

Pre-Council Meeting - Final
June 4, 2018
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor A. Max Bacon Maryline Blackburn Susan Wilkinson
Derek Norton Andrea Blustein

Absent: Charles “Corkey” Welch

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler–Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Jim Cox (Business License Officer), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner), Christy Ullman, (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Projects Coordinator), David Lee (Chief of Police) and Lisa Moore (Assistant to City Clerk).

Mayor A. Max Bacon Called the Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.

City Administrator Report:

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones shared the following information:

- City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones stated Pastor Pennington was asked to attend the Pre-Council meeting tonight.
- The Hands Free Notice has begun being displayed on the digital signs. The Hands-Free law will go into effect July 1, 2018. Two messages are on the signs, one sign says, Hands-Free – Just Drive - Georgia Law effective July 1, 2018 – reduce accidents. The other sign says, July 1, 2018 Hands-free Law in effect in Georgia and it gives the website Georgia.Highwaysafety.org.
- A farewell reception has been planned for Virginia Davis on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 6: PM at the Taylor Brawner House.
- The leave schedule of department heads for June, July and August was given out as a point of reference when Council would need to reach staff.

Ms. Saddler Jones asked Richard Garland to update everyone on Parks and Recreation projects.

The Art on the Box project has been discussed a couple of times during previous meetings. He had a program set up where the Smyrna Arts Council would manage the boxes to be painted. From the last meeting, the feedback from Council was they did not want the boxes painted but covered in a laminate wrap. They also were not in favor of the Art Council controlling the art selection process. Mr. Garland went back and revamped the guidelines for the project. City Attorney, Scott Cochran, advised that we needed to be cautious regarding First Amendment issues. It would be wise if the city did not control the art painted or wrapped on these boxes. From an art standpoint, the city needed the Art Council to have as much input into creating the art decisions. Mr. Garland produced copies of revised guidelines to reflect that the Smyrna Arts Council would have a greater responsibility in selecting the art on the boxes. The guidelines

would include the laminate wrapping rather than being hand painted by an artist. He provided a handout for the council to review and asked that they make suggestions. Mr. Garland also inquired if they wanted to commission the Arts Council to paint the traffic boxes or another option was to consider citizens sponsoring boxes painted. He spoke of other cities that have their traffic boxes painted.

Ms. Saddler Jones asked Mr. Garland, if he had any locations in mind to start with. He replied the gateways are where they had previously discussed. The one in front of Jonquil is a traffic box that had been suggested to be the first one painted. Mayor Bacon questioned if the Art Council is going to be deciding what will be painted on the boxes. Mr. Garland said the city could have as much involvement as they wanted to have.

Mayor Bacon brought up the Dragon that was put up in a park. Mr. Garland replied, yes that Robert Harrison had put up the Dragon; he had made the decision on his own to put it up in the park. Mayor Bacon inquired if the Dragon was still in the park and Mr. Garland replied, no sir he had taken it down for his wedding. He said that he is not sure if the snake is still in the park, but he thinks they took both when they came to get the dragon.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson added that when she attended the Art Walk in the Market Village there were artist's painting the recycle bins. She expressed that there were many people watching the painting that seemed interested. She had talked with the artists and they expressed their interest in painting the boxes by hand in the future. Richard Garland confirmed that the desire of the artists associated with the Art Council is to paint the boxes. There may be concerns with hand painting the boxes, that have hinges and they are opened and worked in. He saw traffic boxes in Augusta, Ga and they were painted, the boxes in Bozeman, Montana were not painted, but wrapped. He would lean toward wrapping the boxes with laminate of the original work.

Mr. Fennel asked if there were an approximate number of boxes they are expecting to wrap or paint. Mr. Garland noted that if this is something the city would like to do at the Gateways, Spring Road and Windy Hill and if the city wanted to have these two done it would be an investment. The wrap is \$700.00 to have them made and the box wrapped. Then the artist would have to be paid to create the original artwork, would be another \$500.00. The potential is \$1,300.00 a box. If the city wanted to do 20 boxes it would be a significant amount.

Mr. Fennel asked if this amount was in Parks and Recreations budget, the answer was no. He continued that this has not been budgeted and wants the city to be mindful of where the money would come from. Mr. Garland noted that he didn't think the city should do all the boxes but that we could do some and then seek corporate sponsors and the like.

