

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Final

Thursday, May 6, 2021

6:00 PM

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 followed by an invocation given by Laney Cline of CanTeen.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

*Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tempore JoEllen Wilson
Councilmember Shawn Tolan
Councilmember Brooke Schmidt
Councilmember Sandy McGrew
Councilmember Will Carlan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney
Mr. Stephen Merrifield, Police Chief
Mr. Dave Hatabian, Utility Engineer
Mr. Ken Patton, Community Development Director
Ms. Melissa Forrester, Finance Director
Ms. Brittany Anderson, Planner
Mr. Mike Morgan, Information Technology Director
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

Absent:

Councilmember Nick Estes

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mayor Grant requested litigation be added to the topics discussed in Executive Session. City Manager Billy Peppers stated he received a request from the applicant of Old Business Item 10A that this matter be removed from the agenda. Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Carlan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

4. Guests and Visitors

None.

5. Consideration to Approve Minutes**A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - April 15, 2021 - Attachment 5A**

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting - April 15, 2021](#)

Councilmember Tolan made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Schmidt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

6. Informational Items

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

Attachments: [March Financials](#)

No comments.

- B. Presentation of Canton Police Department 2020 Annual Report - Police Chief Stephen Merrifield - Attachment 6B

Attachments: [CPD Annual Report](#)

Police Chief Stephen Merrifield reviewed the annual report noting crime numbers were down, discussed staffing levels and training within the department, awards presented, and spoke about the community outreach that was completed.

- C. Presentation by Canton Housing Authority on Potential Project

Stewart Duggan provided Council an overview of the Rental Assistance Demonstration that the Canton Housing Authority has converted to and how it is used to provide housing. Mr. Duggan stated the proposed \$20 million project will consist of new construction development. Mr. Duggan explained the procurement process, financial terms, and tax credits. The application is due to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs by May 20th. The Canton Housing Authority requests a zoning certification letter from the City verifying the zoning and use of the property. The Canton Housing Authority also requests the City consider a commitment of \$10,000 per unit. Currently the plan shows between 76 and 83 units. Mr. Duggan discussed others who are contributing funds to the project. Mayor Grant asked if the application is denied when another application could be made. Mr. Duggan stated there is a one year waiting period after denial. Mr. Duggan noted if the City were to commit contributions, the funds would be needed between December of 2022 to February of 2023.

7. Other Announcements

Mayor Grant read and presented a Proclamation for the 52nd Annual Municipal Clerks Week to City Clerk Annie Fortner.

8. Ten Minute Public Input

Mr. Rickey Atkins requested Public Works address the area around Riverdale Circle and Waleska Street.

Mr. Thomas Weaver stated he looks forward to hearing discussion of the charter amendments and has enjoyed seeing the banners placed in the Sunnyside area.

Mr. Robert Walsh discussed his concern with the buffer surrounding the development construction in River Green. Mr. Walsh requested Council enforce the buffer requirements that were approved in 2018 for this property.

Ms. Cindy Chavez also spoke about her concerns with the buffer around the River Green development currently in construction and noted issues with a fence that has been placed around the property.

Mr. Burt Fronebarger agreed with Mr. Walsh and Ms. Chavez about the buffer and requested Council look into this matter.

9. Consent Agenda

None.

10. Old Business

- A. Discussion of Revised Memorandum of Understanding Proposed by Terwilliger Pappas - Derek Hutchison - Attachment 10A

Attachments: [TP Memorandum of Understanding](#)

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Transportation List of Roads - Police Chief Stephen Merrifield - Attachment 11A

Attachments: [DOT List of Roads](#)

Chief Merrifield stated this is the list of roads for the City's speed detection permit. The list contains the same roads as in 2019 with the addition of the RedSpeed zones in the school areas. Councilmember McGrew made a motion to approve. Councilmember Carlan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Request from Historical Society for an Addition and Exterior Changes - Planner Brittany Anderson - Attachment 11B

Attachments: [Historical Society Request](#)

Planner Brittany Anderson introduced the application and discussed the requested changes. Staff has not received any opposition to the application. Staff recommends approval of the proposed changes. John White displayed samples of the exterior materials to be used. Mayor Grant discussed that several members of the Historic Preservation Commission are involved with the Historical Society so to avoid any conflict of interest this matter is being heard before Council. Mayor Pro Tempore Wilson made a motion to approve. Councilmember McGrew seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- C. Discussion of Resolution to Authorize Check Signers for the City of Canton Bank Accounts - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram - Attachment 11C

Attachments: [Check Signing Authorization](#)

Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram stated the request is to add the City Clerk to those authorized to sign checks for the City. The resolution as shown in the attachment gives authorization to the position instead of an individual. Approval of the resolution is requested at the next meeting.

