

CITY OF DORAVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 3, 2006

Present: Mayor, Ray Jenkins  
Council, Marlene Hadden  
Jason Anavitarte  
Donna Pittman  
Ed Lowe  
Bob Spangler  
Tom Hart

City Attorney, Rick Powell

Mayor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Anavitarte made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2006 meeting. Council Member Spangler seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council Member Hart voting no. Council Member Hart asked the City Clerk why she had revised some of the minutes and some of them had attachments to them. The City Clerk stated that she typed a draft of the minutes and placed the draft in the Council Members mail boxes. If the Council Members had any changes to the draft that the changes were made before the minutes were approved by the Council.

Mayor Jenkins asked the Council to reconsider implementing the merit raises until next year. The Employee Hand Book has not been updated to include the merit raise system.

Council Member Anavitarte stated that the Council had voted last year to implement the merit raises. The evaluation forms were approved by the Council and all the Department Heads have to do is fill out the forms.

Council Member Hart asked if the Department Heads had instruction to go by when doing the evaluations. Council Member Anavitarte stated that the forms were self-explanatory.

Council Member Anavitarte made a motion to go forward with the merit raises that were voted on last year. Council Member Spangler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item # 3 was tabled until the City Inspector returned from vacation.

Council Member Lowe made a motion to accept the lowest bid on a diving board and installation of the diving board at the swimming pool. Atlas Pool's bid price for the diving board and installation was \$6,743.00. Allen Pool's bid price for the diving board and installation was \$8,084.21. Atlas Pool was awarded the bid. Council Member Anavitarte seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item # 5 was tabled until the City Inspector returned from vacation and could inspect the building.

Council Member Hadden thanked all the Code Enforcement Officers for their hard work and dedication. Council Member Hadden stated that she was not getting as many code enforcement calls because the Code Enforcement people were doing their job.

Council Member Hadden stated that she was glad to see Sgt. Lowe back from medical leave.

Council Member Hadden made a motion to allow the City Attorney to draft a letter to the owner of property located at 3967 Tilly Mill Road. The house on the property is in much need of repair. The house needs to be repaired or condemned. Council Member Anavitarte seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Hadden made a motion to allow the City Attorney to draft a Resolution to declare property located at 3982 Tilly Mill Road as historical. Council Member Pittman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sergeant Lowe thanked Acting Chief McElroy and the Administration for being proactive in code enforcement. Sergeant Lowe stated that a Town Hall meeting would be held on April 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The Town Hall meeting will be held at the Civic Center. The meeting will give the citizens an opportunity to ask question about code enforcement issues and ordinances.

Item # 7 was tabled until the next meeting.

The City Attorney stated that this was the first reading to amend the Sign Ordinance to require a permit, a permit fee and bond for temporary banners and promotional signs. The second reading will be held on April 17, 2006.

Item # 9 was tabled until the next meeting.

Council Member Anavitarte announced that the Blue Ribbon Committee would be meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at noon. The Blue Ribbon Committee will meet at City Hall.

Council Member Anavitarte made a motion to appoint Mary Margaret Garrett, with the Atlanta Regional Commission, to the Blue Ribbon Committee. Council Member Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anavitarte announced that on April 14, 2006, the Police Department, Council Member Anavitarte, and Council Member Pittman would be holding Operation Code Breaker along Buford Highway from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The purpose of Operation Code Breaker is to check for a current business license and any code

violations. The press will be notified. The Mayor and Council are welcome to participate in Operation Code Breaker.

Council Member Anavitarte stated that the Silver Back Soccer Association was willing to contribute \$50,000.00 towards the construction of a soccer field at Honeysuckle Park. This item will be discussed at the April 17, 2006 Council meeting.

Council Member Anavitarte announced that a walking trail will be built at Honeysuckle Park. The City had already budgeted the money for the walking trail and the bids for the construction of the walking trail will be opened at the April 17, 2006 Council meeting.

Council Member Anavitarte stated that the City had to start cutting cost because of the impending closing of the GM plant. Council Member Anavitarte made a motion to freeze the use all non-emergency vehicles to and from home and outside normal business hours. Council Member Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council Members Pittman and Lowe voting no.

Council Member Lowe stated that he voted no because it should be equal among all employees.

Mayor Jenkins stated that this was a mistake. There were other ways to save money and these few vehicles will not make a difference.

Council Member Anavitarte stated that he did not want to have to explain to the taxpayers why these employees got take home vehicles.

A gentleman asked why it was necessary for the Police Officers to have take home vehicles. It was explained that the Officers could run their blue lights if they were called in on an emergency. The Officers would have to obey the traffic laws if they were in their own vehicles and the response time would be less.

Council Member Spangler stated that the Mayor had agreed to put an entrance to Honeysuckle Park from Timber Oak. The City Attorney suggested that an engineer take a look at the grade if the access was going to be handicap accessible.

Council Member Hart asked the Council to have the City Attorney look at a draft of a Stream Buffer Ordinance. Mr. Hart stated that the City had not spent one dime on the Ordinance so far. The Council gave permission for the City Attorney to review the ordinance and draft a memo to the Council.

Council Member Hart stated that houses had been built on top of creeks and that the current Stream Buffer Ordinance had too many variances and grandfathered clauses in it.

