

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP  
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, January 27, 2015**

**The Workshop of the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Doug Hollberg at 9:00 a.m. Those present were Commissioners Cynthia Reid-Ward, Joanne Todd, Dick Morrow, Ryan McLemore and Rodney McCord. Absent was Commissioner Cora Lee Flowers. Also in attendance were City Attorney Andrew J. Whalen, III, and City Manager Kenny Smith.**

<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
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1. Discuss replacing the City Pool Back Wash filters. *Dr. Brant D. Keller will address.*

Dr. Keller noted the issues surrounding the pool and sand in the backwash about the middle of last summer. Treating the water is a normal maintenance and operations function and is routinely budgeted, and he felt last year's expenditure was around \$20,000. This is an unbudgeted occurrence and will require an accompany budget amendment to hopefully transfer funds from Commissioner Contingency to the City Pool operations line item to take care of this matter at tonight's regularly scheduled meeting. There is a contract from Duffield Aquatics, Inc. that will require approval along with the budget amendment.

2. Consider the concept of one lane of traffic north bound and one lane of traffic southbound as presented in the Downtown LCI road diet. Both sides of Hill Street will have extended parking stalls, bulb outs at the intersections and the traffic lanes shall be shared bike lanes. *Dr. Brant D. Keller will address.*

Dr. Keller noted this item would also appear on tonight's Regular Scheduled Commission Meeting agenda. Hopefully there will be a consensus on this Livable Center Initiatives concept, or "road diet." This project needs to move forward and has been a long time developing. Both ARC and GDOT have provided approvals to move forward, and there are long-range GDOT plans for rerouting SR 155 down South McDonough Road to Highway 16, which should be moved to intermediate range for this project to be successful. Costs for this project have already increased to about \$4.99 million from the original \$3.2 million. It will encompass Poplar to Broadway and from Solomon from City Hall to the other side of Fifth, to include some sidewalks and grass medians. The shrinking of the street size will provide for safer pedestrian traffic, and Dr. Keller stated he would bring the larger drawings to tonight's meeting.

Dr. Keller also noted that Norfolk-Southern was going to fix some railroad crossings, i.e. Carver Road, Everee Inn Road, Solomon Street, Wall Street and Pimento Street. This will require some street closures when they do this work.

3. Discuss request to amend the Unified Development Code, of the City of Griffin, Article 12, Section 1213B (9), Historic Character Signs. *Toussaint Kirk to address.*

Director Kirk handed out the Ordinance amendment to the Unified Development Code regarding Historic Character Signs and introduced John Carlisle who is spearheading the project to place "Killed in Action" signs as historic character signs on downtown buildings. There will be 155

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Killed in Action plaques and not that many buildings in the downtown area on which to place them. There also may be some building owners who are averse to placing these signs on their buildings; this may necessitate having a provision that would allow for more than one plaque per building but with parameters. The County, for instance, is interested in placement of plaque(s) on its building. Perhaps two or more could be placed on Mr. Whalen's building as an example, stated Mr. Carlisle.

Commissioner Morrow appreciated Director Kirk showing a rendering of how this concept of multiple plaques could get out of hand, sort of a "worst case" scenario.

If the plaque concept is approved, it would require no sign permit from the building owner, and funding will be entirely private. So far, there is interest in about 20 of the plaques. Southern Crescent Technical College is working on a documentary for the Sunday before the Memorial Day Holiday event to be held at the High School Auditorium. Mr. Carlisle noted there can also be QR Codes (for tourism smart phone applications) next to the plaques that will elaborate on that serviceman's/servicewoman's background, photographs, etc. There will also be plans for archival access as well. The archivist, Cynthia Barton, will assist with ensuring access, housing videos, etc. Some of these stories are amazing, noted Mr. Carlisle.

Some discussion followed about perhaps limiting the number of plaques per building to the size or surface area of the building but maybe with a maximum allowed. Commissioner Morrow noted our own City Hall could accommodate probably 3 or 4. Mr. Carlisle stated the suitable locations could perhaps dictate the number.

Commissioner Todd noted this was a good project but needed to be done with quality and careful thought.

Jim Ogletree, of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), spoke and said they would be involved in approval of the design of the place and provide approval for all the signs locations. Commissioner Morrow said perhaps the Board could authorize the HPC to determine these issues. Commissioner Todd was concerned, though, that this Ordinance might provide blanket approval if not thought out carefully. City Manager Kenny Smith noted that permits do not come to the Board for approval now.

Director Kirk pointed out that the Board will direct and authorize guidelines within the confines of the Ordinance amendment but not on an individual approval basis for each plaque. He added that government buildings should be neutral. He reminded Commissioners, also, that there exists the possibility of people carrying the concept further with unintended consequences, such as trying to place pet memorials and other type plaques. Mr. Ogletree said they could only authorize the KIA plaques and not allow a trend to other type memorial plaques.

Commissioner Morrow felt an arbitrary limit of the number of signs based on size would not always be practical since all buildings are different and individual, and these are being placed at the building owners' prerogatives.

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Director Kirk noted he was fine with a three-level scrutiny protocol: The KIA Committee, the HPC, and the Board of Commissioners direction. Commissioner McLemore allowed that might be a good way to manage the concept. In that manner, the project can be managed without being micromanaged. Mr. Carlisle concurred but asked to be kept in the loop as the concept moves forward.

Director Toussaint noted the handout he developed was not intended to be disrespectful but rather just to play devil's advocate for what could transpire if left unchecked.

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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*Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote on motion/second by Commissioners  
Morrow/McLemore at 9:45 a.m.*