

**Pre-Council Meeting - FINAL**  
**November 6, 2017**  
**6:00PM**

*Present:*        *Derek Norton*                      *Susan Wilkinson*                                      *Doug Stoner*  
                         *Andrea Blustein*                      *Charles “Corkey” Welch*                                      *Ron Fennel*

*Absent:*        *Mayor Max Bacon*

*Ward 3 Vacant – Election for Ward 3 seat is November 7, 2017. If there is need for a run-off election it will be held December 5, 2017.*

*Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler–Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Christy Ullman, (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Projects Coordinator) and Ashley Youmans (Management Fellow).*

**Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton Call the Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.**

Mayor Pro Tem Norton informed everyone that Mayor Bacon was ill and would be unable to attend the meeting.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones provided the City administrators report.

Ms. Saddler Jones reminded the Council about the dedication ceremony for Deputy Chief Mike Brown. They were dedicating a wall to Deputy Chief Mike Brown who passed away while on duty. The dedication ceremony is Friday, November 10, 2017 at 11:00 AM at the police station.

Ms. Saddler Jones reminded the council of the zip code issue for Ward 7 residents, the city has been working on for a long time. This issue regarding the zip code has been going on for approximately 20 years. The city has finally secured an opportunity to have a meeting with Postal Service Management to discuss how to get the zip code changed in the 30126 area. Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews said the meeting would be on November 15, 2017 at 10:30 AM with Brantley Gilbert and Cherry Willis. This has been a top priority for Councilmember Ron Fennel for a long time.

Mr. Andrews noted that in addition to the zip code meeting they would be meeting with Bockington and Museum Manager Jenny Eldridge regarding the Smyrna Museum on November 8, 2017. They will be reviewing what is keepsake, what is worthy of keeping and what needs to be tossed.

They will address many issues and key factors of what is keep sake. City Attorney Scott Cochran interjected that the city needs to follow the agreement, we agreed to notify the donator of anything

the Museum is not going to use and either give it back to them or get their permission to throw it out. There is a process to be able to throw out things.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones asked if someone would mention the Veterans Day event during the Council Meeting, Susan replied that she would be happy to make that announcement.

**REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2017 AGENDA:**

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton began to go over the agenda. There was discussion of the agenda items during the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 2, 2017.

Mayor Pro Tem Norton started with the Veteran's Poppy Weekend proclamation and asked if Charles (Corkey) Welch would present the proclamation. Corkey agreed to present.

Mr. Norton covered the next agenda item, to recognize the Smyrna Blue All-Star rookie league 8 and under for the 2017 Georgia championship. He went over how he planned to go over this item. It consisted of two (2) great stories. He noted he would call up the coaches and the team members, the team would be present to be recognized. He spoke briefly about Jackson Martin's story about how he overcame a health issue hoping to play baseball.

Two members of the Atlanta Braves organization were going to congratulate the team for their State Championship and Jackson for their incredible State victory and the encouraging story of a young person who overcame a serious illness.

He would recognize any candidates that are present for the election, the next day on November 7, 2017.

He stated that we have a public hearing for a Privilege license, one request for Chettinad Foods and Bakery LLC dba Aachis Indian Cuisine with Anthony Arputharaj as the agent. Councilmember Charles (Corkey) Welch will make the motion for this item.

Formal Business there is one item, The Firefighters Cancer benefit program. Human Resources Director Kay Bolick explained the Firefighters Cancer benefit. How it will work in the budget, the cost through GIRMA and the benefit for the firefighters. GMA-GIRMA required a resolution prepared for council consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton went through the consent agenda items. Items A-G consist of the minutes, approval to hire KSB Director Janet Liberman, and then there are several items regarding event requests for Akins Park. One of the events is Star 94 "Woofstock" they are asking for an alcohol permit for beer, wine and a one-item cocktail and road closures. The next is for Atkins Park requesting a permit for a beer trailer during the City sponsored events, the Spring Jonquil Festival, City of Smyrna Birthday Celebration, Taste of Smyrna and the Fall Jonquil Festival. The next item 3 items are for Akins Park, the seventh Annual Smyrna Oyster Mardi Gras Festival, the Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and the Annual Atkins Park crawfish Boil.

