

SUMMARY

City of Carrollton Mayor and Council Meeting

February 2, 2015

4:30 p.m.

**Public Safety Complex, Court/Council Chambers, 115 West Center Street,
Carrollton, Georgia**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council was delayed 15 minutes due to lack of a quorum. Councilmember Gerald Byrd and Councilmember Jim Watters were in attendance at 4:30 p.m. City Manager Casey Coleman announced that Mayor Garner was in route to the Mayor and Council meeting after leaving a meeting at Tanner Medical Center.

At 4:35 p.m. Councilmember Byrd stated that until another member of the Council arrived, no action could be addressed or taken, but the City would allow anyone in attendance to speak on matters of informational purposes only.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Byrd.

III. INVOCATION

Councilmember Byrd offered the invocation

(CLERK NOTE: Agenda Item 3 is considered as an information presentation for the public with no action or discussion needed/necessary by the Mayor and Council. Therefore, Councilmember Byrd invited the presenter for Agenda Item 3, Ms. Carole Boyd, to speak regarding the Carroll County Empty Bowls fundraiser which benefits the Carroll County Soup Kitchen.

3. Carroll County Empty Bowls Presentation

Ms. Carol Boyd invited everyone to a fundraiser event for the Carroll County Soup Kitchen on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at the Carroll County Ag Center from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Ms. Boyd stated that tickets at the door were \$15 and \$10 advance purchase. Each ticket holder would receive a bowl of soup in the handmade (pottery) soup bowl of their choice and were permitted to keep their selected bowl. Ms. Boyd also announced a silent auction would be held and a boutique would be on site at the event to raise additional funds for the Carroll County Soup Kitchen.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Garner arrived at 4:45 p.m. and called to order the Mayor and Council regular meeting of Monday, February 2, 2015 in the Public Safety Annex Building, 115 West Center Street, Carrollton, Georgia. Members present: Mayor Wayne Garner, Councilmember Gerald Byrd, and Councilmember Jim Watters. A quorum was declared. Members arriving after the Call to Order: Councilmember Mike Patterson (arriving during Agenda Item 2) and Councilmember Mandy Maierhofer (arriving during Agenda Item 5).

(CLERK NOTE: IV. MINUTES, AND V. CITIZEN COMMENTS were addressed out of Agenda order. The Summary and Minutes will reflect the order the items were addressed.

VI. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

1. Resolution – Historic Preservation Grant

City Manager Casey Coleman advised that the City of Carrollton Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), with the assistance of City Planner, Lynne Miller, were seeking approval to make a grant application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 2015 Historic Preservation Fund to update the 1989 survey of the City's historic properties. The HPC proposes to utilize the grant proceeds (\$5,325) to resurvey the City in three annual phases, with these particular grant funds devoted to downtown Carrollton, In-Town South, and Maple Street. The DNR Historic Preservation Fund grant requires a 40% local match from the grantee (HPC). The HPC intends to meet the 40% local match (\$3,550) with funds raised from community fundraising and in-kind labor for the project. City Manager Coleman advised that there would be no funding required from the City of Carrollton. City Manager Coleman requested the Mayor and Council to consider a Resolution authorizing application for the grant in the amount of \$5,325 from the State Historic Preservation Division and emphasized that the grant will be matched with \$3,550 in cash and in-kind labor contributed by the HPC and City Planner, for a total project cost of \$8,875. **Motion by Councilmember Watters, seconded by Councilmember Byrd, to approve the Resolution authorizing the grant application to the Georgia DNR, 2015 Historic Preservation Fund for a grant in the amount of \$5,325 and outlining that the grant will be matched with \$3,550 in cash and in-kind labor contributed by the HPC and City Planner, for a total project cost of \$8,875. Motion carried (3-0, with Councilmembers Maierhofer and Patterson absent during this Agenda Item).**

IV. MINUTES (December 1, 2014)

Motion by Councilmember Byrd, seconded by Councilmember Watters to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2014 meeting. (Motion passed 3-0, with Councilmember Maierhofer and Patterson absent during this Agenda item).

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

(Please state your name and address for the record and limit comments to three minutes.)

There were none.

