



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chamber

Tuesday, September 03, 2024

2:00 PM

PRESENT

Mayor Garnett Johnson

Commissioner Brandon Garrett

Commissioner Jordan Johnson

Commissioner Sean Frantom

Commissioner Francine Scott

Commissioner Catherine Smith-McKnight (participates by telephone)

Commissioner Stacy Pulliam

Commissioner Tony Lewis

ABSENT

Commissioner Bobby Williams

Commissioner Alvin Mason

Commissioner Wayne Guilfoyle

INVOCATION

Reverend Vanessa Stanley, Interim Pastor, Thankful Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DELEGATION(S)

- A. **Mr. Oliver Page** regarding the recognition of September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, to increase prostate cancer awareness in Richmond County and highlight a local support group that offers camaraderie, support and resources.

Presentation is made by Mr. Page.

- B. **Christina & Alvin Watson**- Bike Bike Baby regarding bringing Mardi Gras to Augusta.

Presentation is made by Mr. and Mrs. Watson.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items 1-10)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1. Motion to **approve** award of contract to Horizon Construction and Associates, Inc. in the amount of **\$285,000.00** to demolish and renovate Phase 1 of Fleming Park. ITB 24-164. **(Approved by Administrative Services Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

2. Motion to **approve** the reinstatement of 1% budget cut from the Central Services Department Y24 budget. **(Approved by Administrative Services Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

3. Motion to **approve** the recruitment process for the **Parks & Recreation Department Director** be closed; receive the five candidates and interview them within the next three weeks. **(Approved by Administrative Services Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

4. Motion to **approve** contracting with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, LLC (GMC) to provide engineering services for Utilities Department's Fort Eisenhower 47th Street Lift Station Replacement project. **(Approved by Engineering Services Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

5. Motion to **approve** tasking the Administrator with coming up with a strategic plan for lot maintenance including city owned, land bank, and private owned lots. Include the following departments and offices Code Enforcement, Engineering, Land Bank, and Marshal's Office. **(Approved by Engineering Services Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

FINANCE

6. Motion to approve the request to reinstate the 1% budget reduction in Superior Court's 2024 budget. **(Approved by Finance Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

7. Motion to **approve** directing the Administrator and the Procurement Department to work with the Law Department to bring back a recommended Policy after a review of the current credit card policy and to reimburse the submitted expenses of the Mayor that were confirmed by his Chief of Staff as business expenses and that the Mayor receive a credit card for his use in the meantime under the current policy while a determination is made concerning the establishment of the limits on the credit card. **(Approved by Finance Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve with the recommendation regarding the credit card limits to come back from the Administrator and staff at the September 24 committee cycle.

Motion made by Frantom, Seconded by Garrett.

Voting Yea: Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Voting Abstaining: G. Johnson

Motion carries 7-1.

8. Motion to **approve** a request from Ms. Nancy Glaser, Executive Director of the **Augusta Museum** of History, regarding the reinstatement of the 2024 1% cut for the budgets of the Augusta Museum of History and the Ezekiel Harris House; and the restatement of the 1% budget cut for the **Lucy Craft Laney Museum**. **(Approved by Finance Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

9. Motion to **approve** Housing and Community Development Department's (HCD's) request to transfer budget funds of **\$121,000** from Salary/Benefits object 51 codes to object code 5239112 for temporary workforce expenditures. **(Approved by Finance Committee August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. Motion to **approve** the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held August 20, 2024 and Special Called Meeting held August 27, 2024.

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

******END CONSENT AGENDA******

AUGUSTA COMMISSION

**AUGUSTA COMMISSION
REGULAR AGENDA**

(Items 11-16)

PUBLIC SERVICES

11. **A.N. 24-39 – Existing Location, New Ownership: Consumption on Premises Liquor, Beer and Wine with Dance, Artesha Warren** applicant, located at 1289 Broad Street. District 1, Super District 9(**Lack meeting quorum August 27, 2024**)

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Johnson, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

12. Presentation by Garian Henry regarding lack of appropriate funding towards education, not enough awareness towards children with special needs, lack of teachers and classrooms designed to accommodate children on spectrums, investment of money in private sectors, teachers' salaries and better buses and allowing parents to place children in better schools.(**Lack meeting quorum August 27, 2024**)

Mr. Henry did not appear before the Commission.

13. Motion to **approve** the Planning & Development Department amending the Occupational Tax Business License Ordinance concerning transient vendors licenses. (**Lack meeting quorum August 27, 2024**)

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

FINANCE

14. Motion to **approve** resolution adopting the **2024 millage rates** for County-Wide General Fund Maintenance and Operations, the Urban Services District, the Capital Outlay Fund, the Fire Protection Fund, and the Blythe Fire District Maintenance and Operations Fund as shown on the accompanying schedule.

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY

15. Motion to **approve** the Mutual Aid Agreement between Augusta, Georgia and Columbia County, Georgia and to authorize the mayor to execute the appropriate documents. **(Lack meeting quorum August 27, 2024)**

Motion to approve.

Motion made by Garrett, Seconded by Frantom.

Voting Yea: Johnson, Garrett, Johnson, Frantom, Scott, Smith-McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis

Motion carries 8-0.

LEGAL MEETING

A. Pending and Potential Litigation

B. Real Estate

C. Personnel

16. Motion to authorize execution by the Mayor of the affidavit of compliance with Georgia's Open Meeting Act.

ADDENDUM ITEM

1. Discuss manpower needs to assist in cleaning up Broad Street prior to the Arts in the Heart Festival. (Requested by Commissioner Sean Frantom)

It was the consensus of the Commission that this item be added to the agenda.

It was the consensus of the Commission that this item be received as information without objection.

