



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

Thursday, May 30, 2019

6:00 PM

City Hall

1. Roll Call

Attendees: Max Bacon, Andrea Blustein, Charles "Corkey" Welch, Susan Wilkinson, Tim Gould, Scott Cochran, Tammi Saddler Jones, Frank Martin, Roy Acree, Russell Martin, Chris Addicks, Richard Garland, Police Chief David Lee, Terri Graham, Kristin Robinson, Landon O'Neal, Christy Ullman, and Mary Arvin.

Excused: Maryline Blackburn, Derek Norton, Ron Fennel

Other Guest: Greg Teague (Croy Engineering)

Mayor Max Bacon joined the meeting at 6:10 pm.

2. Call to Order

Police Chief David Lee informed City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones that the Mayor said to begin the meeting due to his late arrival.

Ms. Saddler Jones called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and presented her City Administrator report.

6. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones reminded everyone of the upcoming June concert featuring "Sugar Lime Blue Band". The concert will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, (51) tables have been sold.

Ms. Saddler Jones reported on the Smyrna Parks & Recreation Summer Day Camp held during the months of June and July at the Smyrna Community Center. The daily camp hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for ages (5) to (13). Ms. Saddler Jones added that Tolleson Pool opened on Saturday, May 25, 2019. Pool passes are still being sold and the pool remains open through Labor Day.

Ms. Saddler Jones shared that Janet Liberman informed her that (2) \$1,000 beautification grants were given to the Kings Springs Elementary School by Keep Smyrna Beautiful.

Ms. Saddler Jones said, the employee cookout will be held at Tolleson Park on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 11:30 am.

Ms. Saddler Jones informed everyone that the Economic Development team will become a division of the City Administrators office effective June 3, 2019.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, 2019; the

staff and Council will continue their discussion on the Proposed 2022 SPLOST.

Mayor Max Bacon joined the meeting at 6:10 pm.

3. FY2020 Proposed Budget

Finance Director Kristin Robinson presented the FY2020 New Personnel Budget: Nothing has changed, there were no comments or concerns previously received from the Council or Department Heads; the figures are the same, and everyone received new updated budget pages. The current budget reflects the (12) new personnel positions and reclassifications.

Mayor Max Bacon stated he still is not comfortable with (12) new positions, and he would like to adopt the budget as it is. Mayor Bacon said, he would like to spend more time discussing the (12) new positions with the Council, and he asked if anyone had any different opinions on this matter. Mayor Bacon said we have enough time to review these positions and asked that we be mindful that will be a \$900,000.00 annual impact in 2021 going forward, and this goes for the reclassifications as well.

Finance Director Kristin Robinson said the reclassifications are always done July 1st. Mayor Bacon stated his concern is what impact the new positions and reclassifications will have on the City of Smyrna. Before Mayor Bacon can support the new positions, he wants a clearer understanding. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones said she has the staff here if anyone has questions. Councilmember Wilkinson is in favor of what Mayor Bacon said, to allow time to review the new positions to provide support. Mayor Bacon said to hold off but keep the funds in the budget until a special meeting is held to talk about these positions and the effects on the budget. Also, this will affect pay increases; we need to plan for the future and make sure we have funds to compensate personnel effectively.

Finance Director Kristin Robinson mentioned that this budget is based on an 8.99 millage rate, and at the end of June when the Council is in training classes, that time frame before July, the Finance Department must get everything to the County and Marietta Daily Journal Newspaper to advertise the millage rate for assessing the tax bills and getting them out. In the past we've adopted the budget at 8.99.

Councilmember Wilkinson requested a discussion on the Glendale Place and Birch street intersection issue in front of Belmont elementary school. Drivers think it's a way to go right instead of going to the three-way stop, they are cutting through the parking lot. Public Works Director Frank Martin made a comment, that parking is on the right of way of the complex, and discussed curbing could be added. Mr. Martin said, it is not expensive to add the curbing and it could be done soon. City Administrator Tammi Saddler-Jones commented that Mr. Martin and City Engineer Kevin Moore had spoken with her to discuss the steps they'd planned on taking to correct this issue.

Mayor Max Bacon asked for accident updates on the East/West connector involving the driver speeding above the limit without having their seat belt on. Chief Police David Lee stated the driver was speeding. Fire Chief Roy Acree said the driver and passenger were unrestrained; the driver ended up in the back seat. Mayor Bacon would like to review the accident report from the DOT/County.

4. SPLOST 2022 for 2020 Referendum (Proposed ideas for Project List)

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones discussed the proposed ideas for the

SPLOST 2022 for the 2020 referendum, and she presented a list of projects including descriptions to the Council that she and her staff wanted to be given consideration. The projects were divided by estimates covering a (5) year total of \$48,000,000.00 and a (6) year total of \$57,000,000.00. The SPLOST estimates covered (4) categories of consideration: Parks, Transportation, Public Safety, and Joint City/County projects. The City Administrator and staff are proposing a 4-story building to house the 911 operators, Fire, IT, police, and another floor for storage and other offices.

Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch asked about the size of the new building and was told it'll be 4-stories high and 40,000 square footage. The new building will be built between the police and fire headquarters. Councilmember Welch asked if it's conducive to spend \$1,500,000.00 on a "Splashpad" including maintenance and monitoring. Police Chief David Lee stated they wanted to give the Council some suggestions to good ideas. Mayor Bacon said, we need ideas that the public wants and can vote on.

