

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Absent:	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Lee Malcom	Council Member

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Patrick Kelley

Visitors: Sharon Swanepoel, Denise Etheridge, Brad Callender

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, except Council Member Ross Bradley, Council Member Norman Garrett, and Council Member Lee Malcom. There was a quorum.

Move Item B under Airport Committee Information – Apron / Hangar Site Paving to Item 1 under Items Requiring Action. To approve the agenda as amended.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously*

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated everyone is trying to keep up with all of the local Economic Development projects, such as the Monroe Pavilion. Houses are going up by the dozens, and there are lots of ongoing renovation. There were several significant Alcohol Reform Bills at the last State Legislature session, and most of them will move forward to the Governor. He explained House Bill 273 will benefit breweries. Senate Bill 145 is the package sale referendum, which changes the signature threshold of the registered voters from 35% to 20%. There are two bills concerning Alcohol to Go; they pertain to mixed drinks and other alcoholic beverages that can be sold to go. The bills change from local level to state level; some of the bills have local opt outs. He stated that staff has been working on the Infill Overlay District and the expanded Central Business District, which will go before the Planning Commission next month.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the facilities and grounds crews picked up over 5,700 pounds of trash around the City. The Police Station / Municipal Court Building renovation is done, except for a few minor items. They should be in the building by summer time. He discussed the Solid Waste Capital Improvement Projects for the Transfer Station. He stated both of the loaders at the Transfer Station are currently down. Community Cleanup Day will be on April 24. The GPS replacement is nearing completion. He reviewed the timeline for ongoing projects within the City, which will be updated monthly.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**1. Finance****a. Monthly Finance Report**

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. She stated Mauldin & Jenkins are finishing up the audit this week. Hopefully, the CAFR will be presented at the meeting next month. Revenue and expenses are trending within the budget. The Sales Tax Revenues continue to increase; there is currently a 31.5% increase over last year. The Property Tax Collections have exceeded the budgeted amount; they are at 98% of the 2020 Levy, which is only \$76,000 short of the total Tax Levy. She explained they are waiting for the funds to be released from the Department of Treasury for the American Rescue Plan, which should be 50% of the funds allotted to the City. Ms. Thompson stated she is getting weekly updates via Zoom meetings with the National League of Cities and Georgia Municipal Association.

2. Airport**a. Monthly Airport Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. The Airport is currently shutdown; Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction started the runway rehabilitation yesterday. He stated a lot of the pilots have been complimentary about the construction starting immediately after the shutdown. Hopefully, the project will get done quicker than the anticipated 28 days.

b. Apron / Hangar Site Paving

Moved to Section IV. Items Requiring Action – Item 1.

3. Public Works**a. Monthly Solid Waste Report**

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. He stated the contractor will be in Friday to resurface the remainder of the tipping floor. The Transfer Station will shut down at 12:00 pm, and it should be done by Monday. The tonnage was approximately 1,000 more than this time last year. He stated the 65-gallon carts for the curbside recycling program have gotten off to a good start. Customers who did not receive a 65-gallon cart and want to participate should call the office for one to be delivered. He reminded customers that the glass collection must be kept separate from other recyclables, because they are picked up by a different truck. Recyclable items should not be in plastic bags; they should be loose inside the container. Oversized cardboard should be broken down and placed next to the container. Walton County has requested the cardboard, so it will be taken directly to them. Customers who thought the new containers were too big have been allowed to keep their 18-gallon containers.

b. Emergency Purchase – John Deere Loader Boom

Mr. Danny Smith explained the emergency boom purchase for the backup loader, which supports an eight-ton waste bucket. Both loaders need to be running, because the trucks never stop coming. The backup loader is used to keep the flow going when the primary loader is being serviced. He stated the primary loader also went down this afternoon, due to a metal hose going out. The primary loader is under warranty; the parts will be shipped, and it should be fixed by Thursday morning. A track hoe excavator is currently being used to unload the trailers. Flint Equipment Company will replace the broken boom on the loader for \$19,714.11.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the emergency purchase from Flint Equipment Company for the amount of \$19,714.11.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Jeremiah Still presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. He stated there is a lot of progress being made on the public use parking lot. The footings have been poured, and the wall should be done by the end of the week. Back filling can be done after about a week and then the asphalt and seal coating can be done. The crews have been working extensively at the Airport and Parks; there have been eight buildings demoed throughout the Parks. He is waiting for quotes on sidewalk repairs throughout the City. The sidewalk demo will be done by staff,

and a contractor will form and pour the sidewalks. The LMIG Project engineers have requested bids for the milling. He stated the paving on South Madison Avenue will finally be done this month.

