

**MINUTES OF  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
W. Elmer George Municipal Hall  
100 South Hill Street  
9:00 A.M.

Those present: Chairperson Ryan McLemore Commissioners Joanne Todd, Cynthia Reid Ward, Doug Hollberg, Dick Morrow, City Attorney Drew Whalen and Public Works Director Brant Keller.

Those absent: Commissioners, Cora Flowers, Rodney McCord and City Manager, Kenny Smith.

Chairman Ryan McLemore called the workshop meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

John Carlisle opened the meeting with a proposal for “Honor our KIA”. He stated Griffin has a long history of honoring our veterans both living and dead with monuments, parades and ceremonies, and hopes to build on that and expand it. Recently, there was a service at the Imperial Theater Park and it was such a moving service that others had the idea to recognize their loved ones as well. He was inspired to have plaques put up throughout downtown honoring Spalding County residents who were killed in action in WWI up until now. The plaques would be placed on buildings and businesses’ with the owner’s permission and would be visible to citizens as they go through their day. He stated it would be meaningful and educational to the community.

There have been a total of 199 men and 1 woman killed in the line of duty from Griffin.

The committee has started an oral history project and they have formed a partnership with Gordon College. The history class, which will do the leg work and research for us about these young men and women, will provide the details of their lives, their stories and how to contact their families. They have formed a similar partnership with Southern Crescent who will do the videography. This will present the lives of the soldiers, not how they died but how they lived. This project will be a testimony and preservation of the lives of the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. This will be an important way of projecting an image for this city.

Markus Schwab discussed the investment strategy and language in the Cemetery Trust Ordinance. The economic conditions when the ordinance was created are no longer suitable for today’s environment. The goal is to preserve and provide for income strains to fund projects. He asked that the Board consider possible language to allow for a little more latitude within the investment strategy so we can better position the portfolio in order to achieve our goal. One of the proposals is 25% minimum and 75% maximum on equities and the same 25% minimum and 75% maximum on bonds, giving us enough latitude to move from one balance to another in order to preserve corpus and maintain income flow. He suggested a 10% cap on any given investment vehicle, whether it is a stock or particular bond, so it does not comprise more than 10% of the entire portfolio.

In conclusion Mr. Schwab proposed formally adopting a strong policy that clearly outlines the scope of the responsibilities, when monies are to be moved and how, and by what authority.

Markus Schwab and Drew Whalen discussed the language in the City's Procurement Ordinance and determined the ordinance/policy is sufficient as currently enforced. However, there was discussion as to how we could get the local businesses involved in more projects and one solution was to have a workshop for educating vendors on how to do business with the city. Cindy Fay and Alvin Huff would team up and coordinate the workshop. Commissioner Ward was strongly in favor of promoting local contractors in the bigger projects. The City has little control over federal funded projects as they have very specific requirements. Commissioner Morrow proposed the possibility of funneling work for developers by breaking the bigger contracts down to smaller parts for local content, encouraging and making local contractors eligible for more of the work.

In conclusion, the City is working to get more vendors involved and provide work for local content.

Brant Keller presented the GDOT position on Downtown LCI configuration. There are several options, one to go ahead and use our existing plan with bulbouts, the single lane of traffic, the bike lane and the buffer between the parking. Should there be further congestion issues, in the future we could come back and correct the intersections. He presented handouts showing other options. Dr. Keller said the DOT would be installing a traffic light at Broadway and Hill Street at Akins Feed and Seed at their expense.

Dr. Keller stated it is not in the best interest of the City to look like Downtown Jonesboro. He said he would love to see Griffin maintain its hometown look. The DOT may come back in the future and make corrections but at this time we would like to keep the current character of Griffin.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenny Smith, Secretary

Accepted:

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Ryan McLemore, Chairman