

MINUTES

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
June 1, 2009
City Hall: 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Floyd called the Regular Meeting of the Decatur City Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2009.

PRESENT: Mayor Floyd, Mayor pro tem Baskett, Commissioners Boykin, Cunningham, and Kemp; and, Assistant City Manager Arnold.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2009 were approved on a motion by Mayor pro tem Baskett, second by Commissioner Kemp, and all voting “aye”.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2008-2009 REVISED BUDGET AND 2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET.

There were no comments from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MIDWAY ROAD ANNEXATION APPLICATION.

City Manager Merriss stated that the City had received an application from 11 parcels on Midway Road requesting annexation into the City of Decatur using the 60% method. City Manager Merriss stated that a public hearing was required under the 60% method. City Manager Merriss noted that a copy of the application had been provided to the City Schools of Decatur and that no response had been received from the school system.

Mayor Floyd opened the meeting for public comment.

Mark King, 2512 Midway Road, spoke in favor of annexation citing the City’s services and schools as his family’s main reasons.

Barney Zeitvogel, 2524 Midway Road, stated that access to local government officials heightened his desire to be annexed into the City.

Peter Michelson, 2546 Midway Road, spoke in favor of annexation even though his children would continue to attend a non-City of Decatur school.

Dana Perkins, 2537 Midway Road, stated that the Midway Road neighborhood already experienced a great sense of community and requested that the City Commission consider residents who do not want to be annexed.

The following people also spoke in support of annexation: Misty & Brian Smith, 2534 Midway Road; Carol Friedlund, 116 Midway Road; Melissa Moore, 120 Midway Road; and Daniel Sullivan, 1329 Deerwood Drive.

With no further comment, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS.

Betty Blondeau-Russell, 615 Pinetree Drive, requested a “Resident Only” parking designation for the east side of Pinetree Drive near the Hampton Court Condominiums. Ms. Blondeau-Russell stated that the St. Thomas More Catholic Church attendees parked in front of Pinetree residences and blocked access for Hampton Court residents and their guests.

AMENDMENT TO “RESIDENT ONLY” PARKING ORDINANCE.

City Manager Merriss stated that the City Commission had received and referred a petition for the establishment of “resident only” parking zone on Pinetree Drive adjacent to the Hampton Court Condominiums. City Manager Merriss stated that Senior Engineer John Madajewski had inspected the area and recommended establishing a zone consistent with the conditions set forth in the petition on the north side of Pinetree Drive from West Ponce de Leon Avenue to the easterly property line of 637 Pinetree Drive in front of the Hampton Court Condominium Association’s property. City Manager Merriss noted that resident only parking designations must be established via ordinance.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Baskett, City Manager Merriss stated that church parking was occurring along Pinetree Drive not simply because the St. Thomas More parking lot was full but because some people perceive that it is more convenient to park along Pinetree Drive since the main doors of the church front West Ponce de Leon Avenue and the church parking lot is at the rear of the church property.

Mayor Floyd noted that it did appear easier to park along the street rather than park in the church’s lot but that the Charter Square Condominium residents had fought a similar parking battle with little success.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Baskett, City Manager Merriss stated that should the no parking zone be established Hampton Court Condo guests would be allowed to park north of the last “resident only parking” sign or on the other side of Pinetree Drive and that no matter what, enforcement of the zone would be a challenge.

Mayor Floyd stated that posting signs would be advantageous in terms of enforcement.

City Manager Merriss stated that the establishment of a “resident only” parking zone gave the condo association and the City of Decatur Police Department a stronger position when talking to the church about this issue.

In response to a question from Mayor Floyd, Ms. Blondeau-Russell stated that the church had been informed of the condominium association's intention to have a resident only parking zone established.

In response to a question from Mayor Floyd, Ken Thomas, 619 Pinetree Drive, stated that to date non-residents were not parking in the condominium development parking lot but that cars were always parked along Pinetree Drive.

In response to a question from Mayor Floyd, Mr. Thomas stated that several of the units did not have adequate parking space inside the development for various reasons.

Mayor Floyd noted that the proposed solution would not solve all of the parking problems on Pinetree Drive but hoped that drivers' good natures would prevail when they saw a resident only parking zone sign.

On a motion by Commissioner Boykin, second by Commissioner Kemp, and all voting "aye", the agenda item was tabled until June 15, 2009 so that the correct boundary address for the zone on Pinetree Drive could be obtained.

AGREEMENT WITH THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS.

