

JANUARY 5, 2010

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PRESENT Mayor Willie Adams, Jr.  
Mayor Pro Tem Dorothy Hubbard  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Morris Gurr, Roger Marietta,  
Bob Langstaff, Jr., and Tommie Postell  
City Manager: Alfred D. Lott  
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and welcomed everyone into the New Year. He also recognized outgoing Commissioner Morris Gurr for his service on the board.

CITIZEN APPEARANCE

Carla Hawkins distributed information (copy on file) re: Life Link of Georgia and the importance of organ/tissue donations. She asked what type of initiative can be done so that the community will embrace this and discussed what she have been doing within the community to educate the public. She commented on the critical need all over the United States and gave statistics on those waiting for transplants nationally and locally. She discussed organ failure and the effects of diseases on the human body resulting in the need for organ transplants.

Mayor Adams asked if the presentation is made in high schools. Ms. Hawkins stated that she does go into the schools with the presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard asked if there is a local office. Ms. Hawkins advised that currently she works locally out of her home but that her office is in Columbus at the Medical Center. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard on partnerships, Ms. Hawkins listed those including 100 Black Men, other organizations and some churches. She added that some sort of drive would get the word out and would encourage City employees and their families to donate.

Mayor Adams asked if there is an age limitation on organ donations. Ms. Hawkins stated no, adding that infants who are born and die are considered. In reply to Mayor Adams, she stated that older persons are evaluated to make sure they are eligible.

ADICA BUDGET AND PROGRAM UPDATE

James Taylor, Asst. City Manager, discussed information as listed on page 4 pertaining to the ADICA budget. He stated that the initial request is for \$28,269 and commented on information regarding the use of funds as noted on page 13.

Mayor Adams commented on the bylaws and questioned the ADICA finance committee. Mr. Taylor explained that the committee is in place, is active and assisted in the preparation of the budget. Mayor Adams stated that the function of the finance committee will determine how successful ADICA will be.

JANUARY 5, 2010

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Commissioner Marietta said he is in favor of option 1 and complimented Mr. Taylor on the bylaws, specifically on Articles 5 and 9.

Commissioner Gurr asked for a more detailed summary of option 2. Mr. Taylor explained that as monies are recovered (façade grant money) they will be added back into the program and if this does not happen, they will need the \$90,000 as referenced in option 2.

Commissioner Langstaff noted page 13 and questioned where the \$28,269 will be used. Mr. Taylor stated it will go for training, etc. Commissioner Langstaff asked if money will be spent on advertising. Mr. Taylor stated that this is part of the planning program and explained that the \$28,269 has not been spent. Commissioner Langstaff stated that expenditures require more than the \$28,269 and asked if additional money comes from façade grants. Mr. Taylor agreed. Discussion followed with Mr. Taylor explaining acct. #729 and the planned events. Commissioner Langstaff asked for a breakdown on the events and asked how much is spent for First Friday's. Mr. Taylor advised that the events cost approximately \$1,000 each and that they will do 6 events. He added that the rest of the funds go for movies, etc., and that they work with the Recreation Department to build a calendar of events for 2010. Commissioner Langstaff asked for the details around the events and what is budgeted. Mr. Taylor clarified that it is an estimation of what will be needed. In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, he explained the grant program. Commissioner Langstaff asked about equipment expense. Mr. Taylor stated that this provides the sound system for the First Friday's events and that it will be used when there are events. Commissioner Langstaff asked for clarification on advertising. Mr. Taylor stated that this is to advertise the events. Commissioner Langstaff asked about the bad debt expense. Mr. Taylor explained that this is the amount the finance department estimated without façade grants. Commissioner Langstaff again asked for a breakdown of events and advertising.

Mayor Adams stated that some of the issues Commissioner Langstaff asked will be addressed by the ADICA finance committee.

Commissioner Postell asked which option is the most preferable. Mr. Taylor stated option 1. Commissioner Postell asked for clarification on option 2. Mr. Taylor stated that this will come from the façade grants and explained that \$73,900 will be returned for downtown redevelopment if he cannot use it. Commissioner Postell commented on the legal fee. Mr. Taylor advised that this is the final invoice by former ADICA attorney Jay Reynolds. Commissioner Postell asked what the expenses were. Mr. Taylor stated that he has the information and will provide. Commissioner Postell asked how many members have been trained. Mr. Taylor stated that all current members have been trained except one and there could be as many as three new appointments that would have to be trained. Commissioner Postell commented on the turtles. Mr. Taylor advised that this is not part of the \$90,000 but that it needs to be considered. Commissioner Postell asked if there are other projects not listed. Mr. Taylor said none that he is aware of at this time.

JANUARY 5, 2010

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mayor Adams asked what needs to be done with the turtles. Mr. Taylor stated that they need to be repaired, repainted, etc. Mayor Adams asked if assistance can be solicited from the Art Departments of the local institutions. Mr. Taylor said they are in the process of doing this.

Commissioner Postell asked how many façade grants were issued within the last two years and asked for a listing of the grants and amounts. Mr. Taylor said he would provide this.

Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard commented on the Ray Charles Plaza and asked how this will be increased. Mr. Taylor explained that this is part of the advertising process. Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard asked the cost to rent. Mr. Taylor said he has a price list he can provide. Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard asked if organizations are being asked to partner to assist with refurbishing the turtles. Mr. Taylor stated that they are looking at all options.

Commissioner Gurr asked Mr. Davis if it is possible for ADICA to tap into CVB funds for advertising. Mr. Davis said they can partner with CVB but there is no mandatory way to compel CVB. Commissioner Gurr asked if the Commission can request it. Mr. Davis agreed. Commissioner Gurr suggested this be looked at.

Commissioner Marietta moved to approve option 1, seconded by Commissioner Postell the motion carried 6-0-1 with Commissioner Langstaff abstaining.

## TRAVEL

Commissioner Gurr moved to approve the following, seconded by Commissioner Howard.

1. Mayor Pro Tem Dorothy Hubbard – Affordable Housing Conference – Athens, Georgia; Dec. 16 – 17, 2009 - \$400.15

Commissioner Postell asked Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard about the conference. Mayor Pro Tem Hubbard replied that the conference included discussion about ways to get housing back on the tax rolls with several speakers touting ways to achieve this goal. She mentioned the interactive sessions in which participants were allowed to ask questions about issues pertinent to their communities. Facilitators (included representatives from the State, Fair Housing, etc.), discussed ways to clean up the community. The Mayor from Fort Valley discussed ways city funds are used to clean up within the city which increases the uses of housing. She added that there is nothing that Fort Valley will not pick up because they feel it is their responsibility to ensure that all areas are clean and that they find ways to fund this. She said there is additional information that she brought back that she will share. She added that with this training allowed her to obtain her second achievement for certification and that she is now being considered for an appointment on the training board of GMA with the Carl Vinson Institute. She offered to write a report detailing the benefits that she received from this training.

JANUARY 5, 2010

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Hearing no further discussion, the motion unanimously carried.

FY 2011 BUDGET CALENDAR

Larry Johnson, Budget Manager discussed information as noted on page 15 regarding the budget calendar. Commissioner Postell moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Langstaff, the motion unanimously carried.

2010 APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Adams stated that this will be considered at the Monday (January 11) meeting.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Howard asked when the City and County will come together to look at projects for the next sales tax. Mr. Lott stated that this will be in March and a calendar will be provided. He advised that City Engineering is working on infrastructure projects and information will be provided. Mayor Adams stated that the consensus of the Commission is that the bulk of the SPLOST will go towards infrastructure.

**PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS**

FIREFIGHTING MUTUAL AID FOR SURROUNDING COUNTIES

Chief J. Carswell discussed information as noted on page 27 (copy on file) regarding mutual aid for surrounding counties.

Commissioner Postell asked if this was discussed last year and how it would affect the ISO rating. Chief Carswell stated that it has come up under other discussions. Commissioner Postell asked why Lee County was asked again when they indicated they were not interested. Discussion followed with Commissioner Postell commenting on his dissatisfaction of considering this item.

Commissioner Marietta commented on humanitarian reasons and the gray area with agreements, specifically something like the fire emergency in Sylvester last spring. He suggested more flexibility in the charter so that the City Manager and Fire Chief have the authority to provide assistance in exceptional circumstances to neighboring counties. Chief Carswell explained that there are assets with value and commented on the situation in Sylvester. He explained the process of going through GEMA which authorizes assistance when procedures are followed. He spoke of the liability issues when there is a

JANUARY 5, 2010

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

non-formal mutual aid agreement. Commissioner Marietta discussed the need for mutual aid and the need to not close this door as unforeseen circumstances occur.

Mayor Adams commented on the olive branch that was extended and the offer being rejected and/or no response. He suggested letting those entities come to the City.

Commissioner Langstaff spoke of the two types of mutual aid agreements and suggested 1) extending the agreement to surrounding counties with a document in place to protect us against liabilities. He also spoke of 2) a mutual aid agreement whereby the City of Albany is paid as is done with the agreement with Dougherty County.

Discussion followed with Mayor Adams suggesting using caution and letting surrounding counties ask for the mutual aid. He then stated that this is for informational purposes only and thanked Chief Carswell for his comments. Chief Carswell stated that training for the ADL is being conducted today. Mayor Adams suggested that any Commissioner interested in attending do so after this meeting.

## PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

### QUIT CLAIM/EASEMENT - 1325 W. BROAD AVE.

Rod Hutchinson, Civil Engineering Superintendent discussed information as noted on page 31 and advised that the request is to have the BHY Developers' attorney to prepare a quit claim deed for the driveway easement at property located at 1325 W. Broad Avenue noting that the City of Albany does not claim any interest in the driveway easement. Commissioner Postell moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the motion unanimously carried.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION – Appointed Officials Evaluation

At 9:33, Commissioner Postell moved to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Howard, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	absent
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

JANUARY 5, 2010

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

At 11:22 a.m., Commissioner Howard, moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Gurr, the motion unanimously carried as follows:

Ward I	yes
Ward II	yes
Ward III	yes
Ward IV	absent
Ward V	yes
Ward VI	yes
Mayor	yes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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SONJA TOLBERT  
CITY CLERK