- D. Presentation and Discussion on Water Treatment Plant Improvements - Utility Engineer Dave Hatabian - Attachment 11D

Attachments: [Water Treatment Plant Improvements](#)

Utility Engineer Dave Hatabian reviewed the history of the Water Treatment Plant, how the plant currently operates, discussed the system storage, noted ongoing issues and how to address the two major issues within the next two years, reviewed the benefits of making the needed changes, and provided a recommended course of action along with projected costs. Mayor Grant asked how long improvements will last on the existing plant. Mr. Hatabian stated the first phase will take about a year and a half and will be a good fix until a new facility is constructed.

- E. Discussion to Renew the Demand Services Agreement with Atkins North America - Utility Engineer Dave Hatabian - Attachment 11E

Attachments: [Atkins Demand Service Agreement Renewal](#)

Mr. Hatabian stated the agreement is the same as the previous one. This extends the time frame out another three years and there is no cost involved with the agreement.

- F. Discussion of Charter Review Committee's Proposed Changes - City Attorney Bobby Dyer - Attachment 11F

Attachments: [Proposed Charter Changes](#)

City Attorney Bobby Dyer discussed the adoption process for those changes that can be made by Home Rule and those that would require legislative approval. Mr. Dyer provided Council the option of making the Home Rule changes that can be done now and then submitting the amended charter plus the two election changes to the legislature for approval. Mr. Dyer reviewed all proposed changes that were noted in the agenda attachment. Mayor Grant asked about amending Section 2.27 to include the Mayor in the appointment of the City Manager. Mayor Grant asked about the terms for a judge. Mr. Dyer provided the option of appointing the judge every two years at the organizational meeting following an election. Councilmember McGrew asked about the process to report a Councilmember living out their ward. Mr. Dyer stated any voter would notify the Elections Superintendent (City Clerk) to challenge the qualifications of the Councilmember. Mayor Grant requested the language be changed in Section 2.13(a) from "a ward" to "their ward". Mr. Dyer reviewed the requirements for adopting the Home Rule changes stating the amendments must be voted on twice by Council with an advertisement occurring between the votes.

- G. Discussion of Harmon Park Renovations and Repairs - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 11G

Attachments: [CDBG Harmon Park](#)

Mr. Peppers stated this is a Community Development Block Grant project at Harmon Park. The low bidder is A1 Construction. Mr. Peppers reviewed the improvements to be completed and the contract amounts. There has been one change order submitted since the bid came in due to the price of lumber increasing. Staff is recommending approval and requesting action at this time. Councilmember McGrew discussed concern with using rubber mulch. Mr. Peppers stated this can be addressed with the contractor. Councilmember Carlan asked if this project also includes a bridge over the river or an overlook. Mr. Peppers stated that would be a separate project. Councilmember Tolan made a motion to approve with the change to natural mulch not to exceed the quoted contract price. Councilmember Carlan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

12. City Manager's Report

- A. Overview of Canton Roadmap for Success Updates from April 25-27 Retreat - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 12A

Attachments: [Canton Roadmap Overview](#)

Mr. Peppers provided Council an update of the Roadmap for Success based on conversations and discussions held during the last retreat. Mr. Peppers requested Council review the information. If all is correct, Council can approve the updated Roadmap at the next meeting, and it will be posted to the City's website.

13. Council Introduced Items

Councilmember Tolan discussed the progress of the Blight and Code Compliance Committee. Mr. Dyer spoke about the creation of a housing fund. An ordinance must be approved to establish how the funds are to be used. Mr. Dyer discussed other jurisdictions that have housing funds and how their ordinances are structured. Council requested Mr. Dyer prepare a draft housing fund ordinance. Mayor Grant asked that the Blight and Code Compliance Committee review the draft ordinance before bringing it to Council for discussion.

14. Mayor's Report

Mayor Appointments

- A. Appointment of Sanitation Council Committee

Mayor Grant appointed Councilmember McGrew, Councilmember Carlan, and Councilmember Estes to the Sanitation Council Committee.

- B. Canton Building Authority Citizen Appointments

Mayor Grant nominated Mr. Harold Swindell to be reappointed to the Canton

Building Authority. Mayor Grant also nominated Ms. Pat Tanner to serve on the Authority.

C. Main Street Appointment

Mayor Grant nominated Mr. Jack Tuszyński to be reappointed to the Canton Main Street Board.

Mayor and Council Appointments

D. Cultural Arts Commission Appointments

E. Sustainability Commission Appointments

F. Tourism Board Appointments

Mayor Grant requested Council email him their nominations for the Cultural Arts Commission, Sustainability Commission and Tourism Board. After discussion it was determined to delay nominations for the Sustainability Commission until a better grasp of the role of the committee is determined.

15. Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Personnel

Councilmember Tolan made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. Councilmember Schmidt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council