**Ashburn City Council**

**Thursday, April 11, 2024**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Present: Councilmembers Jermaine Rockwell, Sheldon Smith, Attorney Gary Lamar, Mayor Sandra Lumpkin, Councilmembers Corey Jordan, John Burgess, City Clerk Amanda Hill, City Manager Daryl Hall, and Mayor Pro-Tem Andrea Pierce, by phone**

**Guests: Ben Baker, Ashley Miller, Shon Hampton, Howard Jordan, Ben Walker, Zetta Daniels Terry, Shylynski Smith, Chuck Bobo, David Taylor, Vicki Smithson, Officer Joe Rowan**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lumpkin at 6:06 P.M. It was late due to our having to get the flag from next door at city hall. The Invocation was done by City Manager Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the deceased ones since the last meeting. Attendance was then done.**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the agenda with an amendment to add discussion of issues at the splash pad. Councilmember Rockwell made the Second.**

**Ayes: Smith, Rockwell, Jordan, Burgess, Pierce, by phone**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2024, meeting was done by Councilmember Rockwell and Seconded by Councilmember Jordan.**

**Ayes: Rockwell, Jordan, Smith, Burgess, Pierce, by phone**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024, called meeting was done by Councilmember Rockwell and Seconded by Councilmembers Burgess and Pierce, by phone.**

**Ayes; Rockwell, Burgess, Pierce, by phone, Jordan, Smith**

**Shon Hampton with Watkins & Associates LLC, discussed the consent order from EPD concerning our water spills; this monitors violations of overflows. Initially it came with a $14,000 fine and was reduced to $2500. Councilmember Burgess wanted to know why the Council did not know this before now? City Manager Hall told him that all the Council was made aware of this. Shon Hampton recommends that we sign the consent form and pay the reduced fine. Councilmember Smith offered the motion to approve the consent order from EPD and Councilmember Jordan made the Second.**

**Ayes: Smith, Jordan, Burgess, Rockwell, and Pierce, by phone**

**Georgia Cities Week hosted by Georgia Municipal Association will be held April 21-27th, 2024. The city will have something planned for each day of the week to show our citizens what we offer through Municipal government and to recognize our employees. A motion to approve Georgia Cities week was made by Councilmember Rockwell and Councilmember Pierce, Seconded by phone.**

**Ayes: Rockwell, Pierce, Smith, Jordan**

**Nays: Burgess**

**Motion made by Councilmember Jordan to adopt the General Election Ordinance for 2024. Councilmembers Rockwell and Pierce made the Second.**

**Ayes: Rockwell, Pierce, Smith, Jordan, Burgess**

**Motion by Councilmember Pierce for approval of Dollar General #4021 Beer & Wine Alcohol Beverage License, retail only in the name of Jonnel Jermaine Brower/Manager, located at 155 W. Washington Avenue, Ashburn, GA. Councilmembers Rockwell and Jordan made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Jordan, Smith, Burgess**

**The proposed meeting format was discussed by Attorney Lamar. Attorney Lamar advised that the number of days for Agenda items to be placed on the Agenda has to be agreed upon. Councilmember Pierce says that one (1) week before the meeting should be sufficient for items to be placed on the agenda. Councilmember Burgess made the motion to approve the proposed meeting format and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second. City Manager Hall asked the question whether the week was seven days or five business days? The Council said that it would be five business days. Councilmember Pierce then amended the original motion to say that information must be submitted to the Mayor and copied to the City Clerk five business days before the scheduled meeting. Councilmember Smith made the Second.**

**Ayes: Burgess, Rockwell, Pierce, Smith, Jordan**

**City Manager Hall discussed the CDBG money that is still owed on an invoice from April 2023. Councilmember Burgess made a motion to approve the invoice for payment. Councilmembers Jordan and Pierce made the Second.**

**Ayes: Burgess, Jordan, Pierce, Smith, Rockwell**

**Attorney Lamar discussed the Municipal Court technology fee. The technology fee was done as a resolution and must be voted on twice. We now must do it in Ordinance format for Home Rule. Twenty-five dollars will be added to each citation. Councilmember Burgess made the motion to approve the Ordinance for the Municipal Court technology fee. Councilmembers Rockwell and Jordan made the Second.**

**Ayes: Burgess, Rockwell, Jordan, Smith, Pierce**

**Mayor Lumpkin discussed the reappointment of herself to the Victoria Evans Memorial Evans Library Board. She says that the city contributes $22,000 a year. Councilmember Burgess wanted to know why they did not know about this sooner, just in case they wanted to appoint someone else? Councilmember Rockwell made the motion to reappoint Mayor Lumpkin to the Library Board. Councilmembers Jordan and Pierce made the Second.**

**Ayes: Rockwell, Jordan, Pierce, Smith**

**Nays: Burgess**

**Councilmember Burgess spoke about issues with the city. He spoke about the Wiregrass Farmer. He said that the paper said that Easter Sunday in Ashburn was compared to the Fire Ant Festival. Councilmember Burgess said that was dead wrong. He also stated that he did not contribute anything to the Easter Sunday event. He then discussed Mayor Lumpkin. He wanted to know how she can report him to the Code of Ethics when he is telling the truth? He said that the mayor was not conducting the DDA correctly; no minutes being done and how the money is being spent. He also referenced how the mayor had messed up three times at the meeting. He referred to her missing items and forgetting when something had been voted on.**

**He advised citizens to request an open record to see what’s going on with the mayor.**

**He then discussed the community garden and said that the mayor was against it. Mayor Lumpkin said that she has nothing against the garden, just the illegal way it was being handled; such as using taxpayers money to fund it. Councilmember Burgess said that this is no different than Trick or Treats in the Streets and giving away candy. Mayor Lumpkin then asked if Councilmember Burgess wants Trick of Treats in the Streets cancelled?**

**Councilmember Smith wanted to know if Councilmember Pierce is against the garden? Councilmember Pierce said “No”, because this was not her project.**

**Councilmember Smith discussed the Splash Pad and the delay with the playground equipment being assembled. He wanted to know if this would be all done by April 26, 2024. City Manager Hall said that city workers were originally scheduled to put the equipment together, but we have since encountered a hiccup. We then got a quote for $6,575 from the company where the equipment was purchased to see if they could put it together. The company could put it together, but it would be three weeks. It was decided to go ahead with the original idea of letting the city workers complete this task. Councilmember Smith wanted to know if this needed to be voted on by the Council. The mayor and City Manager both said “No”.**

**Mayor Lumpkin was asking for a motion to go into Executive Session when Ben Walker, from the audience, asked if he could speak? The Mayor asked the Council if they wanted to allow Mr. Walker to speak. Mayor Lumpkin allowed Ben Walker to speak. Mr. Walker said that Councilmember Smith should have called a called meeting to discuss the splashpad issue.**

**Councilmember Smith said that this matter just came about the day of the meeting with no time to have a called meeting. Mr. Walker advised that he was a paying taxpayer with the right to voice his opinion.**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation. Councilmember Pierce made a motion to go into Executive Session for litigation. Councilmember Smith made the Second.**

**Ayes: Pierce, Smith, Burgess, Rockwell, Jordan**

**Motion to adjourn after returning from Executive Session at 7:25 P.M. by Councilmember Jordan. Councilmember Burgess made the Second.**

**Ayes: Jordan, Burgess, Pierce, Rockwell, Smith**

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 **City Clerk**

**Approved this 2nd day of May 2024**

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**Mayor**