the City. After some discussion, CP Register made a motion to table the agenda item until notification on related grants have been determined. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

Communications Director Hatcher then gave an update on the eDonalsonville activities, along with the systems continued growth. Communications Director Hatcher stated that the department was still awaiting the final approval of the auction and licensing for the new CBRS frequencies. Once paperwork with the FCC is finalized, planning for expansion and upgrade for City customers will begin. Communications Director Hatcher also gave an update on the 1st Annual Georgia Cyber Summit, which was held this past Friday, stating that the event was very informative, providing current information regarding the state of technology and how to protect eDonalsonville and the City of Donalsonville from future cyber-attacks. Lastly, Communications Director Hatcher stated that, in cooperation with Jackson Thornton Technologies, the City of Donalsonville is in the process of upgrading the current server to further increase the storage capacity of the network at City Hall.

Next, Fire Chief King gave an update on the Fire Department, with review of the run summary from the month of September. Chief King stated that National Fire Prevention month started this past Sunday, and due to most of the fires within the past few years occurring due to unattended cooking in the kitchen, this year's theme is "Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen". Chief King stated that fire safety education was also being implemented in the local schools, as all teachers in the state of Georgia are required to teach a chapter out of the fire safety curriculum each year. Lastly, Chief King gave an update on the Firehouse Grant which will allow the department to replace four automatic defibrillators.

Police Chief Blue then gave an update on the Police Department and stated that the department was back running at full capacity. Chief Blue stated that he was currently working on applying for a grant through the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, which will hopefully help with the purchase of some updated technology. The grant has a maximum of up to \$100,000.00 with a no match due from the City of Donalsonville. Lastly, Chief Blue stated that he was recently elected to serve on the board of the International Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee, which represents small departments around the United States.

Next, Public Works Superintendent Adams stated that he had nothing new to report at this time.

City Manager Hicks then gave an update on the following:

- (1) Census Count: The City of Donalsonville has been informed that the local count activity for the 2020 Census will be extended until October 31, 2020. The latest self-response numbers do not include numbers for follow-up contacts made by census bureau workers. Reports indicate follow-up activities have been completed for Georgia at 97.3%. Local follow-up totals are not available at this time.

Date	National	Georgia	Seminole Co.	Donalsonville
10/02/2020	66.6%	62.4%	41.3%	53.4%

With the implementation of the \$5.00 credit on the utility bills to encourage participation from those who have not yet signed up for the census, the City has registered 41 customers as of today. In an effort to get in a last minute push, the City of Donalsonville has encouraged employees to get involved by giving a day off if they sign up themselves and get one other person to complete the census or if they have already completed the census, to get one

other person to complete the census. As of today, we have 14 responses from employees.

- (2) Site Flu Clinic: Requests for proposals were sent to Walgreens, Seminole-Hartzog Pharmacy, Roberts Pharmacy, AllCare, and Tawanna Drake (CVS) to hold an on-site flu shot clinic. The only response was received from AllCare. The cost of \$24.50 will be filed by AllCare to be paid by employee insurance. The clinic date is set for October 21, 2020.
- (3) Contract Award-Resurfacing HWY 91 to HWY 39: On 8/21/20 GDOT awarded a contract to Oxford Construction to resurface Hwy 91 to Hwy 39 from the Florida State line. The City has submitted the funds (\$23,000) as agreed for our portion of the utility work inside the City limits. The project construction will begin soon. No exact date has been set.

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

- Columbus Day Holiday-October 12, 2020
- Veterans Day Holiday-November 11, 2020

After some discussion regarding the November Council Meeting, CP Blanks made a motion to change the regular Council meeting from November 3rd, 2020 to November 9th, 2020. CP Register seconded; motion carried.

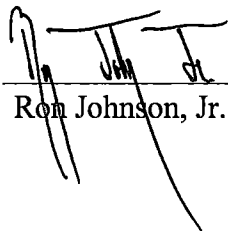
At 7:12 PM, CP Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session as authorized by OCGA 50-14-3 (b) (1) (B) to discuss authorizing negotiations to acquire property. CP Blanks seconded; motion passed.

At 7:32 PM, CP Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session. CP Register seconded; motion carried.

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 7:33 PM, CP Smith made a motion to adjourn, with CP Register making a second; and the motion carried.

ADJOURNED

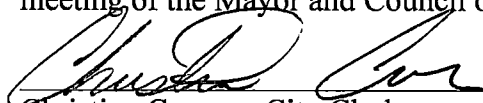
City of Donalsonville



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 October 6, 2020 meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.



Christina Corvers, City Clerk