



**NOTES OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
CITY OF DULUTH, GA
APRIL 22, 2019**

PRESENT: Mayor Harris, Council members Carden, Jones, and Whitlock, City Manager, Department Directors, City Attorney

ABSENT: Council members Bomar and Kelkenberg

Mayor Harris called the work session to order at 5:30pm.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tina Khuyen Nguyen representing the Committee for the 2020 Census reported on the importance of receiving accurate data and ensuring everyone is counted. She quoted statistics from the George Washington University-Counting for Dollars 2020 report, which states that Federal dollars of over \$675 Billion/year is distributed to state and local governments using Census data. The State of Georgia could receive over \$13 billion which represents approximately \$1,339 per person. She spoke on the changes to the way data is collected, allowing individuals to respond anytime, anywhere, via phone or internet.

Hee Sin Ko, 2292 Oak Glenn Circle, Duluth, Ga. 30096 spoke on the 2020 Census and the importance of everyone being counted.

Victoria Huynh, 3571 Cherokee Road, Atlanta, Ga. 30341, representing the Pan Asian Community Services spoke on the importance of having a complete count to ensure that Duluth receives its funding.

II. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

1. SERVICE AWARD-RAY TAYLOR

Mayor Harris presented Ray Taylor with a proclamation honoring him for 35 years of service with the City of Duluth. Ray's anniversary date is April 23.

2. LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION READER

Police Department representatives Chief Belcher and Captain Wilson presented the License Plate Recognition "Tag Readers" in action. In addition, they discussed opportunities relating to use of tag readers for enforcement of school zone speed limits.

Chief Belcher gave a brief history of using camera systems, explained how they assist law enforcement and increase visibility in the community using less manpower, thereby saving costs as the expense of just one officer and all the necessary equipment is very pricy.

Captain Wilson came forward to report that the City currently has 111 internal and external cameras, monitors 22 privately owned cameras that are integrated, and 14 Automatic License plate readers (ALPR). He discussed plans for future cameras and explained their functionality. He also demonstrated the use of the license plate readers and how they report violations through the hot lists. Officers are alerted to the types of hits and can validate the information through GCIC to determine a course of action. The ALPR data is not subject to open record laws, and it is stored for five days.

Capt. Wilson explained the many benefits the cameras offers in assisting law enforcement, and pointed out that use of regular cameras up in the City has diminished crime in many areas. In a two-week period there were over 31,000 hits. There have been several hundred fatalities across the country in school zones. House Bill 978 recently amended Georgia Code to allow photo speed enforcement in school zones. Violations incur a civil penalty of \$250 and the owner of a vehicle cannot renew a tag until the fine is paid. All violations must be verified by LE officers.

A study was conducted by RedSpeed which reported over 1600 violations in the Coleman Middle and Chattahoochee Elementary zones from 7:45am-2:45pm in one day. RedSpeed offers a no-cost solution for the City, as a percentage of fines go to the company. School zone cameras double as ALPR cameras, will integrate with current VMS, and can be accessed for live and recorded video.

Council felt that safety is one of the most important issues the community faces. The study only included two schools and there is also Mason Elementary, Duluth Middle and Duluth HS. City Manager James Riker said staff would get more information on specific details, will have a conversation with the company to determine what the enforcement parameters are, and bring any contract back to Council for review. Council would consider authorization provided that the guidelines are reasonable and all would be timed with how we would normally be enforcing the school zones (during the hours that officers are allowed to patrol the zones) as well as the number of miles over the speed limit. Mr. Riker said staff would also come back with a strategy on how to put forth a public awareness campaign, as well as providing estimates on revenue and allocation of how the funds would be spent. He noted that the proposed Police Department budget includes a full time position for a person to monitor the cameras.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. STORMWATER UTILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

{A}

Planning Director Bill Aiken reported this year's Citizen Budget Review Advisory Committee met on February 22, February 27, and March 6 and recommended that Council consider increasing the City's Stormwater utility fees to meet future project demands.

Mr. Aiken provided a detailed presentation on the condition of the City's Stormwater infrastructure as well as options for possible adjustment of fees. (Presentation highlights attached.)

Staff was authorized to place amendments to the Stormwater program on a future Council agenda on Scenario # 5 as recommended by the Citizen's Budget Committee.

2. TITLE VI UPDATE

{B}

City Engineer Margie Pozin spoke on the City's requirements for annual renewal of its commitment to Title VI compliance by signing a non-discrimination agreement and reporting on the past fiscal year's challenges, complaints, and accomplishments. Ms. Pozin provided information on what Title VI entails, the requirements, an update on changes to the non-discrimination agreement, report on last year's challenges and accomplishments, and solicited input for next fiscal year's goals.

Council asked that staff re-assess the goals once the 2020 Census data is published.

Council directed staff to place the Title VI update on the next Consent Agenda.

3. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – PROCEDURE REVIEW

City Manager, James Riker reported, at a previous work session, Council asked staff to report on the procedures for interviewing and recommending board and commission members. In addition, Council wanted to know how staff provided outreach to unselected applicants for boards and commissions.

Mr. Riker explained that all LEAD participants are added to City eblast list and information is included in Duluth Life. The current policy solicits applications due by January 31, which are reviewed by department representatives and the board chair. Recommendations are then made to Council during the February work session for March appointment. Oaths must be administered within 10 working days of their appointment. By March 31, all applicants that were not selected will be mailed a letter of appreciation. Any serving member who was not re-appointed will be contacted by the department representative and formal recognition will be made at the next available Council meeting to thank them for service.

Council requested a review of the LEAD program policy and suggested that the heading of the published articles in the Duluth Life be more specific.

4. COUNTY - SPHERE OF INFLUENCE NOTICE

Planning Director Bill Aiken reported to the Council the City has received a "Notice of Influence" for the tract of land consisting of 4.81 acres at Buford Highway and Pleasant Hill Road. The property is not located within city limits, but was adjacent, which requires the County to submit the notice to the City. A request has been submitted to the County to build an 80,200 square foot Self Storage Facility. Following discussion, Council directed staff to prepare a letter to the County, and District 3 Commissioner Jace Brooks, requesting the architectural design, storm water materials, gravel or asphalt, fencing, buffer, driveway, landscaping, and materials being proposed.

IV. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL

1. CHANGE OF MEETING TIME – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETINGS

Staff was directed to place an amendment to the ordinance changing the scheduled meeting time for the 2nd Monday City Council meetings on the May 13th agenda as follows:

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Work Session | from 6:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. |
| Regular Meeting | from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. |

2. ELECTION DAY/EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY

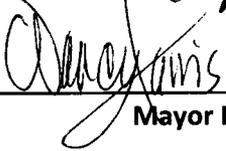
Council held a discussion on the possibilities of closing of city operations on Election Day to show a leadership role in setting standards in support of the importance of Elections.

Staff was directed to draft an employee survey to make a further determination.

V. ADJOURNMENT

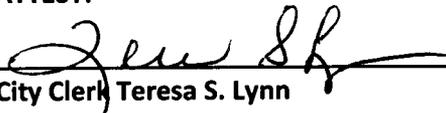
Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Approved this 13 day of May, 2019.



Mayor Nancy Harris

ATTEST:



City Clerk Teresa S. Lynn