Mr. Garland had a second topic to discuss in response to questions the council had relating to Riverview Landing. He handed out a document and indicated a map showing where the restrooms would potentially be located. The next page is for potential options for the restrooms that are offered by the contractor then the pricing is the last part. One option is doing nothing and that's free. The second option is to have the contractor do the underground utilities that total

was \$16,663.00. The next option is for \$180,000 for the largest of the 3 restroom options on the site if the contractor builds it.

Mayor Bacon queried if Riverview Landing was under construction now, and Mr. Garland answered that they were still moving dirt at present. He thought that they have the retail side built up and ready to begin. Mayor Bacon asked if they wanted the city to build the restrooms and maintain them. Mr. Garland said they are willing to build the restrooms for us; they want the city to pay for it. If the city wants them to stub up for the restroom they will do that for the \$16,663.00. If we decided at a future time to put a restroom in the stubbing would be there. If we want them to build it they will build for the \$180,000.00 and on top of that number we would need to add security features, such as camera systems.

The Mayor stated that this is a perfect reason why we wouldn't want a contractor to do everything. He asked if we needed to pay for the restroom and maintain it. Mr. Garland replied that we would maintain it and they would build it for a cost of 180,000.00. Councilmember Norton suggests that we should have them stub it out, to be ready for a future restroom to be built. Mayor Bacon said the developer should stub it and build it and we could maintain it. He feels that the maintenance is the highest part of the cost.

Mayor Bacon expressed that we should have been asking all along, that developers contribute to a bank to go towards parks, restrooms and amenities. Mr. Fennel agrees that we need the developers to step up and contribute to city amenities. Mr. Garland believed that the Mayor and Council would be amazed at how much this development will open up the outdoor recreational use on the river. Mr. Norton asked what the timeline is on the development, Mr. Garland responded with spring of 2019.

Mr. Garland handed out a draft landscape plan provided by Sean Murphy for the Reed House. He explained that this is a draft for review and comment. Mayor Bacon reiterated to the council that they should make their comments on the draft to be discussed later.

Pastor Pennington spoke to the council about the homelessness issue. He wanted to begin a conversation about homelessness and the current issues we have in the city. Their church has been on the front lines working with the homeless problem. He would like to open dialogue to work together. There are costs associated to the homeless issue for the church. He would like to have the city partner with them on this topic if possible. His wish is to break the cycle of homelessness. He thinks mental health is part of the homeless problem. His church has an infrastructure to help with the homeless issue and they are helping and doing what they can.

Mayor Bacon asked Pastor Pennington to give an update on the church parking lot. Pastor Pennington stated they had collapsed sewage lines to the amount of \$70,000.00 under their foundation. When they tore up the parking lot they discovered other issues. They have spent 2.3 million dollars over the last year on infrastructure problems. Mr. Fennel asked if trees were causing some of the problems and they are. He is dissatisfied with the progress they are making on these issues.

The Mayor moved into the Mayor and Council agenda, everyone is fine with the agenda items with the exception of the speed humps on Carolyn Drive. Councilmember Blustein requested to have the opportunity to talk with the residents on Spring Drive, to make sure they wanted them since she didn't know anything about them being put in.

Mayor Bacon asked Public Works Director about the speed study. The speed study says the city should put in speed humps on both streets. Ms. Blustein would like to have Spring Road removed from the agenda to make sure her constituents are in agreement. Mayor Bacon cautions that they are putting the speed humps in based on the speed study, not because the citizens have requested them. Mayor Bacon said that speed humps will slow vehicles down. Mr. Stokes suggested the council pull Spring Drive off the agenda and vote on speed humps on Carolyn Drive and allow Ms. Blustein to talk with the people on Spring Drive.

The Mayor said we will make an agenda change at the beginning of the Mayor and Council meeting to change the wording on consent item F to remove Spring Drive off the agenda.

Councilmember Derek Norton brought up the Planning and Zoning Commission and asked the council if they think an email address should be posted on the city website. Max suggested the city provided a city email address so citizens have access to their Board members.

There was discussion about the light poles that have been knocked down on Concord Road. Scott Stokes has been in contact with Georgia Power to address the lights.