

**Pre-Council Meeting - Final
December 17, 2018
6:00 PM**

*Present: Mayor Max Bacon Charles “Corkey” Welch Tim Gould
Maryline Blackburn Derek Norton Andrea Blustein
Susan Wilkinson Ron Fennel*

Also Present: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Ken Suddreth (Director of Community Development), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner), Richard Garland (Director of Parks and Rec), Kevin Moore (City Engineer), Kay Bolick (HR Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ashley Youmans (Management Fellow), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)

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

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones invited Mr. Ken Suddreth, Director of Community Development to come forward and speak.

Mr. Suddreth introduced his two new staff members Jamila Dewitt who is the Lead City Marshal and Building Inspector Bill Hardage. Both new employees introduced themselves and talked about their background.

Ms. Saddler Jones introduced Mr. Kevin Moore who will be the new City Engineer. He was the Assistant City Engineer and for the last two months, has served as the interim City Engineer.

Mr. Moore introduced himself and spoke about his background for a few moments.

Mayor Bacon inquired as to when a new Assistant City Engineer will be hired. The process for hiring someone to fill this position has already begun.

According to Ms. Tammi Saddler Jones, the City is enrolled in a program through Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to help audit 911 services at a cost of \$25,000. Greg and Ryan Fender who are father and son completed the audit and to date have recovered \$111,000 in fees for the City and expect to collect enough to get to \$180,000 in the very near future. City Attorney Scott Cochran stated that the Fenders are great guys who have been very helpful in both the private and City sector.

At the request of City Administrator Saddler Jones, Mr. Richard Garland, Director of Parks and Recreation provided a summary of an incident that occurred December 6, 2018 in the restroom at the Wolfe Center. An older gentleman fell in the restroom and was transported to the hospital.

His wife was present at the time assisting him. An incident report was completed immediately and all protocol was followed by staff.

An announcement was made in regards to a message received from Deputy Chief Joe Bennett. There was a Maddie's Call for an elderly man with dementia who was missing. He has since been found safe and the call was cancelled.

Ms. Tammi Saddler Jones presented the plaque that was received for Smyrna being one of the Best Places to Live in 2018 by Money Magazine. It will be hung on display in the Admin hallway for all to see.

Review of the Agenda for the December 17, 2018 Council Meeting

Mayor Bacon announced that Boy Scout Troop One was going to be leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance in order that they may earn Citizenship and Community Badge.

Mr. Charles "Corkey" Welch will be reading and presenting the Proclamation for the Rotary Club.

The Mayor asked Mr. Ron Fennel if he was going to recuse himself from 4A-C since he has ownership in the property. Mr. Fennel stated that he was going to recuse himself.

Ms. Susan Wilkinson asked about the Nickajack Creek buffer area. Mr. Ken Suddreth and Mr. Rusty Martin reviewed the information pertaining to Nickajack Creek in regards to the property with the Mayor and Council for clarification.

In regards to the Brewery and Distillery Code Amendments, the Mayor asked if everything was in order so that they could proceed. Mr. Suddreth explained that the amendments have been reviewed and cleared by staff and the City Attorney. He also explained that there are two agenda items relating to this which are the zoning aspect and then later on in the meeting, the alcohol ordinance will be addressed.

Mayor Bacon inquired if there was still interest in putting in breweries. Mr. Suddreth said that there is a definite interest in the Riverview area and maybe somewhere in the downtown area as well.

Ms. Wilkinson wanted to know if the area being considered is where the old Hungry Howie's was located but Mr. Suddreth said the area of interest is actually closer to the Community Center. Mr. Cochran explained the concept of breweries which is that it is a place to manufacture and consume on site and that it is not really a place to eat but to sample and purchase the product.

Ms. Wilkinson was looking for clarification regarding why this item had been delayed so many times. Mr. Suddreth explained that staff and City Attorney wanted to make sure that everything was right, compliant with State law, and in proper order before bringing it to the Council for a vote.

The Mayor introduced the information about the Privilege License for the Pirate's Boil. Mr. Suddreth explained that they will be located in the shopping center behind the Olive Garden where the Office Depot used to be.

Mayor Bacon offered his congratulations to Kevin Moore who was set to be voted in as the new City Engineer.

Ms. Saddler Jones clarified that there were no changes in information on the Fiscal Year 2018 Surplus agenda item since the presentation that occurred at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

The Mayor commended the staff on doing a good job on the Tolleson Park playground project and on keeping everyone up to date on the progress.

Mr. Fennel brought up a meeting that Bryce and Michele Jennings have arranged to discuss skate parks which is to take place on January 29th. It is in regards to a skate park in Cobb Park that had been presented by a group of young people some time back.

Ms. Wilkinson asked what parks they were considering for the skate park feature and made mention that she feels that Cobb Park is not a good place for a skate park since it will not work with the neighborhood. Mr. Suddreth stated that they are open to any park but have a preference for Cobb Park.

Ms. Blustein was concerned about a skate park in Cobb Park due to the lack of street parking available.

Ms. Wilkinson brought up a concern that she has about the Parks Master Plan under Cobb Park where it says to eliminate small playground. She wants to add a bullet point to meet with neighborhood to determine needs and remove the line item were it says to eliminate small playground. She feels that there are a lot of families with small children in the area that would want the playground to remain.

Mr. Fennel asked Mr. Richard Garland if a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) could be used to fund the park improvements. Ms. Wilkinson stated that it was the neighborhood with low to moderate income that determines the funding under that grant.

Again, Ms. Wilkinson reiterated her concerns in regards to the removal of the small playground under the Cobb Park section of the Master Plan.

Mr. Gould stated that it is important to understand that the Master Plan is just a guide to work from.

It was the belief of Councilmember Wilkinson that the area of the Master Plan which addressed Cobb Park needed to have the line referencing the playground being removed and in its place there needs to be something referencing community input.

Ms. Saddler Jones pointed out that there was information regarding meeting with neighborhoods regarding needs in the introductory paragraph which would cover all of the parks.

Councilmember Blackburn attempted to clarify the subject to be discussed as was laid out on agenda since the meeting seemed to have lost its focus.

Mayor Bacon asked if there was any further discussion relating to the Tolleson Park playground before moving on.

When the Master Plan again became the subject of conversation, Ms. Wilkinson repeated her desired changes which was to include meeting with neighborhoods under Cobb Park and removing the line item regarding the playground.

In an effort to gain some clarification, the Mayor inquired as to why this issue was not brought up at the Committee of the Whole meeting which occurred on Thursday.

Ms. Blackburn suggested making the change just for consistency purposes.

Mayor Bacon reminded everyone that there was only twelve minutes left before they needed to be down in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Garland reminded everyone that engaging with the public is addressed in the introductory paragraph and that he felt altering information undermines the research put into creating the Master Plan.

In an attempt to get everyone back on track, Mayor Bacon reminded Ms. Wilkinson that time was running out and asked why she did not bring this up at the Committee of the Whole meeting where there was more time for discussion.

Councilmember Welch stated that the plan is meant to serve as a guide and he doesn't understand why this is such a problem.

Mr. Garland suggested removing everything under each individual park and keeping the community input information in the initial paragraph.

City Attorney Cochran asked for the general consensus before moving forward with the Master Plan approval.

Ms. Wilkinson noted that the Master Plan would be approved including the changes which were adding with neighborhood input under Cobb Park and removing the line referencing the small playground.

The Mayor suggested tabling the vote to approve the Master Plan until further discussion can be had and concerns addressed.

Mayor Bacon then asked everyone present if they had anything to say.

Ms. Blackburn wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the Pre-Council Meeting at 6:55 PM.