



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
WELCOMING AMERICA KICK-OFF
SEPTEMBER 15th, 2020
6 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Not Present: Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem

Staff Present: Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Rebecca Long, Communications Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Mayor Elmore motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Shortell seconded.
All ayes.

Item #3 **Remarks by Mayor Elmore and Members of the Board of Mayor and Commissioners**

Mayor Elmore welcomed everyone and thanked those on the call that applied to this committee. He also thanked Commissioners Laratte and Merriam for spearheading this effort. Commissioner Shortell thanked the applicants and appreciated their patience in getting this committee together. She also acknowledged former Commissioner Adela Yelton for bringing the Welcoming America organization to the city's attention. Commissioner Merriam asked the committee members to let her know if they need anything. She added she's excited about the group getting underway.

Item #4 **Resolution to Appoint Members of the Welcoming America Committee**

Mayor Elmore read the resolution. Commissioner Merriam motioned to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Shortell seconded the motion. All ayes.

Item #5 **Presentation by Commissioner Lionel Laratte**

Commissioner Laratte gave a PowerPoint presentation about the new committee and suggested goals.

Item #6 Q&A, Public Comment

Welcoming America Committee applicants on the call included Jack Krost, Shelly Groves, Jan Hover, Connie Bryans, Suzanna Stribling, and Lisa Tang. Mr. Krost asked why the commissioners decided to appoint all applicants. Commissioner Merriam explained the rationale behind their process. She added that the Covid pandemic delayed getting the committee seated. Ms. Bryans felt this is a good time to start the group since many people are feeling disconnected during the pandemic. Ms. Tang asked about how the committee will work, including details about budget and meetings. Mr. Krost nominated Ms. Bryans to at least temporarily lead the group. Mr. Krost asked if the committee needed to follow Georgia's Sunshine Laws about open meetings and the Mayor said no. Ms. Shortell said city staff could help them with communications. The group discussed when to have meetings in the future. Ms. Tang asked if there was current census information. Ms. Merriam offered some recent statistics she had.

Item #7 Adjournment

Mayor Elmore motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 29th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020



Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gina Hill, City Clerk