BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
February 12th, 2020
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk

Item No. 1 Meeting Called to Order

Item No. 2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte moves to adopt. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 3 **Sanitation Ordinance Revision**
There have been two readings of the ordinance which changes the regulations and payment structure for commercial entities.

City Manager Bryant said this is on the agenda in case there are any lingering questions. There have not been any revisions since the last meeting. The third reading of this ordinance will be at the next regular meeting along with a vote.

Item No. 4 **Town Green Park Goals**

City Manager Bryant said a discussion about goals should be had before kicking off the public process. Assistant City Manager Powell gave a presentation. She explained a survey that would be conducted as well as a visual survey of photos. Some goals mentioned for the town green included inclusivity, year round activities, flexibility, high-volume activities, unique qualities, environmental sustainability, budgetary concerns. Ms. Powell showed photos of examples illustrating the goals. A timeline for the public process was presented. Mayor Elmore mentioned programming and how he felt the lack of it was one problem with the ArtLot. Mr. Bryant offered that cost will be a primary factor in those

decisions. Commissioner Shortell felt the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) would be a natural partner in programming the town green. Commissioner Laratte said he didn't have a comment but it looks like there is a plan and he will await the next steps. Ms. Shortell believed flexibility of the space is very important. She added that landscaping and canopy trees can play a big role in identity and character. Commissioner Merriam wished to hold her comments until after the public's input. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stressed inclusivity. He was happy to be at this point in the process.

Joe Anziano discussed Alpharetta and their town green. He cited the importance to flexibility in the use of the space. Bob Means asked if the design was final. He was told that it's a final concept and the upcoming public meetings would be to work out more specific elements. Mr. Fisher urged the public to provide their input. Ms. Merriam cited three things that made public places successful: people watching, food and places to sit in the sun and shade. She expanded that she'd like to see at least ten things to do for each age group at different times of day.

Item No. 5 **Discussion of Pending State Legislation**

Commissioner Shortell described some proposed legislation that could impact the city's ability to govern itself. One is about short-term rentals like AirBnB's and the other is about control of local design standards. She suggested the BOMC vote on resolutions against these proposals and then send them to their state legislators. Mayor Elmore offered that this is really a home rule issue and an attempt to strip away the ability of cities to make their own decisions. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher was supportive. Commissioner Merriam thanked Mr. Elmore and Ms. Shortell for being on top of this topic. She added that it's important to have consistent face-to-face contact with legislators. Commissioner Laratte agreed and thanked them for going to the capitol. He was supportive. Mr. Laratte asked if legislator contact numbers could be published. City Manager Bryant felt the city should take a position and citizens could reach out to legislators on their own accord. Mr. Elmore added it's easy to find out contact information for representatives. There was discussion about publishing the contact information just as a general resource and not as part of this particular issue. Mr. Bryant said a resolution for each bill would be ready for a vote at the next regular meeting.

Joe Anziano supported taxing short-term rentals. Kathy Kingsbury asked for clarification about one of the bills. Jan Hover said some feel low-cost housing is an issue with one of the proposals.

Item No. 6 **Adoption of a Records Retention Schedule**

City staff recommends adopting the schedule created by the Georgia Archives.

City Manager Bryant and City Clerk Hill explained the need for this adoption. There were questions from the BOMC about the retention

schedule, Laserfiche, and historical records. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher was supportive and said he'd also support hiring temporary staff to help comb through records if needed. Commissioner Laratte suggested reaching out to Georgia State graduate students to help. Other members of the BOMC were supportive. This resolution will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Item No. 7

Welcoming America Committee Discussion

The period to apply to this new committee closes Monday the 10th at 5pm. The Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) will discuss how to create the committee moving forward.

Mayor Elmore proposed having two members of the BOMC lead the process of member selection. Commissioners Merriam and Laratte volunteer. City Manager Bryant said city staff will work with them to complete the process. Ms. Merriam asked if the applicants would be interviewed in a public meeting. Mr. Bryant replied that the process would be up to her and Mr. Laratte. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher asked if the committee could be customized for Avondale's needs. Commissioner Shortell said that's the case and there were minimal requirements to meet for the national organization. She added that she likes how the national organization provides some structure. There was discussion about the level of membership applies to the city.

Melissa O'Shields asked for information about the committee and Mr. Elmore and Mr. Laratte responded. Mr. Fisher offered ways he thinks the committee could help issues unique to Avondale. Ms. Shortell said the committee could help the city heal after divisions associated with the last election. Jan Hover also noted there could be a way to connect with the public works department or other areas of city staff.

Item No. 8

Avon Garden Club Letter of Appreciation

This letter from the BOMC thanks the Avon Garden Club for their annual Halloween litter pick-up. The Club has requested the letter to support their application for an award from the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

Commissioner Shortell explained that the club contacted her about providing the letter. Other BOMC members were supportive. Mary Ann Anziano announced the club would be hosting a work day to clean out the abelia hedge. She provided details. Joe Anziano praised the city staff of Alpharetta for showing him around during a recent visit.

Item No. 9

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF JUNE 2020

Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gina Hill, City Clerk