The City Clerk stated that most of the houses in the City of Doraville had been built in the 50's and 60's way before any regulations had been put into place. The citizens of

Doraville had bought the property in good faith and had invested their money in the property and had a right to retain their property values.

Council Member Hart stated that the sidewalk plans from Bona Vista along Chestnut to Buford Highway had cost \$1,200.00. Council Member Hart stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation, City Building Inspector, and DeKalb County had reviewed the sidewalk plans. Council Member Hart stated that DeKalb County needed a letter from the Mayor stating his support for the sidewalks before this item could move further.

Council Member Hart stated that he would pay for the first load of concrete for the sidewalks. The rest of the concrete would be paid for by donations.

Council Member Hadden stated that Council Member Pittman had gotten the County to put in a sidewalk in her district. Perhaps Council Member Hart should get Council Member Pittman to talk to DeKalb County for him.

Council Member Hart stated that the Council had voted to have the creek at English Oak Park re-piped. The re-piping would require a variance from EPD. Council Member Hart asked the Council to revisit this and to send out an RFP to have a company to come in and pull out the pipe and leave the creek open with landscaping.

Council Member Spangler stated that the Council had already voted on this and that DeKalb county would be re-piping the creek.

Council Member Anavitarte stated that the Storm Water Inspector had already been in contact with the EPD and was handling the situation.

Council Member Hart made a motion for the City to send out an RFP to have a company remove the pipe at English Oak Park and open the creek back up with landscaping. Motion died from lack of second.

Council Member Hart stated that he was told by the Inspections Department that he would have to submit an open records request to obtain copies of permits issued. Council Member Hart stated that he would like to know what was being built in his district.

Council Member Hart made a motion that if a Council Member request a list of permits issued that it would be given to the Council Member by the Inspections Department. Council Member Pittman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Hart stated that the City should require residents to obtain a permit to put up a fence. Council Member Hart stated that the residents should know what the rules are so there would be no property line disputes.

Council Member Hart made a motion to allow the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance requiring a fence permit. Motion died from lack of second. It was decided by the

Council to allow the City Attorney to review the fence regulations now in effect and the City Attorney would get back with the Council on this item.

The City Attorney stated that this was the second reading of an Ordinance to amend the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance. He had given the Council two different Ordinances to choose from. Council Member Spangler made a motion to approve an amendment to the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance to allow vehicles to be 8' high and 23' long. The amendment would exclude handicap vans and excursion vans. Council Member Lowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council Member Hart abstaining and Council Member Anavitarte voting no.

Cat Sherlock gave a brief update on the Planning Commission meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be given to the City Clerk.

The City Attorney stated that the only duties the Planning Commission had, were to review Zoning and Variance applications and make recommendations to the City Council.

Council Member Hadden gave a brief update on the DeKalb Task Force Committee meeting. Council Member Hadden, Council Member Spangler, and the Mayor had attended the meeting. There will be a joint meeting with the City's Blue Ribbon Committee, the DeKalb Task Force Committee and representatives from GM in late May or early June. Council Member Hadden stated that the City and County should work together on the redevelopment of the GM property.

Captain Atkinson gave an update on crime statistics. Captain Atkinson stated that crime was not on the rise. There was a rash of internodes this last week. This involved people from out of town who were shopping at the wholesale stores in Doraville. Captain Atkinson gave the statistics for each district of the City. Three people were arrested last week on internodes.

Statistics are as follows: Winters Chapel/Tilly Mill area and includes residential and commercial.

- 2- theft of lost property
- 2-theft by taking
- 1 criminal trespass
- 1 conspiracy to commit forgery
- 1 aggravated assault
- 1 simple battery
- 1 harassing phone call.

Oakcliff area and includes residential and commercial.

- 1 terrorist threat
- 1harassing phone call
- 6 internodes

Buford Highway Shallowford Garden area.

- 3 found properties
- 1 recovered stolen vehicle
- 1 burglary 1 theft by taking
- 1 terrorist threat

Northwoods area-

- 1 harassing phone call
- 2 thefts by taking
- 1 forgery
- 1 theft of service
- 1 extortions
- 2 aggravated assaults
- 1 attempted armed robbery

Council Member Spangler had discovered a new park in the Oakcliff area off of Windsor Oak. Council Member Spangler stated that this was a unique park that has a lot of potential.

Council Member Anavitarte made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for the Windsor Oak Park to be placed on the agenda. Council Member Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Spangler made a motion to have the City Attorney to do research on this park to determine the acreage and property lines. Council Member Anavitarte seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

A gentleman asked if the creek that ran through English Oak Park was the same one that ran through Windsor Oak Park and if so would that portion of the creek have to be piped. The Mayor stated that the City will not be piping any more creeks.

A lady announced that the Oakcliff Neighborhood Association would be holding a picnic on April 22, 2006. The picnic will be held at English Oak Park. Everyone is welcome.

A lady announced that an Art Show would be held on May 13, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A gentleman stated that a Tree Contractor that had been hired by the City had damaged his fence. The gentleman stated that his fence had not been repaired and asked the Mayor when it would be repaired. The Mayor stated that he would get it repaired.

Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting.

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Ray Jenkins, Mayor

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City Clerk