



**Meeting Minutes - Final
Committee of the Whole**

Thursday, August 1, 2019

6:00 PM

City Hall

1. Roll Call

Council: Charles “Corkey” Welch, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Derek Norton, Tim Gould, Maryline Blackburn, Ron Fennel.

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham, Christy Ullman (Ex. Asst. to the M&C), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Mary K. Arvin (Admin. Svc. Coord.), Bo Jones (Asst. Public Works Director), Landon O’Neal (Management Fellow), Jered Sigmon (Budget Officer), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Frank Martin (Director, Public Works), Chief David Lee, Chris Addicks (Director IT)

Guest Presenters: Kenny Haney (Community Health Advocate, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute), Laura Search (Smyrna Resident; Immediate Past President of Nat’l Assoc. of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; Coordinator of GA Tobacco Free Youth Project; Marietta Neonatology), Laura Bracci (Smyrna Resident; Community Advocacy Director, American Heart Association).

Guest: MDJ Reporter, Greg Teague (Croy Engineering), Jazmyn McCloud (Asthma, Tobacco, Adolescent Health & Youth Development, Cobb & Douglas Public Health), Josh Ford (Assistant Principal, Campbell High School), Dorothy Sullivan (Smyrna Resident; Administrator at Holy Innocents Episcopal School), Teri Anulewicz (Smyrna Resident; Georgia House of Representatives), Tony Waybright (Smyrna Resident, Campbell High School council), and Tracy Efaw (Smyrna Resident)

2. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Norton called the 8/1/19 meeting to order at 6:00 pm

3. Smoke Free 21 - Tim Gould

Councilmember Tim Gould introduced the press and several community guest who are experts and they spoke on issues around “vaping and cigarette” use in our community and around the state; “Tobacco free – 21” – raising the minimum tobacco sale age from 18 – 21 . Mr. Gould informed those present that one in four high school students have used e-cigarettes or vaping devices; 25% usage, and one in fourteen middle students have used e-cigarettes and vaping devices. There’s a 900% increase usage since the year 2011; cigarette usage is on the decline, but since e-cigarettes came around the increase usage has risen dramatically. Seventeen to eighteen years of age have increased usage by 78% since last year, and a 48% increase for middle school student population. Three out of four teen smokers continue until adulthood. This is a state and local issue, there are a total of 4400 high school and middle-age kids in Smyrna schools, and 1100 kids in Smyrna are using e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

95% that start before the age of 21 become lifelong smokers.

Kenny Haney with Northside Hospital Cancer Institute commented that due to social stigma, in the late 90's and early 2000's e-cigarettes were created to help people stop smoking, but they weren't used as intended because they looked like a cigarette. The legal age to purchase cigarettes and e-cigarettes is 18 years old. Much more discreet, Pod systems were created in the last 5-6 years, a lot smaller device that can be plugged into a computer or a USB port to charge. The device is so small that students can hold in their hands, smoke and blow the smoke up their sleeves while in class. Students are also mixing other chemicals in the pods such as opioid and marijuana and sharing with other teens who are unaware of the added substances.

Laura Searcy a past president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurses and coordinator of Georgia Tobacco Free Youth Project and Marietta Neonatology presented a video on drug use and commented that the adolescent brain is still developing until the age of 20 years; drugs can affect the brain circuits by scrambling the function and cause a pattern of seeking a high rush, instead of concentrating on school work and hanging out with family. Nicotine, a highly addictive drug is harder to stop in teens than in adults; smoking releases a huge dose of dopamine which makes you feel good. Resolution is to make teens feel good in doing family and sport activities. Nicotine alters the function, structure, and the development of the brains risk and reward system making you obsessed in seeking that high hit of dopamine. JUUL TV commercials caught the attention of teens thinking e-cigarettes were safer than smoking; they are getting addicted and it's not easy for them to quit.

Nicotine slows the development of learning, memory, attention and behavior with lasting deficits in cognition and reasoning; your brain develops from back to the front. Students have withdrawal symptoms when they can't get drugs; this causes them to shut down and they can't get through the day without mood swings and sleepless nights. Nicotine at an early age causes kids to be vulnerable to other addicted drugs; the early average age of beginning smokers is 10 – 12 years. Legitimate high school students age 18 – 20 years are legally purchasing the drugs and are the suppliers to younger school age kids. Studies have proven raising the legal age to 21 has been effective in helping the schools prevent access to these drugs while extending the time until students can be educated. Also, eliminating "vape shops" from the corners of elementary schools.

City Attorney Scott Cochran informed the guest and staff that the school board has a code of conduct to enforce 18 year old's from becoming suppliers to younger students. State & local jurisdiction is focusing in on businesses selling cigarettes to under age customers, and fines will be given. The Feds made the decision to raise the age to purchase tobacco to 21 years.

