

Minutes
City of Doraville
May 17, 2004

Those Present: Mayor Jenkins
Mayor Pro Tem Lamar Lang
Councilmembers: Thurman Roach
David Weese
Ed Lowe
Jason Anavitarte
Marlene Hadden
City Attorney: Rick Powell

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jenkins.

The minutes of May 3, 2004 were read with a motion and second to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Joni Stranquest greeted the Mayor and Council and introduced Mr. Chris Lazar with the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce and a representative from the Atlanta International Corridor Street Cars. He reported that the first step involved is funding a feasibility study, if the findings are substantiated to proceed with the project, then funding is secured by investors from community property and business owners. There is also some fund available from the federal government. Statistics show the street cars revitalize areas along the route. This is the result Doraville could expect should the project be approved, funded and constructed. The street cars would run on rails and possibly a hybrid type running off batteries. The rails ensure a permanent route will be constructed and not subject to a bus route which could change. Additional information will be forthcoming as the feasibility studies are conducted and the board determines which city the construction will begin. There are other initiatives such as the "beltline" and the "c loop", which the "belt line" is around the core of Atlanta and the "c loop" is connected to the CDC, Emory, and into Lindbergh. The street car project would be a part of this initiative which will be looked at an alternative land use development. A permanent project of this caliper in the City with its international flavor would an amenity. At some point an endorsement from the City will be asked for to support the street car project. Ms. Strandquest commented, as a long term resident she has attended some DOT meetings and reports show that the number of cars are at a capacity and a project of this nature could be an alternative to address some of the problems we now have.

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Ms. Cindy Shaw of 3246 Raymond Drive had requested a variance for a garage enclosure. The variance had been properly advertised. Ms. Shaw a letter from Ms. Emily Bishop the neighbor whose property would be affected by the variance which stated there were no objections to the variance as proposed.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Lang to allow the variance.

Seconded by Councilman Roach.

The motion passed by majority with an abstention by Councilwoman Hadden

The Creel Property on Stewart Road was reviewed for rezoning from R-1 to R-CH. After answering various questions from the Council and meeting attendees Mr. Dam was thanked and informed the second reading and vote on the requested variance would be June 7, 2004, the next regular council meeting.

Councilwoman Hadden reported on the status of the financial policies committee. Not everyone was able to meet to work on the completion of the financial policies. Another meeting will be scheduled for each to meet and continue working on the financial policies.

Mayor Pro Tem Lang discussed city policy regarding employee time and use of materials. Good use of time and resources is a priority and will continue to be so. He also said he was not pleased to hear negative information about the city. He was for moving on and working together. Councilwoman Hadden said the ordinances should be in place so as to not allow any future problems such as what had happened with audit.

Councilman Anavitarte gave a prelude to a forthcoming taxi ordinance. Chief King reported the taxi ordinance would be revamped to address several areas which need to be changed. The vehicle will require a permit and the driver will also get a permit. The operation of the number of cabs has helped with DUI's and accidents in the City. The new ordinance will standardize the vehicle for hire regulations.

Councilman Anavitarte presented an overview of TOD, the Transportation Oriented Development. A copy of the report will be made a part of these minutes. Councilman Anavitarte felt this ordinance is an important one as the City considers redevelopment and also contemplates the future direction of development as a model to follow.

Councilman Anavitarte also discussed the need for a City Planner. He presented a drafted format letter to be sent to various companies and firms in the pursuit of obtaining a planner to assist the City. Councilwoman Hadden said she liked the idea and believed it was necessary to move toward the 5 year and 10 year land use plans she

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hoped to see used by the City in the future and should be included in the budget. Discussion was held and it was pointed out that a planning and engineering firm should have the interest of the city at its heart and cut out the waste and move on in this direction to put the city in a position of doing things right going forward.