Ms. Arnold recommended that the City Commission approve a contract with DeKalb County to conduct the November 3, 2009 City General Election for two Commissioners and three Board of Education members. Ms. Arnold stated that DeKalb County had the resources to recruit and train poll workers and to operate the new electronic voting machines. Ms. Arnold stated that the estimated cost for the November election was \$9,500.

On a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Kemp, and all voting "aye", the agreement with DeKalb County was approved.

AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA POWER COMPANY.

Deputy City Manager Hugh Saxon recommended approval of an agreement with the Georgia Power Company for new security lighting in Glenlake Park. Mr. Saxon stated that the work included installation of 14 new pedestrian-scale lights with underground wiring for a total cost of \$26,970 and that such lights would replace several "cobra-head" lights on wooden poles which were removed during demolition of the park as well as the existing lights that illuminate the path between the park and Glendale Avenue. Mr. Saxon stated that the estimated monthly charge for the lights was \$210 or about \$15 per month per light. Mr. Saxon noted that funds for this improvement were available in the approved Glenlake Park Improvements budget.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Baskett, Mr. Saxon stated that Georgia Power would be responsible for maintenance and replacement of the lights and that this work was not included in the park bid because it was a separate scope of work.

On a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Boykin, and all voting “aye”, the agreement with Georgia Power was approved.

PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES IN HIDDEN COVE PARK.

Mr. Saxon recommended approval of an agreement with the firm of jB+a, Inc. for master planning services and for design of two pedestrian bridges in Hidden Cove Park on Westchester Drive for a fee of \$15,550. Mr. Saxon stated that the agreement extended some previous work by jB+a in preparing a preliminary master plan for Hidden Cove Park and several contiguous properties on Westchester Drive and North Parkwood Road recently acquired by the City. Mr. Saxon stated that the construction of the two pedestrian bridges received the highest priority among a menu of possible improvements at a Hidden Cove master planning workshop in April 2009.

In response to a question from Commissioner Boykin, Mr. Saxon stated that funds were available for this work in the Greenspace Acquisition and Improvements budget in the Capital Bonds Projects fund.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kemp, Mr. Saxon stated that funds were not available for the entire master plan.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Baskett, second by Commissioner Boykin, and all voting “aye”, the agreement with jB+a, Inc. was approved.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.

Wardell Castles, 331 Ponce de Leon Place, requested that the City assist the City Schools of Decatur’s residency verification efforts.

In response to a question from Mayor Floyd, City Manager Merriss stated that the City provided the Schools with the legal address list compiled by the Engineering department as well as allowed the Student Resource Officer to accompany on site visits if necessary.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

Mayor Floyd read the Zoning Board of Appeals agenda for June 8, 2009.

City Manager Merriss offered an update on code enforcement properties.

Commissioner Kemp stated that it was a delightful experience to attend the ribbon cutting for Fire Station Number 2.

Commissioner Kemp welcomed the Slovakian students visiting members of the Decatur High School band.

Commissioner Kemp noted that Decatur was now home to a semi-professional men's basketball team called the Decatur Court Kingz and that PALS Supervisor Juan Wharton was a member of the team.

Commissioner Boykin stated that he had enjoyed attending the Fire Station Number 2 ribbon cutting.

Commissioner Cunningham commended the Decatur Arts Alliance for another fabulous arts festival.

Commissioner Cunningham noted that the Decatur Housing Authority's annual awards ceremony was Thursday, June 4th.

Mayor pro tem Baskett stated that it was nice to see Oakhurst residents at the Fire Station Number 2 ribbon cutting.

Mayor pro tem Baskett requested that Ms. Arnold highlight points presented in the budget work session.

Mayor Floyd requested that another work session on the revised 2008-2009 and proposed 2009-2010 budgets be scheduled before the regular meeting of June 15, 2009.

In response to a question from Mayor pro tem Baskett, Ms. Arnold stated that the Children and Youth Services fund was created in the FY 2008-2009 budget to better account for funds accumulated from grant proceeds and participation fees. Ms. Arnold stated that the general fund transfer to the Children and Youth Services fund represented that amount that the City would contribute to the operations of the department if it were still included in the General Fund.

Assistant City Manager Lyn Menne noted that the ribbon cutting for the Glenlake Park Pool bathhouse would be 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5th.

Mayor Floyd requested that the City Commission consider hiring analysts to study the City's retirement program.

Mayor Floyd stated that the City's budget process was incredibly open and involved and noted that a lot of time and intensity went into producing such a document.

Mayor pro tem Baskett stated that the proposed budget document was quite readable and hoped others would check it out.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Andrea Arnold
Acting City Clerk