

**Pre-Council Meeting Minutes – FINAL**  
**Admin. Conference Room @ A. Max Bacon City Hall**  
**June 21, 2021**  
**6:30 PM**

*Present:*      *Derek Norton*                      *Tim Gould*                      *Lewis Wheaton*  
                  *Susan Wilkinson*                      *Austin Wagner*                      *Glenn Pickens*  
                  *Charles “Corkey” Welch*                      *Travis Lindley (By phone)*

*Also, Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney)*

*Staff:*      *Penny Mocer (Assistant City Administrator), Rusty Martin (Community Development Director), Jennifer Bennett (Community Relations Director), Andrea Worthy (Economic Development Director), Frank Martin (Public Works Director), Tyler Lewis (Senior Administrative Services Coordinator), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)*

**Mayor Derek Norton called the June 21, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:30 PM.**

**Review of the Agenda for the June 21, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting**

Mayor Norton opened the discussion by noting that there will be one variance heard even though there was an ordinance passed at the last meeting due to time constraints.

The downtown concept was reviewed, and summary was given as to the turn out at the two public input meetings that were held.

Councilmember Charles “Corkey” Welch stated that he would like to see the item tabled until more design plans could be presented.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson said that she felt like steps were being skipped in aspects such as design. She wanted to make sure that they were doing what was best for the public. The redesign plan was originally presented last August and was referred to as a high level overview rather than a concrete plan to move forward with. She felt like there was not enough availability to the public and that things moved too quickly.

Councilmember Welch mentioned that while there had not been a lot of opposition that he was aware of, people have said that they wanted to see more options rather than just the one plan that was presented.

Councilmember Wilkinson felt like the plan discounted her Ward 5 citizens who asked that more be put into the plan at a meeting that she held over the weekend. She wanted to see a traffic study done since the plan eliminates the traffic circle that is heavily used by those that live in her

neighborhood just west of the downtown. The area including the traffic circle is used by many to get to work, school and back home.

Councilmember Tim Gould said that it was not a big enough space with enough traffic to justify a traffic study.

Councilmember Wilkinson said her neighborhood is already greatly affected by the Windy Hill project and the construction at Campbell High School and that the removal of the roundabout would be very problematic.

Councilmember Gould noted that this vote was just a first step in setting things in motion. Details will be gotten into as the project moves along.

Councilmember Welch stated that he has sketched an alternative in just fifteen minutes and while he is not saying his idea should be considered, he used it as an example to show how quickly additional plans could be drafted for more options.

Councilmember Austin Wagner sought assurance that Council would get to decide on details which was the case. Finishes and details will be discussed and decided upon before anything is finalized.

Councilmember Wilkinson felt like there were not enough options presented to the public.

Councilmember Travis Lindley, who was in attendance via phone, said that the preparation for this project began way back in 2019 and it was time to move forward. He also noted his discontent with the amount of half truths that were circulating about the project.

Councilmember Wilkinson noted that the study was presented in August of 2020 and was presented as a high level design. She strongly felt that there needed to be more discussion before moving forward. She stated that the first time she saw what was scheduled to be voted on was June 3 of this year.

Mayor Norton noted that this was all in the SPLOST project paperwork that was previously voted on and approved by Council. He asked that everyone vote their conscious and that further discussion would be welcome.

The agenda item regarding the purchase of two new sanitation trucks was reviewed. If approved, they will be ordered immediately but it will take a year to receive. These are scheduled replacement trash trucks.

Councilmember Welch asked if everyone was satisfied with Granicus and their work with the city website. Community Relations Director Jennifer Bennett replied that she was satisfied with company and their work on the website.

Councilmember Welch announced that the Cobb County Water Authority Commissioner announced their retirement after thirty eight years of service.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton got an email from a research group indirectly affiliated with Georgia Tech wanting to assist with community engagement activities and suggested that this be something that is looked into further.

**Mayor Norton adjourned the June 21, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:54 PM.**