RETURN TO SCHEDULED AGENDA ORDER

2. 2015 Election Qualification Fee Approval

City Manager Casey Coleman presented to the Mayor and Council for their consideration formal ratification of the 2015 Election Qualifying Fees. City Manager Coleman advised that the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 21-2-131 requires the City to establish qualifying fees for the November 2015 Georgia Election by February 1, 2015. The fees are established at 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year. City Manager Coleman stated that the offices coming up for election for the City are as follows: Mayor, Ward III, and Ward IV and based on the formula outlined, the qualifying fees are as follows: Mayor - \$180.00 and Councilmember - \$108.00. **Motion by Councilmember Watters, seconded by Councilmember Byrd to ratify the 2015 Election Qualifying Fees as presented. (Motion passed 4-0, with Councilmember Maierhofer absent during this Agenda item).**

3. Carroll County Empty Bowls Presentation

This presentation was heard prior to the Mayor and Council meeting being called to order.

4. Presentation Regarding Nighttime Public Safety (Bunny Godard)

Ms. Bunny Godard made a presentation regarding nighttime safety in Carrollton. Ms. Godard expressed concerns regarding the inability to see pedestrians crossing the streets/roadways at night. She stated that she also plans to talk with County Commissioners and State Representatives regarding the matter. Ms. Godard suggested a "Wear White at Night" initiative to increase nighttime pedestrian safety. Mayor Garner advised that the City will do what they can to help and will approve an appropriate resolution.

5. Traffic Calming Plan

City Manager Casey Coleman advised the Mayor and Council that he has been receiving numerous requests for speed control devices such as speed bumps in different areas of the City; with the latest request being from Mr. Bruce Bobick, on behalf of several home owners residing on Forrest Drive. Mr. Bobick advised that his neighborhood is requesting speed bumps for the safety and well being of the children and adults residing on Forrest Drive. He advised that in the past various methods have been tried, including speed meters and the presence of patrol cars, but that once they are gone, the speeding resumes. Mr. Bobick stated that they are requesting the speed bumps at no cost to the residents and property owners of Forrest Drive, because when compared to others areas of the city, Forrest Drive and Heritage Hills is underserved in terms of recreational and cultural facilities relative to the amount of property taxes they pay. City Manager Coleman advised that the City has a Traffic Calming Policy that they plan to continue to follow regarding matters such as speed bumps. Mayor Garner advised that he would have the City Engineer do a traffic study regarding the matter and provide a follow-up at the next Mayor and Council meeting. An area resident advised that she had personally witnessed a teenager driving 48 mph on a 35 mph street when the radar tracker was in the neighborhood.

6. Property Purchase – Drug Task Force

City Manager Casey Coleman presented to the Mayor and Council for their consideration a request to purchase a small parcel of property (0.22 acres) located at 152 Minden Place, Carrollton, GA. City Manager Coleman advised that the property has served for years as a mechanics garage and is located to the rear of and adjacent to the property utilized by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Drug Task Force that is owned by the City of Carrollton. City Manager Coleman stated that the Drug Task Force (DTF) and Carrollton Police Chief Richards have requested that the City purchase this property so that impounded vehicles that are required by law to be held long-term may be stored by both agencies. City Manager Coleman stated that items of this nature must be stored on a secure lot prior to trial. Storage of vehicles confiscated and awaiting trial date is critical to the "chain of custody" and improperly stored vehicles may have a detrimental effect on the case in a court of law.

City Manager Coleman advised that Mr. Rick Hayden, owner of the property, and he had met several times regarding this matter, stating that Mr. Hayden's original asking price was \$175,000, but he has agreed to lower his price to \$140,000.

City Manager Coleman stated that two appraisals were completed on the property as follows: Hugh Brannen of Brannen Property Appraisals (Commercial Appraisal Services) at a value of \$45,000 and Mr. William T. Edmonson of Edmonson and Associates at a value of \$125,000. City Manager Coleman stated that the above mentioned appraisals vary greatly in estimated value.

City Manager Coleman advised that given the difficulty of locating and supervising another secure location, it would be in the best interest of the City to purchase the property. City Manager Coleman also stated that Mr. Hayden has been very good to the City in the past and has donated the property to the City on which the Alabama Street parking deck is located and later donated several parking spaces in the rear of another building so that the City could locate two dumpsters for use by owners of businesses on the square. Mr. Hayden states that a sale at \$140,000 will simply clear the debt of the property.

