

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting, via Teleconference-Zoom.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Patrick Kelley, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Mike McGuire, Luke Roberts, Steve Conwell

Visitors: David Clemons, Les Russell

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Mayor John Howard gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

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

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. March 3, 2020 Council Minutes
- b. March 10, 2020 Council Minutes
- c. March 26, 2020 Council Minutes
- d. March 3, 2020 Executive Session Minutes
- e. February 13, 2020 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- f. February 13, 2020 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

II. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public Comments

No one signed up for public comments.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Madison Davis Subdivision Phase 3 Final Plat

Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Kelley presented the Final Plat for the PRD known as the Madison Davis PRD Phase III for approval. This will allow them to record the plat for development.

To approve the Final Plat for Phase III of the Madison Davis PRD.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by R. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

Mayor John Howard gave an update of the COVID-19; he discussed the noon update from the Georgia Department of Public Health. Walton County has 48 cases of COVID-19 with two deaths out of a population of 99,000. The Worldometer shows Georgia with 14,223 confirmed cases; that is up 600 from yesterday's count, with 501 deaths out of a population of 10.7 million.

Mayor Howard reminded Council Members that Wayne Adcock's family will be at the City Hall fountain Thursday morning, April 16, at 10:00 am. He requested cars to be decorated in Georgia Bulldog if possible, as they circle around City Hall.

Mayor Howard stated that he and Mr. Propes have discussed extending cutoffs and suspending late fees but do not know if the City can afford to do so. They will do everything they can to make it last another couple of weeks. He questioned the late fee amounts per month.

Ms. Beth Thompson explained the amount varies depending on the month, because late fees are a percentage of balances. The City takes in between \$65,000 and \$75,000 of late fees per month. On average the late fees will be about \$70,000 per month in lost revenue. She stated currently the City is looking at a couple of weeks in March and all of April.

Council Member Larry Bradley questioned whether the information is being communicated to the customers that are not paying their bills letting them know that the City has waived the late fees and is not doing disconnects.

Ms. Thompson answered the information is being relayed through social media, the City website, and through Council Meetings. Flyers can be placed in the May bills, but billing has already gone out for half of April. She believes that customers are aware that balances are still occurring and will keep adding up. The problem is the longer they are allowed to go on the larger the balances are going to get if they are not encouraged to start paying a little as they can towards their balances.

Mr. Logan Propes explained basically the bill will be split into two payments for a payment plan. The time period that the late fees and disconnects are waived will not go towards any new late fee penalties going forward. The new bills as of May 1 will be subject to late fee penalties, but from March until April will not be subject to late fee penalties; there will be two different balances running on the account. He stated Ms. Thompson feels confident that she can administer a payment plan process to keep the customers from getting swamped with super large bills, as long as they are making an effort to make payments. It is unfortunately impossible for the City to completely wipe out balances; it would not be fiscally responsible. Mr. Propes explained the City is doing everything possible to mitigate the cost to the ratepayers right now.

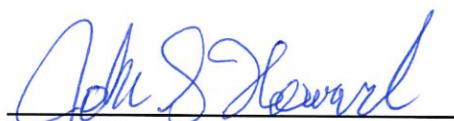
Council Member Norman Garrett questioned the waiving of the late fees for March and April.

Mr. Propes answered yes; the late fees and disconnects will be waived through April 30. Late fees will be reevaluated at that time; it will depend on what the Governor does whether it goes any further than the next 15 days.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal stated that waiving the late fees and creating payment plans are within the City's purview. He reiterated that the City can not get into writing off utility bills for March and April. It is not only fiscally irresponsible in the current short term with cash flows, but it would be fiscally irresponsible as it relates to the Bond Rating and the City's ability to seek financing efforts in the future. The City does not need to be in the concept of discussing not paying the balances for March and April; customers will have to comply with whatever payment plan staff decides is best to cover the balances.

IV. ADJOURN

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


CITY CLERK