Councilmember Wilkinson asked about the study of the South Cobb corridor from Concord to Windy Hill, and if that area could be included in the beautification process. Public Works Director Frank Martin commented that a trail had been added to this location. Councilmember Wilkinson spoke of a price range in under three different concepts, and that there now are more pedestrians and people out jogging on the (5) foot sidewalks.

Councilmember Welch inquired how the trail light budget on Spring Road went from 600,000.00 to 2 million. Ms. Robinson said the estimate price is to add lights all the way down to the city limits on Spring Road and Concord Road. This would provide pedestrian lighting on the north side along Spring Road from Atlanta Road to Concord Road.

Councilmember Tim Gould asked how much flexibility and responsibility we have on the design of the Camp Highland Road bridge replacement to do what needs to be done without spending 1.6 million. Finance Director Kristin Robinson said, there are currently (2) proposals for the bridge, and the larger of the two is listed in the budget. Mr. Frank Martin said one proposal (plan A) is for the rebuilding of the bridge and the widening of pedestrian access. Plan B is to use \$700,000.00 of the 1.6 million to cover the parallel of pedestrian walk way across the bridge. Public Works Director Frank Martin said they pulled a report from GDOT and when the bridge scores 64 it must be replaced; the bridge is currently at 50.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones responded to Mayor Max Bacon's question concerning the timeline on SPLOST. Ms. Jones stated a meeting will be held on June 28, 2019 with Cobb County. Council will discuss the building and other proposed recommendations in two weeks and prepare a list for the County.

5. Review of the June 3, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Max Bacon raised the issue of tabling item about the wall and whether anyone has spoken again to Matt Junger (M. Junger Homes LLC) the owner of property within the wall area. Mayor Bacon mentioned at the time a motion was made, Mr. Junger had been out of town and if any progress had been made. Senior Planner Rusty Martin said he and City Engineer Kevin Moore tried to schedule a meeting with Mr. Junger at the property site, but Mr. Junger was unable to join the meeting. Mayor Bacon said we're going to table this item until June 17, 2019 meeting at the request of the applicant.

Mayor Bacon inquired about the beer pouring license request for business "Pita Mediterranean Street Food" restaurant near the new Kroger shopping center and next to Wing Stop. Mayor Bacon asked if things checked out.

Senior Planner Rusty Martin requested approval of a code amendment to eliminate the requirement for an enclosure around the outdoor seating areas of licensed pouring establishments in the new Riverview landing restaurant district. Outdoor seating area must be enclosed by a fence, hedge, wall or some other approved demising device. This ordinance will allow the removal of fencing, so persons can move to the outdoor area and enter the actual premises.

Approval to close King Street from Bank Street to Village Green Circle for Smyrna Parks and Recreation's Movie Night. Mayor Bacon asked Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland to explain where the movie screen will be located. Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland said, near the Veterans Memorial. The movie Hotel Transylvania will be shown from 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm on Saturday, June 29, 2019.

7. Other Business

Mayor Bacon informed the Council members and meeting attendees that Smyrna residents and guest are invited to "Tavern" on next Thursday night, June 6, 2019 to enjoy a 16 oz Ribeye/T-bone steak with all the trimmings for a price of \$50.00.

Councilmember Wilkinson asked if there were any updates on the water situation on Oakdale circle; brown water. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones said, she's going to follow up on the matter with the Public Works Assistant Director Bo Jones.

Councilmember Tim Gould spoke on the Grand opening of the Aldi grocery store; Tom Boland was also present. Mr. Gould mentioned a dog bite occurred at the Jonquil Festival. A young girl was bitten in the face by a pit bull owned by one of the vendors. There have been 1000 dogs over the years attending Smyrna events with very little-known incidents reported Mayor Bacon. The County code has a 6 ft lease law in effect for taking dogs in public places.

Councilmember Tim Gould asked Public Works Director Frank Martin if Campbell middle school needed a movie permit for a big film festival going on. Mr. Martin said he will have to check with Tom Boland to confirm.
Councilmember. Andrea Blustein commented on the Memorial Day service being very nice.

City Clerk Terri Graham mentioned the City is having a Parade of Flags in Savannah at the GMA Conference and if anyone would like to volunteer to carry the flag. Mayor Max Bacon said Councilmember Susan Wilkinson will carry the flag.

Councilmember Wilkinson mentioned about improving the CobbLink Bus stops, and how we can get more involved. Mayor Bacon said, they need to improve, he mentioned there's trash everywhere on the weekends, and paper advertising wrapped all around. The County provides money to keep up the bus stops and they are responsible for the maintenance. Mayor said we do need to make note to the Cobb Chairman or Board of Commissioners about the appearance of the bus stops.

Councilmember Andrea Bluestein asked about the Scooter issue. Mayor Bacon said

we tabled it and we need to address other issues and will readdress the Scooter issue later. Councilmember Tim Gould voiced he voted to table it, and it's worth further discussion.

City Clerk Terri Graham wanted to announce that the CMA event is scheduled for June 11, 2019 at the new Acworth Community Center.

8. Adjournment

The May 30, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting was Adjourned by Mayor Max Bacon at 7:41PM