



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

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

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney  
Helen Menefee, Admin Assistant  
Brittany Marmol, Finance Director  
Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects Mgr.

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Commissioner Laratte moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Discussion of Fiscal Year 2022 Auditing Services**  
City Manager Bryant gave an update on the auditing process and recapped how the timeline for the audit was not satisfactory so he thinks it's time to move to a different firm. Staff has been soliciting quotes. Mr. Bryant noted that a new firm will be more expensive. There was discussion about the transition to a new firm and shared information. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher was supportive of using a new firm. Mr. Bryant said that timing was important and staff will send along the quotes as they're received.

Item #4 **Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 Sanitation and Stormwater Fees**  
City Manager Bryant explained that the county has requested these fees be established before the millage rate is set. The current sanitation fee is \$596 per household annually. He felt it should remain that amount since there could be changes in the sanitation program in the coming year. Mr. Bryant also recommended keeping the stormwater fee the same. It's currently enough to fund the city's stormwater priority projects. Further evaluation will be needed,

however. Members of the BOMC sought community input and further conversation.

Item #5 **Appointment of Dekalb County Board of Registrations and Elections to Conduct the City's 2023 General Municipal Election in November**

City Manager Bryant described this resolution. It's something that's done before every municipal election.

Item #6 **Discussion of Greenspace Advisory Committee**

City Manager Bryant said that in recent public meetings the BOMC has expressed a desire to combine the Lake Avondale Advisory Board (LAAB) and the Tree Board into one Greenspace Advisory Committee. He said the BOMC should begin the discussion about what that committee should look like.

Members of the BOMC spoke in depth about points such as:

Who would the committee report to?

What would be the scope of work?

What should their priorities be?

How should they engage the community?

What's considered greenspace?

What role should the Greenspace Ad Hoc Committee final report play?

What do current members of the tree and lake boards feel is important?

Mr. Bryant suggested starting with a scope of work and discussion continued. Commissioner Shortell offered to compile her notes from this discussion and disseminate to the others for their comments. After the BOMC decides what it would like to see in this committee, Mr. Bryant said that staff would weigh in about their wishes.

Item #7 **Capital Projects Update**

City Manager Bryant listed capital projects on the horizon, underway, or completed. Projects he mentioned were the stormwater priority plan, North Woods phase one and two, Majestic Circle drainage improvements, the hydrology model, street signs, US 278 complete street, Laredo Drive, speed limits, paving, curbing, sidewalks,

Item #8 **Public Comment**

Lyda Steadman asked for clarification about the audit process. Mel Hatfield asked about the Covington Road corridor study. City Manager Bryant said it would be posted on the website once the property owners impacted were made aware of the study. Mr. Hatfield also commented on the speeding along Clarendon Avenue in the early morning hours.

Item #9 **Executive Session – Real Estate**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to enter executive session. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

Commissioner Shortell moved to exit executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #10

Adjournment

Commissioner Merriam moved to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Gina Hill, City Clerk