d. REBC Grant Landscaping Installation

Mr. Chris Bailey explained the Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council Grant provides funding to municipalities for projects involving roadside enhancement and beautification for gateway entrance signage. The City was awarded \$31,000.00 in October of 2020. The grant funds will be used for the gateway entrance on Highway 11 North at Charlotte Rowell Boulevard. He requested approval for Black Oak, Inc., the lowest bidder, to perform the landscaping portion of the project for \$35,000.00. The additional \$4,000.00 will come from SPLOST Funds.

The committee recommends approval of Black Oak, Inc., for a total cost of \$35,000.00 to Council.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

4. Utilities

a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. He stated five staff members spent seven days assisting the City of Newnan with power restoration from the Tornado, about 75% of their system was down. The Publix site has temporary power. The conduit will be installed tomorrow, and primary power will be installed after the project gets further along. He cannot get materials in a timely manner; transformers are taking between 13 to 22 weeks to be delivered. Part of the Corning FlexNap that will be used for the overhead fiber project deployment has been delivered, and staff has completed the FlexNap design training. Corning provides the engineering software for the City to do inhouse designs, which will save the City about a million dollars. Mr. Thompson discussed the three-year timeline for Return-on-Investments on CIP Projects.

b. Belle Meade Primary Electric Project

Mr. Brian Thompson explained that the underground primary electric cable on Belle Meade was installed in 1989 and has begun to fail. It needs to be replaced; a new home cannot be added to the underground wire. He stated the stock items will cost \$15,186.00, and the underground bore installation bid from UTEC Construction, Inc. is \$59,500.00. He requested approval to replace the underground primary electric cable for an amount not to exceed \$74,686.00.

The committee recommends to Council approval to replace the primary electric cable on Belle Meade for a total cost of \$74,686.00 as presented.

*Motion by L. Bradley, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. IPT Reserve Sale Update

Mr. Brian Thompson explained that the City is required by the Federal Government to have an excess of 15% of the City's electric need in reserve capacity. The Inter-Participant Transaction for the City of Hogansville needs to be updated, due to their load changing from 868 kilowatts to 474 kilowatts.

The committee recommends approval to update the IPT Reserve Sale to the City of Hogansville through MEAG as presented to Council.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by L. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously*

d. Monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report. The MAB gas main extension has been completed, except for 180 feet that will be finished this week. The sewer crew finished repairing the burst pipe on South Madison Avenue. The pipe has been delivered for the Alcovy River and Highway 138 Sewer Extension. The preconstruction meeting

with Reliance for the Pump Station was held yesterday. He stated the equipment proposals for the Sewer Plant Rehab Design are currently being reviewed. The Cedar Ridge section of the Loganville Water Extension has been completed, and the Trident Trail section will be finished by the end of this week. The line will then be ready for chlorination, and water can be sold within the next few weeks.

5. Public Safety

a. Monthly Fire Report

Battalion Chief Andrew Dykes presented the monthly Fire Report. He stated they had 178 incident responses for the month of February; six of the incidents were fires, with one being a residential fire. The fire at 121 North Hubbard Street had a \$1,000 loss; the neighbors helped contain the fire with a garden hose, prior to the department's arrival. The monument in front of the station is in the process of being repaired. The Badge Pass CIP Project is in progress. He explained the department has been providing assistance to Walton County with the EMA vaccination pod located at Criswell Park on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which is now open to the public.

b. Nederman Diesel Exhaust Extraction System Repair

Battalion Chief Andrew Dykes discussed the Nederman Diesel Exhaust Extraction System that was originally installed in 2003 and explained how the system works. There have been numerous preventative maintenance issues over the years that have not been fixed, and the system is virtually ineffective now due to multiple deficiencies. The Fire Department was awarded the 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$ 27,350.00 to get the system operational again. He explained the Federal share amount is \$26,047.62, and the original local match amount for the City was \$1,302.38. Nederman is a sole source provider and has recently had a four percent price increase. The total cost for the repair after the price increase will be \$27,861.75, with a local match of \$1,814.13 for the City.

