

COUNCILMEMBER MARCEL REED: A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT!



There are numerous residents, neighborhood associations, and business owners who can honestly speak about the many calls and visits that CM Marcel Reed made to them, however there is only one person who is eminently qualified to honestly speak about CM Marcel Reed as a true Public Servant and that is me. CM Reed served eight years on the East Point City Council during Mayor Joe Macon's and Mayor Earnestine Pittman's Administrations. I served four years as a Councilmember with CM Reed in Mayor Macon's Administration. I served four years with Councilmember Reed in My Administration.

During CM Reed's eight years of public service to the residents of East Point, he had an impeccable record of fiduciary accountability; adherence to his Oath of Office; present and prepared in mind and body at every Council Meeting, Work Session, Town Hall Meeting; and keeping track of what I was doing as Mayor. As Mayor, I believed that someone other than myself should know what was going on within the City and CM Reed was that someone.

CM Reed had a long history of dealing with the public because of his job. He brought those skills with him to the Council. He did not believe that taxpayers' money should be used for personal use by any elected official. He believed in following the laws that were on the books and if they needed changing, change them. He was a stickler for being prepared and reading all documents. He understood governance. He knew when to lead and when to follow unless you were up to no good, then all bets were off. He believed in direct participation in all meetings. He would second a motion even if he were not completely on board so that the person making the motion could get a fair hearing. If he felt that the motion was not being made in good faith, he would summarily assist in killing the motion.

CM Reed was tenacious, a researcher, seeker of information in and outside of the City, a great organizer of information and paid attention to details. That is why he was appointed to the Finance Committee. While Chairperson of the Finance Committee, he went through a huge Purchasing data file of individual purchases to track why certain items kept coming up with no invoices. His tenacity led to the Council hiring a forensic auditor to audit the Purchasing Department. The forensic audit led to some horrendous findings that rocked the City.

During Mayor Macon's Administration, the Council laid the foundation for the study and design of the round-a-about at Camp Creek. CM Reed kept up with all the information and made sure to put it on the Council Agenda. The Stormwater Utility spanned two Administrations before it was adopted. Again, CM Reed played a pivotal role in keeping it on the Council Agenda. As Mayor, I could not bring any motion to the floor. So, CM Reed and CM Myron Cook became my voice in bring my motions to the floor. Do not believe for one second that either of these two Councilmembers were doing anything that they did not believe in. When, I would make certain suggestions about certain motions that CM Reed did not agree with he would say its not personal

but now is not the time. I would say okay, but it is not over. They would not even comment. However, as soon as new information came up, one of them would say, we are ready.

CM Reed drove me to ninety-nine percent of every meeting that I attended outside of the City. CM Cook drove me the other times. CM Reed and I would talk and plan what we were going to at the meetings. After the meetings, we would discuss the merits of the meetings. CM Reed was dedicated and more than willing to go that extra mile. While working a fulltime job; pleasing his wife; providing time with his two sons and their educational and extra curriculum activities; finishing his master's degree; he still found the time to chauffeur me around; and attend all the Council, Committee, Taskforce, and Town Hall Meetings. WHAT A PUBLIC SERVANT!

CM Reed was a pivotal and active participant in passing the following Ordinances, Resolutions and policies that are paying big dividends now and in the City's future:

- 1) Implemented the buildout of CampCreek Market Place and the New Fire Station
- 2) Adopted funding for renovating/building a new Auditorium
- 3) Identified the land for a New City Hall
- 4) Helped with the 2010 LOST negotiations that earned the City \$11 Million
- 5) Adopted a \$40 Million Refund Settlement with MEAG
- 6) The Round-a-Bout at Camp Creek
- 7) The Stormwater Utility
- 8) Purchasing the Customer Care Building
- 9) First Street Paving Program since 1988
- 10) Amended the Purchasing Ordinance
- 11) Updated the Council Rules Ordinance
- 12) Adopted the Council Ward Expenditure Ordinance
- 13) A Complete Charter Review and Adoption
- 14) Adopted and Amended the Ethics Ordinance
- 15) Adopted the Constant Method Rule to pay off the City's \$59 Million Unfunded Pension
- 16) Provided the financial stability so that the City received an A-Bond Rating

Marcel, I am tired, and I still have a long way to go. So, for the first time let me say that it is not personal, and we will continue later. Rest well my friend.