## **COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS:**

Mr. Norton asked Terri Graham if she would speak on the election for November 7, 2017. She confirmed she would announce the election, the date and times, the precincts that are open and what election seats are at each precinct. She made a comment about the District six Senate voter areas in Smyrna being spotty, there could be many voters interested in voting that find out they cannot vote because they are not in the Senate District. The best way to find out what Senate District Smyrna Citizens are in is by going to the Secretary of State website, they can enter their names and birth dates and it will tell them about all their voting districts. Voting for the Ward 3 Council seat would be at the Community Center from 6 AM – 6 PM.

Councilmember Blustein commented on the Ward Meeting she had on Saturday November 4, 2017. Councilmembers Derek North and Susan Wilkinson were there. It turned out pretty well, but not many people attended.

Councilmember Ron Fennel wanted to recognize three people that passed away the past week, Buddy Purvine of the Smyrna Business Association; he thanked all that dropped by the visitation. Shell Osborne's mother passed the night before, Jennifer Bennett's mother recently passed away as well. He questioned if anyone was going to attend the Cobb Travel and Tourism Annual Event. Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews said that he would pencil it in and asked where and when it was. The annual event is Tuesday, November 14, 2017 5:00 PM, at the Brick Yard in Marietta. The event is a celebration of all the businesses that are part of the Cobb Travel and Tourism community.

Susan had a call from a citizen that disagreed with the Hands Free ordinance. Many of the citizens on her street are opposed. She has concerns with how the city moves through this ordinance she does not want it to look as if the city is trying to raise revenue. She knows the ordinance is not about revenue but she did not want that perception. She was concerned with how to implement the ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Norton, stated that if the city set the first fine as the state did for "No Texting" we should model our fine after theirs, a \$150.00 fine. We should be fine and can talk about 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offenses. We are trying to change the behavior so a fine is necessary.

Councilmember Andrea Blustein said that is more a measure of perceptiveness, she thinks we should give out fines, but we should educate especially the young people at Campbell High School and put information in schools about the hand held ordinance. A comment was made that they felt education in the schools was a good idea but older people were holding their phones and talking on them also.

Mayor Pro Tem Norton stated that we have many families that have lost loved ones due to distracted drivers. Many advocates of hands free driving wanted this kind of legislation. He thinks the city has an opportunity to receive positive recognition for passing an ordinance like this. We have received positive feedback. He received many calls from media affiliates, such as Channel 2

and Channel 5. If we get a lot of attention on November 20, we have a chance to make a real positive for the city and individuals lives.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones suggested buying the hands free devices with the magnets, put the City's logo on them, and give them away to promote driving hands free.

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton stated that we had another work session meeting to continue the discussion regarding the hands free ordinance more at length.

Councilmember Charles (Corkey) Welch spoke about the Concord Linear Park and thinks he might have a name suggestion for that park as a proposal in a meeting soon.

Ron mentioned the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting for the upcoming week, Finance Director Kristin Robinson needed to make a budget amendment for the end of year closing. She suggested a meeting scheduled November 16, prior to the next COW.

The Finance and Administration Committee consists of Councilmember Ron Fennel as the Chair, Councilmember Derek Norton and Charles (Corkey) Welch. They discussed the dates and decided on Tuesday November 14, 2017 at 4:00 PM for the meeting. They all agreed they were able to attend.

Doug spoke about a rash of break-ins happening in and around subdivisions in ward 6. They are taking advantage of people that are leaving car doors unlocked they are called flippers. They try car door handles when the cars are unlocked they take what they can.

Councilmember Blustein spoke about people breaking into mailboxes too. They are taking mail out of the mailboxes.

Councilmember Doug Stoner brought to the attention of the council regarding holiday season packages delivered to houses are at risk of being stolen. There are companies offering lock boxes for packages for safety. Citizens must be vigilant about locking things up they do not want broken into or stolen.

City Attorney Scott Cochran spoke about the controversial re-zoning in Williams Park that will have opposition and lawyers representing both sides. There are two (2) current houses proposed for re-zoning to four (4) houses.

Scott asked the council how they felt about tabling this until the ward 3 representative takes their seat. The Council agreed that to table the re-zoning until after the Ward 3 election is official was in the best interest of the Ward and its representative

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton adjourned the Pre Council Meeting at 6:50 PM