

Pre-Council Meeting - FINAL
June 15, 2020
6:30 PM

<i>Present:</i>	<i>Derek Norton</i>	<i>Tim Gould</i>	<i>Charles “Corkey” Welch</i>
	<i>Austin Wagner</i>	<i>Susan Wilkinson</i>	<i>Lewis Wheaton</i>
	<i>Travis Lindley</i>	<i>Glenn Pickens</i>	

Also, Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney)

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Heather Peacon-Corn (City Clerk), Roy Acree (Fire Chief), Richard Garland (Parks and Rec Director), Joe Bennett (Police Chief), Janet Liberman (Environmental Services Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Kelly Brown (Purchasing Manager), Joey Staubes (Planner II, Community Development), Jennifer Bennett (Community Relations Director), Penny Mocerri (Special Projects Liason), Landon O’Neal (Management Fellow), Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)

Mayor Derek Norton called the June 15, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Review of the Agenda for the June 15, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Norton opened the meeting by announcing that he would be stepping out for discussion on the bid protest and 6A RFQ Energy Performance Contract Services. His wife represented a company that participated but was not chosen in the end. He would also be recusing himself during the Mayor and Council meeting as well.

City Attorney Scott Cochran stated that the City did not have to bid out the RFQ but did so anyway. Two companies tied for first place and an interview and references check process is what broke the tie. The committee responsible for making the decision was made up of staff members Janet Liberman, Tammi Saddler Jones, Kristin Robinson, Kelly Brown, Richard Garland, Frank Martin, Bill Warren, and Landon O’Neal. There were three possible votes presented for consideration. Council could vote to reject bid protest, vote to reject Schneider, or vote to move forward with Schneider.

Councilmember Charles “Corkey” Welch made a motion to not consider the bid protest with a second by Councilmember Travis Lindley. Motion passed 6 to 0. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson arrived late and was not present for the vote.

Changes per the Council’s request has been made to the contract after the discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday. The new proposed agreement stipulates that there is no commitment unless the upcoming SPLOST passes. The city also has a seat at the table when projects are created. Rather than 30 days to commit to a project, the city has one year

after the audit is complete to commit to a project or pay the breakup fee and walk away. A copy of the revised handout was passed out for everyone to review.

Councilmember Welch inquired if the projects would be publically bid out to determine best prices. Schneider will advertise bids and the city does have a say in the bid process. The city is welcome to ask local companies to participate in the bid process.

A representative from Schneider explained that they have engineers and construction management that they pay based upon the project. The prices are based on industry standards and there are no hidden fees. Schneider does not get paid unless the city were to choose a project. It will not be a traditional low bid process and most engineering will already be done before the projects are even brought before Mayor and Council. Once a price is given, that will be the final pricing because no change orders can be done.

Councilmember Welch said that he struggles with this item because it seems like the city is entering into an open-ended contract.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton stated that he feels like the worst-case scenario is that the city pays \$59,200 for a study that can then be used to move forward with independently. He feels that this will be a beneficial project.

City Attorney Scott Cochran explained that the city can also appoint a liaison to work with them such as the city engineer. This would keep the city in constant contact with the projects and ideas that come before them.

Mayor Norton returned to the room at 6:51 PM after all conversation relating to the Schneider Electric contract was complete.

Mayor and Council briefly discussed the rest of the agenda and who would be representing which agenda item during the Mayor and Council meeting.

Mayor Norton adjourned the June 15, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:56 PM.