



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
6:30 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM**

**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  
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Rebecca Long, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Initial motion to adopt the agenda was missed. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Public Hearing Regarding an Ordinance by the Avondale Estates Board of Mayor and Commissioners to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City to Exempt Property Zoned General Commercial ("GC") From Parking Requirements, Including Parking Lot Landscape Plan Review by the Architectural Review Board; and to Amend the Tree Ordinance to Exempt Property Zoned GC from the Parking Lot Landscaping Requirements of the Tree Ordinance**

No comments.

Item #4 **An Ordinance by the Avondale Estates Board of Mayor and Commissioners to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City to Exempt Property Zoned General Commercial ("GC") From Parking Requirements, Including Parking Lot Landscape Plan Review by the Architectural Review Board; and to Amend the Tree Ordinance to Exempt Property Zoned GC from the Parking Lot Landscaping Requirements of the Tree Ordinance**

This amendment would exempt property zoned GC from parking lot landscape requirements. The impending sale of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Building and their request for additional parking is the impetus for this change. The code is currently a combination of DeKalb County codes with urban overlay standards from Avondale Estates, and has never been applied to existing GC parcels. The zoning code re-write will address problematic elements of the code, and staff supports this amendment until the new code can be implemented later this year.

Commissioner Shortell motioned to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Commissioner Merriam had concerns and wished modifications had been made instead of exemptions. She requested clarification on whether or not these changes impacted buffers as well as internal landscaping. City Manager Bryant confirmed it did not affect buffers. He also reiterated that there is no variance or appeals process for the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and that's why this is being done via an amendment. The other commissioners were supportive. Commissioner Shortell felt that because of economic uncertainty, she thinks it's important to act on this in a timely manner.

Liz Goodstein didn't understand what any potential ARB issues even could be. Ms. Shortell explained that there was concern about other property owners could requesting similar treatment. Ms. Goodstein said usually temporary measures are difficult to undo.

Item #5

#### **Resolution for Renovations at City Hall**

This will authorize the city manager to spend an amount not to exceed \$49 thousand on renovations at city hall. Improvements will optimize security and office space.

Commissioner Shortell moved to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. Four ayes and one nay (Laratte).

City Manager Bryant gave a review of the plans for renovations. Commissioner Merriam asked where these funds would originate. Mr. Bryant said they would come from capital funds. Commissioner Laratte had concerns that money for the city hall renovations would mean less for the public works building. Mr. Bryant explained these are two exclusive projects and appropriations. There was more discussion about allocation of funds. Ms. Shortell commented that aspects of both of these projects were discussed at the strategic work session and the BOMC requested staff to solve multiple problems – including staffing -- simultaneously. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and Mayor Elmore were supportive. Mr. Bryant gave a timeline of renovations as there was discussion about them taking place while city hall was closed due to the coronavirus.

Item #6

#### **New Planning & Zoning Board (PZB) Appointee**

A seat has been vacant on this board for several months. At their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the voted to recommend a new member for approval by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC).

Commissioner Laratte moved to approve. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

Members of the BOMC welcomed Dan Marcec to the PZB and thanked him for his service.

Item #7 **Resolution for Roadway & Pedestrian Lighting Operation and Maintenance**

The Georgia Department of Transportation will install new lighting as part of the US 278 Complete Streets project, as long as the BOMC resolves to fund operation and maintenance after installation.

Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant explained why this resolution was needed. Ms. Shortell asked if there was anything different about this agreement above what is already required of the city. Mr. Bryant said there was not but there will just be more lights to take care of. There was discussion about what type of lights this agreement covers.

Item #8 Public Comment

Mayor Elmore gave his condolences to Commissioner Laratte for the loss of his mother. Liz Goodstein asked staff and the BOMC to try to ensure residents were social distancing during the pandemic via public statements.

Item #9 Adjournment

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

APPROVED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2020



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Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Gina Hill, City Clerk