City Manager Coleman advised that should Mayor and Council agree to purchase this property, the DTF has sufficient funds to install security fencing, cameras, and paving at an estimated cost of approximately \$25,000. City Manager Coleman stated that the old building (mechanics shop) has no value and would need to be demolished. **Motion by Councilmember Patterson, seconded by Mayor Garner to approve the purchase of property located at 152 Minden Place, as presented, at a price of \$140.00. (Motion passed 5-0).**

7. Greenbelt Funding Request

City Manager Casey Coleman advised that he has been approached by the “Friends of the Carrollton Greenbelt” regarding construction of a new section of the Greenbelt. City Manager Coleman stated that it has been the City’s plan to use the GDOT grant dollars to construct the portion that Erica Studdard, Executive Director of Friends of Carrollton Greenbelt describes in her memo; however, that will not be possible at this time.

City Manager Coleman advised that they have suggested that the GDOT Grant be deferred to another section that is more in line with the timing necessary to get the grant approve. City Manager Coleman informed the Mayor and Council that the section which is ready to build (already designed, property has been obtained, etc.) will cost approximately \$1,300,000. City Manager Coleman stated that Friends of the Carrollton Greenbelt have suggested that should the City be willing to contribute \$1,000,000, they would be willing to fund the balance of the cost of the new section.

City Manager Coleman stated that the Greenbelt is extremely popular and is a great asset to our citizens. Therefore, he is requesting that the Mayor and Council approve contributing \$1,000,000 from the 2015 SPLOST to advance this cause. Mayor Garner stated that the Greenbelt is the greatest thing for Carrollton since the railroad. **Motion by Councilmember Patterson, seconded by Councilmember Byrd to approve the SPLOST funding request in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Carrollton GreenBelt as presented. (Motion passed 5-0).**

8. Appointments:

a. Carrollton Planning Commission (3)

Motion by Mayor Garner, seconded by Councilmember Patterson to reappoint William Dees, Cara Herzog, and Scott Duncan to new terms on the Planning Commission (new terms will expire 12/31/17). (Motion passed 5-0).

b. Carrollton Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission (2)

Motion by Councilmember Byrd, seconded by Councilmember Patterson to appoint Ed Reddish to a term on the Carrollton Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission and reappoint Chris Collins to an additional term (terms expiring 10/01/18). (Motion passed 5-0).

c. Carrollton Payroll Development Authority (1)

Motion by Councilmember Byrd, seconded by Mayor Garner to reappoint Jim Gill to an additional term on the Carrollton Payroll Development Authority (term expiring 12/31/17). (Motion passed 5-0).

d. Carrollton Redevelopment Authority (3)

Motion by Councilmember Patterson, seconded by Councilmember Watters to reappoint Fred O'Neal, Mark Foster, and Ann Newman to additional terms on the Carrollton Redevelopment Authority (new terms expiring 12/31/17). (Motion passed 5-0).

After the motion was made to reappoint Carrollton Redevelopment Authority members, Councilmember Watters requested that the Redevelopment Authority provide nominees for the vacancies on Carrollton Redevelopment Authority for future consideration by the Mayor and Council.

VII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Byrd, on behalf of the NAACP, expressed appreciation to everyone who assisted with the MLK parade. Councilmember Byrd also thanked City Staff for all of their assistance on various requests and projects. Councilmember Byrd recognized Ms. Sue Medeiros for her dedication and service for Black History Month. Ms. Medeiros invited those in attendance to upcoming events which will be held at the Library.

Councilmember Patterson apologized for being late for the meeting. In addition, Councilmember Patterson thanked staff for their work on paving and sidewalk projects.

Mayor Garner stated that the City of Carrollton has the only City Council in the state that buys property in a regular session meeting. Mayor Garner advised that the City of Carrollton has not had an executive session meeting in over 11 years. In addition, Mayor Garner recognized Commission Chairman Marty Smith who was in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Garner advised that he appreciates Chairman Smith's efforts and is thankful for the working relationship between the City and the County.

VIII. CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

IX. ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The Agenda for Mayor and Council Meetings is available for review in the City Manager's Office, 315 Bradley Street, Carrollton, Georgia and the City's website, www.carrollton-ga.gov after 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to Council Meeting. The City complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you will need special assistance at this meeting, the City will try to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please call (770) 830-2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. A summary of Agenda items acted upon is available within 48 hours of the meeting at the address and website listed above. Minutes to any previous meeting (once adopted) are available upon request or available at the website listed above.