Mayor Jenkins reported there was work continuing on obtaining greenspace for the City. The Yeshiva High School has some property and the offer will be for \$85,000 possibly for a full acre, if this offer is rejected we will offer for a ½ acre. Mr. Dave Butler of DeKalb County will continue to work to get the funds if a suitable space could be acquired.

Councilman Anavitarte brought up a business license revocation hearing regarding the business located at 3629 Wilton. The business owner was present and asked for more time to move the tree cutting equipment and clean up the property. She asked until June 30, 2004 to vacate the premises and clean out the lot. In previous years there have been numerous complaints of the business in the residential area and now the property condition devalues the homes around it. As of the date of June 7, 2004 the business license is revoked and the owner is ordered to cease and desist operating the business by order of the council, with an allowance to clear out everything from the property by the stated date.

Councilman Anavitarte would like to see the City begin to do something for the Fourth of July holiday. He would like to purchase flags and banners to be used in the town square area in celebration of the holiday.

Councilman Anavitarte also reported the sanitation notification tags cost was less than \$1000, and the clerk will proceed to have the tags printed and given to the maintenance department which will leave the tags. A log will be kept of the address where the tag was left.

Carol Stephens, director of the Recreation Department, explained the Dyco Electric expenses of \$2100. The invoice was for the lights installed without the benefit of bids being obtained. It was the opinion of the council and motion was made by Councilman Roach, Seconded by Councilwoman Hadden to pay the bill. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief King reported on the problem with the underground fuel tanks. There is an estimate of \$500 to get this problem taken care. He has asked for the assistance of the oil terminal co-op to get recommendation for future bidding for fuel service.

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The police department will participate with the State Highway Safety “100 days of heat” which will monitor and ticket speeding violators. This period will be from May 24th to Sept. 12th.

Chief King gave out a crime statistic map which is done by zip code which goes into areas of unincorporated DeKalb County as well. Commercial burglary has increased due to a roof top entry into the businesses. It seems this person is being held at DeKalb and hopefully solves this problem.

Chief King discussed some of the budget items. His department is still 4 patrolmen short. He will breakdown his budget items to better describe the expense in the coming fiscal year. Chief King said he is patrolling the Oakcliff area fairly heavily. In March there were 262 calls and 58.73 hours spent in the Oakcliff area. But all areas are being patrolled as well.

City Attorney Powell distributed a proposed ordinance which changes the budget meeting from August 1 to prior to July 1, so that the budget will be in place prior to new fiscal year. This was the first reading.

Mayor Pro Tem Lang asked to be placed on the agenda. Motion was made Councilman Anavitarte, Seconded by Councilman Roach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Lang said a property on Wilton with shrubbery as high as the house needed to be taken into consideration as a condemnation property.

Motion made by Councilman Anavitarte to instruct the City Attorney to begin the condemnation proceedings.

Seconded by Councilwoman Hadden

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion made Councilman Anavitarte to approve the payment of the bills.

Seconded by Councilman Roach.

Passed by majority vote, with a no vote from Councilwoman Hadden.

Resident's time: A resident reported the Yeshiva High School's air conditioner is so loud the noise ordinance should be enforced. Mr. Hart doesn't want to hear about the City of Chamblee, he believes the City of Norcross has a better plan. Also he commented on the fuel problem at the PD. Another resident said he was supportive of Councilman Anavitarte's ideas for TOD. Allan Holcomb said good things are happening in a lot of cities, and would like for Doraville to look at all the good things.

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He also reported a flim flam in the neighborhood which involved getting \$18 to pay for locksmith to open his car. The lesson being do not give anyone any money which will discourage this activity. Allan also said sometimes you have to spend a little more money to get good employees. Doug Daniel serves on DeKalb Co. water conservation board who gave a short overview of the plan. Other comments were with regard to putting mulch in the parks to prevent erosion problems.

Mr. Lang said he had spoken with Jack Halpern who indicated there would not be any land to redevelop which unlike Chamblee who has several abandoned warehouse areas which can be redeveloped.

There be no further business the meeting was adjourned.