

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

Those present were Chairperson Ryan McLemore, Commissioners Cora Flowers, Doug Hollberg, Rodney McCord, Dick Morrow, Joanne Todd, Cynthia Reid Ward, City Manager Kenny Smith and City Attorney Drew Whalen.

Commissioner Cynthia Ward led the pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Doug Hollberg led the invocation.

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Todd and unanimously passed, approval of the Agenda, with an amendment to add an Executive Session at the end of the Regular Scheduled Meeting Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6) for the purpose of deliberating or discussing the evaluation of personnel.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Public Safety Director Frank Strickland presented Lieutenant Darrell Dix of the Police Department as the August 2014 “Strongest Link” award recipient. Lt. Dix is responsible for, and has made a great success of, the Citizens Police Academy. He works endless hours without complaint, teaching numerous training programs in-house for the department. He manages the fleet and maintenance, grants, budgeting and purchasing as well as handling Internal Affairs. Director Strickland said Lt. Dix volunteered to assist with the in-house development and construction of the Police Department’s new firing range and training center. Chief Steve Heaton nominated Dix for the award.

Lt. Dix expressed appreciation for the award and for the opportunity to serve in his position at the Police Department.

Chairperson McLemore congratulated Lt. Dix on the award.

Central Services Director Phill Francis recognized Albert Sands for twenty-five years of dedicated service to the city. He delivers containers with a smile. Mr. Francis said Albert has been his guide around town as he learned the routes, and most of the citizens know him by name.

Chairperson McLemore thanked Mr. Sands for his loyal, longtime service to the City.

Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab presented financials for July 2014, the first month of the new fiscal year, and as such, not much to report. Commissioner Morrow noted the auditors are on site and have begun their annual process.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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There were no citizen comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Manager Kenny Smith, presented for comments a request for a variance to reduce the ten (10) ft. planted landscape strip to zero (0) along S. 15th Street, and reduce the five (5) ft. landscape strip to three (3) ft. on the eastern side of the property, and permit parking within the front yard setback, for property located at 828 W. Taylor Street. Mr. Smith said there was some confusion about the size of the right of ways, which affects the setback.

Theo Stone of LeCraw Engineering was present on behalf of BoJangles. There were various comments and questions. Commissioner Todd said the traffic light at the top of the hill is going to present a traffic problem. Commissioner Morrow suggested sliding the project back, leaving more buffer in the front. Mr. Stone said that could be a possibility. Chairperson McLemore proposed a monument sign versus the traditional pole sign. Mr. Stone said that would depend on what the local code allows. Commissioner Hollberg asked about the possibility of saving the two big oak trees in the front of the property. Mr. Stone advised they haven't gotten to the landscaping phase of the project yet.

There was discussion about cutting the number of parking spaces. Mr. Stone said the normal operational standard for BoJangles is 45 to 50 spaces. 40 spaces would be the absolute minimum threshold for this location.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner McCord and passed on vote of 6 – 0 – 1, approval of the Minutes of the Workshop on August 26, 2014. Commissioner Cora Flowers abstained.

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner McCord and unanimously passed, approval of the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting on August 26, 2014.

REGULAR AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Hollberg and unanimously passed, approval of a variance to reduce the ten (10) foot planted landscape strip to five (5) feet along South 15th Street, reduce the five (5) foot landscape strip to three (3) feet on the eastern side, permit parking within the front yard setback, eliminating the three corner parking spaces at the Northwest corner of West Taylor Street and S. 15th Street to allow additional landscaping in

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that corner, reduce the rear yard setback from thirty (30) feet to twenty (20) feet to add an additional ten (10) feet to the front yard, and allowing the development to be situated further back on the lot providing an additional ten (10) foot landscape area in the front.

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Todd and passed on vote of 6 0 – 1, approval of a Task Order form from Paragon Consulting Group for the design and engineering of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Zone 6, in the amount of \$70,115.00 for the Water/Wastewater Division. Commissioner Doug Hollberg abstained from the vote due to a conflict.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval to award the bid and work contract to McLeroy, Inc. for the repair of Heads Creek Wing Wall in the amount of \$197,700.00, and amend the budget accordingly.

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner McCord and unanimously passed, approval to renovate and repair Fire Stations One and Three, transfer \$84,219.66 from Morgan Stanley Fire Bond Reserve, and \$12,000.02 from BB&T Fire Bond cash, for a total of \$96,219.68 to general fund operating cash, close Morgan Stanley and BB&T related bank accounts, and amend the budget accordingly.

*On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Hollberg and unanimously passed, to **TABLE** a request to purchase four (4) Dodge Durangos and two (2) Dodge Chargers from Akins Ford Government Sales for the Police Department.*

On motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Todd and unanimously passed, approval of a revision to the Utility Incentive Program requiring that a new business must be served by its own water and / or electric meter to qualify for the incentive discounts.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval to purchase four (4) 23.5x15 solid rubber tires from SETCO, Inc., the sole source provider, to be installed on the L-120 loader assigned to the City of Griffin Solid Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Center at a cost of \$7,809.00 each, for a total cost of \$31,236.00.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval of an Inmate Work Agreement between the City of Griffin and Spalding County to provide inmate work details and addition of a Corrections Officer to staff, for operation of the material sort line at the City of Griffin Regional Recycling Center.

Mr. Whalen presented a Resolution regarding a contract the City Commission entered into with the DOT to acquired needed rights-of-way, permanent easements and temporary construction

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easements for various intersection improvements scattered all over Griffin. Staff recommends approval to acquire this particular Parcel No. 4 for Project 237 in its entirety, although only a portion is needed. This lot could help with the current efforts to beautify the railroad corridor.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager and staff to acquire specific interests in land needed for GDOT Federal Aid Projects 237 & 238, Intersection Improvements. This acquisition is under the Federal Uniform Act and requires specific procedures be followed, including payment of moving and relocation expenses to some owners.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Smith said we just received acknowledgement that we were awarded the #6 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

He advised the Chamber is in the process of making final plans and reservations for the upcoming Intergovernmental Retreat in Athens, and asked for a commitment from the Commissioners who would be attending.

Dr. Brant Keller addressed the Board with a brief update on a recent water issue. If there are complaints of “brown” water, it is due to an elevation of manganese in the water. It is safe to drink even though it looks dirty. We are aware of the issue, as well as the cause, and it is being addressed. Dr. Keller advised Still Branch is running 24/7 to bring everything up to par but it may take as much as seven days before the water looks clear.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval to enter into Executive Session at 6:46 P.M. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6) for the purpose of deliberating or discussing the evaluation of personnel.

On motion by Commissioner Hollberg, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval to return to Open Session at 7:08 P.M.

On motion by Commissioner McCord, seconded by Commissioner Morrow and unanimously passed, approval to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

ACCEPTED:

Ryan McLemore, Chairperson