

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ralph Moore, Shirley Jackson, Angelette Mealing, Brian Jones, and Vince Williams, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, Interim City Manager Sonja Fillingame and City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Councilmember Shirley Jackson

II. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: (2 MIN.)

No comments were made.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Avossa of Fulton County School Board to speak regarding his strategic plan

At this time Mayor Moore introduced Fulton County School Board Members Catherine Maddox and Linda Bryant. He then introduced Fulton County's Area Superintendent, Dr. Donald Fennoy and Fulton County School Superintendent, Dr. Robert Avossa.

Dr. Avossa provided a brief presentation regarding his strategic plan for the Fulton County School system. He also addressed Fulton County's challenges, rigid guidelines, maintenance management, Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST), Charter system, career readiness and SAT/ACT scores. He then asked the Mayor and Council for their support when the school board make tough decisions. Dr. Avossa concluded by taking questions.

Councilmember Jones thanked Dr. Avossa for coming and stated that he attended Westlake high School in Fulton County.

Councilmember Mealing asked if there were any plans for any new schools in South Fulton or Union City.

Dr. Avossa stated that he would send her a link reflecting that information.

Councilmember Jackson stated that she likes the fact that Dr. Avossa's plan recognizes that all students are not college students and there are other options for them on their level.

Councilmember Williams thanked Dr. Avossa for coming and sharing his plan. He then stated that the plan reflects that it takes a village to raise a child. He further added that Union City applauds Dr. Avossa and the entire school board for their efforts.

Dr. Avossa stated that the School Board will have their second Annual Faith Summit on March 20. He added that they are asking leaders in the faith community to come forward and assist them with their challenges because some kids do not have advantages like others. He concluded that we have to be able to bring people together to help solve problems.

Councilmember Williams stated that he likes the fact that the plan recognizes staff because appreciation goes a long way.

Dr. Avossa stated that a national expert was brought in to talk to the principals. He added that there are teachers in our community that are so good that if they are lost, the school system would not be able to replace them. He further added that if a principle focuses on two or three bad teachers, the good teachers could walk out of the door. He concluded that this year they gave away inexpensive gifts to teachers to show their appreciation because teaching is not an easy job.

Mayor Moore stated that as a recurring substitute teacher, which he enjoys, and he has found that sometimes the teacher's lesson plan is not working and it may be more beneficial to sit down and talk to the kids, which gives you a better perspective with what is going on with them. He added that when he does that, he finds one central issue quite often which is safety. He added that many children in South Fulton do not feel safe and that is an issue which the governance board must address because if a kid feels unsafe and school is their safe haven outside of their environment, then learning becomes more difficult and hopefully there are things that can be put into place to ensure that the outside cannot come in and disrupt their learning process.

Dr. Avossa thanked the Mayor and Council for their feedback.

Ms. Maddox stated that the school board has a lot of great thing going on and their focus is academic success.

Ms. Bryant stated that she agrees that it takes a village to raise a child and they are running as fast as they can to make South Fulton County a great school system.

Dr. Fennoy stated that he can tell that the people in South Fulton love their community and he strives to be consistent and fair.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA: None

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Council and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Agenda for separate consideration.

V. OLD BUSINESS: None

On motion of Councilmember Williams seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the aforementioned item was unanimously approved.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

City Manager Reports:

- MARTA Project-Selection of Contractor

Ms. Fillingame led this discussion and stated that she was pleased to report that we are moving full speed ahead with the MARTA Project. She added that the Council may be aware that this is a capital improvement project that primarily consists of intersection improvements, specifically at highway 29 and Highpoint Road. She further added that it will provide new mast arms, ADA ramps, and other work at the intersection. Ms. Fillingame stated that Mrs. Calloway has advised that the bids have come in. She added that they were posted on February 20th, they were due in on March 15th, eight vendors attended a pre-bid meeting for this project and it culminated into two submitted bids. She continued stating that Mrs. Calloway notified her that the lowest bidder was Southeastern Site Development in the amount of \$204,829.50 and staff would like to move forward with establishing a contract with Southeastern Site Development.

Ms. Fillingame stated that Mrs. Calloway noted that she should mention that there was an alternate bid, but the alternate bid was higher at \$258,000.00 which is why \$204,829.50 was recommended.

On motion of Councilmember Jackson seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the aforementioned item was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Davenport stated that he had three items for Executive Session. He added that there were two items involving pending litigation and one involving the review of the Executive Session Minutes from February 19, 2013. He then added that the City has been in negotiations for Service Delivery Strategy for a long time and there will be a status conference on April 23rd before Judge Hunter, so we are finally before a judge in a status conference. Attorney Davenport stated that he would have more to report after the status conference on April 23rd.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

At this time Mayor Moore asked for comments from the Council before entering into Executive Session.

Councilmember Jones thanked the staff for all that they do. He added that he is looking forward to moving forward with a little more money in the budget.

Councilmember Mealing acknowledged former Councilmember Helen Turner in the audience. She added that she was glad to have the school board present as the Council had been talking about partnering with them for a long time. She then

reminded everyone that Parks and Recreation will host an Easter egg hunt this Saturday.

Ms. Fillingame stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is contingent upon the weather.

Councilmember Williams stated that great fun was had by all at the Ninth Mayors' Bike Race this weekend. He then thanked the staff for all of their efforts.

At this time Mayor Moore stated that he would entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss two items regarding pending litigation and to review the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2013. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council reconvened to Regular Session. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2013 were approved as written. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Williams seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Executive Session Minutes of January 7, 2013 and January 15, 2013 were approved as written. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Williams seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, Council approved the salary adjustment for Interim City Manager Sonja Fillingame. Vote was unanimous.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

Ralph Moore, Mayor