Item will be moved to the meeting next week for a vote from the full Council, due to the committee not having a quorum.

No Action.

c. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. There were 1,428 calls for service in February, which is down about 100 from last year. There were 8,722 area checks, which is 4,000 more than this time last year. The Part I and Part II Crimes are down, and there were 35 adult arrests. He discussed an incident where an 85-year-old female was assaulted; the response time for the arrest was eight and a half minutes. The Police Department had their Awards Banquet on February 5; he thanked all the businesses that helped with the banquet. He stated their clearance rate is up by 18% from this time last year. He discussed Rapid-ID, which is a new technology implemented at the Police Department. They have put together a recruiting video which will be coming out soon. Chief Watts introduced Travis Philhower as the newest officer.

6. Planning & Code

a. Monthly Code Report

Mr. Patrick Kelley presented the monthly Code Report. The Code office had 129 inspections and 106 total permits. He stated 12 new businesses acquired licenses and five businesses closed. The City Marshal removed 89 signs from the roadway, issued 162 repair / cleanup orders, and contacted 27 businesses about keeping the ground clean on the corridor. He stated that Officer Mura retired as a Marshal, and Debbie Adkinson will be retiring in August. The Code Department will be hiring a new City Marshal, a replacement for Ms. Adkinson, and hiring a Building Inspector.

7. Economic Development

a. Monthly Economic Development Report

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk presented the monthly Economic Development Report. She gave a recap of the month. The Car Show was the first event for the year; it was the largest show so far and very successful. There were over 480 entries this year and there are usually around 300, which

is a significant increase. The City of Monroe branding initiative with the Carl Vinson Institute is underway; the public input portion had over 1,000 participants for the online survey. The Steering Committee will get the data and continue working on it for the rest of the year. There will be a big banner advertising the April 24 Cleanup Day Event. She explained the City of Monroe has been selected as a Georgia Exceptional Main Street (GEMS) Community, and the Georgia Main Street Program from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs will be here next week to officially present the designation to Monroe. The City of Monroe is one of 19 Cities in Georgia to receive the recognition. She stated National Unicorn Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 9; downtown businesses will have unicorn themed activities and products.

8. Parks

a. Monthly Parks Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Parks Report. The shade structures for Pilot Park are at the warehouse; installation will require a three-day closure, which will happen in April. The restroom facility at Mathews Park will be set in place next week. He will look at possibly Pilot Park or Childers Park for the next restroom structure.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

1. Public Hearing Variance – 211 Baker Street
2. Appointment – Historic Preservation Commission

There was a general discussion on the above items. There was no action taken.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

1. Apron / Hangar Site Paving

Mr. Chris Bailey requested for Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction, Inc. to pave the area around the newly completed t-hangar building for \$78,465.50. Staff has gotten the area ready for paving, which could be done while the Airport is already shutdown. Paving will complete the new t-hangar. He explained the cost will come from 2013 SPLOST Funds.

Approval of paving by Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction, Inc. for \$78,465.50.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

V. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor John Howard stated that he sent a note requesting participation from Preachers, Pastors, Teachers, and Coaches for the Cleanup Day Event on April 24. He stated May 6 is National Day of Prayer, and he is expecting between 15 and 20 representatives from various Churches around town to attend the prayer. He discussed the Traffic Calming Meeting that was held last week; there were lots of comments received. He encouraged the public to send in their comments.

VI. ADJOURN

*Motion by Little, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously.*



MAYOR



CITY CLERK