Laura Bracci with the American Heart Association presented slides and said the Heart Association has made a commitment to ending tobacco use through smoke free ordinances such as increasing tobacco tax and Tobacco - 21. The data behind Ms. Bracci's presentation is from studies and from the National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine report stating that raising the age to 21 has shown a 12% decrease. Studies in other cities showed there was a significant reduction in tobacco use the first year across genders and every grade level. The American Heart Association does not believe in penalizing the youth because it's been found to be ineffective, and believe the strong penalties need to be on the retailer side. The FDA has created an educational packet for retailers called "This is Our Watch", a campaign to help them comply with tobacco regulations, compliances, and protect our youth.

Today's guest speakers educated the City staff members on the Tobacco Free – 21 initiative in hopes to make an impact on students in Smyrna by raising the tobacco age to 21, about addiction issues, and risk factors that attribute to cancer from e-cigarettes, to create a tobacco free environment.

4. Discuss Proposed Personnel and Reclasses in FY2020 Budget

No discussions occurred.

5. Review of the August 5, 2019 Mayor and Council Agenda

Proclamation in Recognition of Nathan Lugo a resident of Smyrna that has won several boxing matches; his career began at 11 years old. National American champion at 15 years old. From 2012-2019, Nathan is the most decorated amateur boxer in Georgia to date and has been a resident of Smyrna since 2010. Nathan is a current member of Team USA and has over 200 recorded bouts, 12 national titles, and a gold medal.

Adoption of the 2019 millage rate of 8.99 mills; the 8.99 rate has been consistent since 2008; there has not been an increase.

Approve Ordinance Chapter 90-04 Private Utilities (sprinkler systems) within the Public Right of Way; must get a permit from Public Works. This approval will take care of future problems.

Award RFQ 19-024 Architectural Design of the renovation Services Community Center Phase II to the highest Qualified Bidder, Foley Design (950 Lowery Blvd., NW Suite 21, Atlanta, GA 30318) for \$45,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Move forward with Foley Design who is very knowledgeable and qualified firm out of the 9 who submitted bids to fix up locker rooms, and bathrooms. This is a CDBG funding project. HUD provides a 12% fee mark up, and Foley Design is within that programs 12% fee.

A Resolution creating a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee to plan and conduct local educational initiatives, publicity, and promotional activities to increase community awareness and participation in the 2020. Get the community involved.

Abandon an alleyway that is a dead end where garbage is picked up behind houses and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents to convey the alleyway to the adjacent property owners at such address. The property is parallel to Roswell street. City Attorney Scott Cochran is working on this property issue because the survey came back and showed a fence from another property owner within 6 inches over on the other way of the alleyway. Property owners want to share this alleyway, so everyone has use of the property. This item was tabled by City Attorney Scott Cochran.

Authorize the acquisition of real property on Windy Hill Road for improvements at 1047, 1055, 1075 that is a strip tank, and 1097 that is currently a dentist office in the process of moving out.

Other Business:

Councilmember Derek Norton said there's been a lot of resident concerns about the rezoning at Campbell and Atlanta Road regarding the proposed medical building on where the church was a couple years ago, this item was tabled and will be coming up soon. On the corner the church bought 5 acres and McKenna's purchased 2 acres that they are trying to sell to the medical facilities for parking and the residents are not happy about having to share parking.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson spoke on three variances received from Joey Staubes (City Planner II) about a parking lot to turn into a gas station; Ms. Wilkinson feels there's a change use in the three variances occurring and wants the issue to go before the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Wilkinson received an email about going on the Sterigenics tour and asked questions concerning the official method of communications to the press on behalf of the Smyrna City Council. Mayor Bacon commented that the Council has a policy in place about speaking to the press, and it hasn't changed.

Councilmember Ron Fennel spoke about a meeting between staff and Cobb DOT about railroad issues and the quiet zone that was funded by 2016 SPLOST; all approvals are in place at the local and Federal level; the final wait is for the railroad to allow the contractor to do the work. Mr. Fennel spoke about adding the "Welcome to Smyrna" signage on EW Connector, asking for annexation of the park land that was part of the original purchase that built the EW Connector. Mr. Fennel spoke about the Silver Comet trail and the roadway and how to connect the two, and the sidewalk bank language that will protect the city. Mr. Fennel said, the city is funding an annexation study and in getting the work completed, and how the city will gain additional income from these projects.

Councilmember Andrea Blustein asked if the camera on Atlanta Road is working and Chief David Lee said it's monitoring from only one side. Mr. Lee said it only monitors in one direction, but it's still clicking data and recording data even when it's off.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn commented on the Sterigenics issue and how the city and county are partnering to perform an emissions testing. Ms. Blackburn said it came to her attention that South Face was contacted to ask if they knew of any companies and they knew of that would do the air quality control testing. Ms. Blackburn commented that South Face ended up contacting a Smyrna citizen who knows a lot about this the Sterigenics issue.

Councilmember Tim Gould spoke on Campbell Road pedestrian safety issues and the cleanup of a Shell Gas station located on South Cobb. Mr. Gould said his comments about the Mayor wanting to do air quality testing during the Sterigenics meeting was positively taken and received.

6. City Administrator Report

No discussions occurred.

7. Adjournment

7:28 pm Mayor Max Bacon adjourned the Thursday, August 1, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting.