

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Thursday, March 7, 2024

6:00 PM

**City Hall
110 Academy Street**

City Council

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Grant and an invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Waterman.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

*Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tem Dwayne Waterman
Councilmember Farris Yawn
Councilmember Shawn Tolan
Councilmember Sandy McGrew
Councilmember Bryan Roach
Councilmember Travis Johnson
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director
Ms. Brittany Anderson, City Planner
Mr. Steve Green, Zoning Administrator
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer
Ms. Melissa Forrester, Finance Director
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Mr. John Lummus, Interim Police Chief
Mr. Scott Hooper, Public Works Director
Mr. Jackie Cheng, Digital Content Specialist
Mr. Mike Morgan, Information Technology Director
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

Absent:

None

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

City Manager Billy Peppers requested to add an item under New Business (Item 11F) for the discussion and possible action on an Engineering Services Agreement with Schnabel Engineering, LLC. Councilmember Tolan made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

4. Guests and Visitors

- A.** Presentation of South Canton Park Schematic Design - Adam Williamson with TSW Planning - Attachment 4A

Attachments: [South Canton Park Schematic Design Package](#)

Mr. Adam Williamson with TSW Planning presented slides showing the

schematic design proposed for the South Canton Park. Mr. Williamson stated the design was created with recent citizen input in mind and takes advantage of the natural landscape. The estimated cost for the park is \$6.9 million. Councilmember Johnson asked about ADA access to the areas in the lower elevations. Mr. Williamson stated there is a proposed winding sidewalk to that location. Mayor Grant noted the City has received a \$2 million grant for this project as well. Mayor Grant asked if the cost for the water tank is included. Mr. Williamson stated it was not. Councilmember Tolan asked if there were areas where cost savings could be made. Mr. Williamson stated certain adjustments could be made to the design and said he will provide some additional information on costs to Council. Mr. Peppers pointed out the cost for the Harman Park rehabilitation was \$4.3 million to provide comparison.

5. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - February 15, 2024 - Attachment 5A

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting - February 15, 2024](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

6. Informational Items

- A. Review of January Financials - Finance Director Melissa Forrester - Attachment 6A

Attachments: [January Financials](#)

Finance Director Melissa Forrester stated the City is four months into this fiscal year. Budget amendments will hopefully be presented to the Council at the next meeting for adjustments suggested by the auditors for Fiscal Year 2023. Ms. Forrester noted the City has begun the audit with Comcast and Windstream.

- B. Update on Proposed Zoning Map - Zoning Administrator Steve Green - Attachment 6B

Attachments: [Zoning Map Update](#)

Zoning Administrator Steve Green reviewed numerous proposed changes to the zoning map. Mayor Grant stated these updates will be discussed further at the upcoming Council retreat. Mayor Grant noted the abeyance will be sunseting at the end of this month.

7. Other Announcements

None.

8. Ten Minute Public Input

Mr. Stephen Peck discussed several concerns in the area around his home on Killian Street including vehicle speeding, noise complaints, and trash along the

roadway.

9. Consent Agenda

None.

10. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Resurfacing Intergovernmental Agreement with Cherokee County - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 10A

Attachments: [IGA for Resurfacing](#)

Mr. Peppers stated Bartow Paving was awarded the bid for resurfacing coming in around \$516,000 which is under the estimated cost. An updated bid sheet will be attached to the final agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Waterman made a motion to approve the Resurfacing Intergovernmental Agreement with Cherokee County in the amount of \$516,896.59. Councilmember Roach seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

11. New Business

- A. Discussion of Possible Abandonment of Alley between 120 and 140 Crisler Street - Zoning Administrator Steve Green - Attachment 11A

Attachments: [Crisler Street Abandonment](#)

Mr. Green stated that he was contacted by the property owner who has requested the abandonment. Mr. Green discussed that generally the property is divided between the two adjacent properties and a survey must be completed, usually at the cost of the requester. Mayor Grant noted there are no easements or utilities within the area. City Attorney Bobby Dyer discussed that the abandonment of the property and the disposition can be done at the same time. Councilmember Yawn stated the property owner needs to be aware of the cost of the survey.

- B. Discussion of Task Order 5 with Keck & Wood, Inc. for Highway 140 Utility Relocation in the Amount of \$81,500 - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11B

Attachments: [Keck & Wood Task Order 5](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson stated the task order would take the project through the remaining phase of utilities and include the water and sewer relocation design. Ms. Watson stated that due to the realignment of Shoal Creek Road there is quite a bit of relocating to do. Ms. Watson added that H2O Innovation will be able to complete the work through their line crew contract.

- C. Discussion of Task Order 28 with Atkins for State Route 20 Widening - Butterworth Road to I-575 Water System Facilities SUE Verification and Preliminary Relocation Design (10%) in the Amount of \$26,651 - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11C

Attachments: [Atkins Task Order 28](#)

Ms. Watson stated that this is for the State Route 20 West project. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has released Phase 1 for utilities. Phase 2 will be from Butterworth Road to I-575. Ms. Watson stated during that phase, the City's utilities must be located and a preliminary design laid out. In this task order, Atkins will be locating the utilities and deciding if they need to be relocated.

- D. Discussion of Third Amendment to Professional Services Contract with Utility Service Company Inc - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11D

Attachments: [Utility Service Company Inc - Contract Amendment](#)

Ms. Watson said Utility Service Company, Inc. is the City's water tank maintenance company. A cost amendment has been made due to delays in services. The Great Sky Tank was scheduled to be renovated in 2015, however there were significant delays to perform this work and costs have increased due to inflation. Ms. Watson stated the delay in renovations was due to improvements needing to be made to the Amos Road booster pump station which are now completed. The Big Oak Tank also had a delay in service. Ms. Watson stated there is currently a bid out for the Industrial Park booster pump station which will allow the City to take that tank down for renovations to occur.

- E. Discussion of Award of Change Order 1 for Highway 140 at Avery Road Water Line Relocation Project to KAM Contracting in the Amount of \$73,100 - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11E

Attachments: [KAM Contracting Change Order 1](#)

Ms. Watson stated this project was bid out in 2022 and awarded to KAM Contracting. Ms. Watson discussed a delay due to issues with GDOT and their contractor which led to KAM Contracting being delayed on their portion of the project. Due to this, a change order is necessary for the addition of wet taps and insertion valves that were installed so that customers in the area would not have any water service interruptions during the tie-in of the new line.

Item 11F - Discussion and Possible Action on an Engineering Services Agreement with Schnabel Engineering, LLC.:

Mr. Peppers stated Schnabel Engineering has been the engineer of record on the project since it first started and the contract is ready to be renewed. The contract is for five years and states they are responsible for monitoring the dam. This is required under the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Safe Dams Program. Mr. Peppers stated the total cost of the contract is \$300,000 over a five-year period and the City is responsible for 25% of the cost since the City owns 25% of the dam. Mr. Peppers stated that Cobb Co. -Marietta Water Authority has approved the contract. Councilmember McGrew made a motion to approve the agreement for Engineering Services with Schnabel Engineering, LLC for a five-year term for a total project cost not to exceed \$300,000. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

12. City Manager's Report

Mr. Peppers announced Mr. Marty Ferrell as the City's new Police Chief and discussed his background. Chief Ferrell will begin on March 27th. Mr. Peppers thanked Interim Chief Lummus, the Police Department team, and Mercer Group for all their assistance.

Mr. Peppers recognized Ms. Maria Change as the Team Member of the Month for January and Mr. David Casey as the Team Member of the Month for February.

Mr. Peppers stated Council will have their retreat next week at the Cloudland at McLemore Resort in Walker County.

13. Council Introduced Items

- A. Update on the Progress of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Initiative by the Canton Housing Team - Councilmember Tolan

Mayor Grant made the following board appointments:

Board of Appeals – Jeff Adams to replace Luke Smith

Downtown Development Authority – Raul Cifuentes to replace Penn Hodge

Historic Preservation Commission – Nathan Rich to replace Jeff Brown

Canton Marketplace Community Improvement District (CID) – Bryan Roach and Brooke Schmidt

Mayor Pro Tem Waterman appointed Tracye Busbee to serve on the Ethics Board.

Councilmember McGrew made the following board appointments:

Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Board – Deb Payne

Ethics Board – Lee Stafford

Ethics Board – Bethany Stafford

Councilmember McGrew seconded the appointments and they were unanimously approved.

Councilmember Tolan reviewed a handout which provided updates from the Canton Housing Team's efforts with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). The update included information on the City's Downpayment Assistance Program, Accessory Dwelling Units, North Canton Cottage Village, and cottage home development regulations. Councilmember Tolan also provided updates and proposed timelines for the Housing Tax Credit Projects at Tanner Place, Oakside, and the old Tippens Site. Councilmember Tolan discussed the Cherokee Regional Land Band Authority and the possibility of a Canton Land Trust. Councilmember Tolan concluded with information on the GICH Housing Team's members, areas of opportunities, subcommittees, progress, and upcoming retreat. A copy of the full update report can be found in the office of the City Clerk.

14. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's Report was given at the beginning of Council Introduced Items.

15. Adjourn

Councilmember Yawn made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council