



City of Smyrna

A. Max Bacon City Hall
Council Chambers
2800 King Street SE
Smyrna, GA. 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, August 2, 2021

6:45 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Austin Wagner, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Absent: 1 - Mayor Derek Norton

Also Present: 1 - Scott Cochran

Staff: 7 - Joe Bennett, Penny Mocer, Heather Peacon-Corn, Lisa Collins, Tyler Addison, Mike Hickenbottom and Tyler Lewis

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould called the August 2, 2021 Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:45pm in the Council Chambers of A. Max Bacon City Hall.

1. Invocation and Pledge:

Pastor Jeffrey Pennington, Smyrna First Baptist Church (1275 Church St) was invited to the podium to lead the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Changes:

There were no Agenda Changes.

3. Mayoral Report:

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould noted Mayor Derek Norton was out of town and would not be presiding over this evenings meeting.

He also spoke about the State of the City Address was held the previous week and thanked the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman, Executive Director and City staff. It was a very positive and pleasant evening.

The link for the video is on City website as well as Facebook City page for public viewing.

School started today.. be safe, be patient as we adjust to the traffic and buses.

4. Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations:

There were no Land Issues, Zonings or Annexations.

5. Privilege Licenses:

There were no Privilege Licenses.

6. Formal Business:**A. [2021-320](#)** Public Hearing and adoption of the 2021 Millage rate.

City Administrator Joe Bennett read aloud the background for this item as follows: The FY22 budget approved by council included revenue projections based on 8.99 mills. This is the last of three required public hearings before the formal adoption of the 8.99 millage rate. Tax information was received from Cobb County on June 24, 2021. Per the information provided, the City would need to roll back the millage rate to 8.468 to not advertise a tax increase. In comparison, last year's millage rollback was calculated at 8.728.

The official notice, and all required information, was posted in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 9th and July 23rd. A press release was sent to the Marietta Daily Journal on July 6. It has also been posted on our City website. This is the last required public hearing. Additional hearings were held on July 19th at 7:00 pm and Aug 2nd at 10:00 am. This is the adoption of the millage rate.

Finance Staff recommends adoption of the millage rate of 8.99 for tax year 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould noted and called the Public Hearing for this item and no one came forward to speak in favor of or in opposition to this item.

A motion was made by Councilmember Corkey Welch to approve item 2021-320, a public hearing and adoption of the 2021 Millage rate; seconded by Councilmember Lewis Wheaton.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

B. [2021-329](#) Update and adoption of the City of Smyrna Debt Management Policy with written guidance providing parameters on long term debt borrowing and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute any related documents.

City Administrator Joe Bennett read aloud the background for this item as follows: The City currently has a debt policy as a part of a 2009 financial plan document. This plan is specific to that time period needs to be replaced with a more comprehensive policy. Approval and adoption of this new policy will provide guidance to staff when looking at long term debt for the City.

The City needs written guidance providing parameters on long term debt borrowing. As a part of the AAA bond rating process with S&P that was recently completed, we discussed a need for a policy.

Staff recommends update and adoption of the City of Smyrna Debt Management Policy with written guidance providing parameters on long term debt borrowing and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute any related documents.

A motion was made by Councilmember Corkey Welch to approve item 021-329 to update and adopt the City of Smyrna Debt Management Policy with written guidance providing parameters on long term debt borrowing and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute any related documents; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

C. [2021-335](#)

Approval of the Appointment of Ward 3 resident, Lem Ward, to the Smyrna Housing Authority to fulfill current term that expires 12/31/2022.

City Administrator Joe Bennett read aloud the background for this item as follows: Taneisha Simpson, current Ward 3 Smyrna Housing Authority board member, resigned from the board effective July 19, 2021. Councilmember Travis Lindley is requesting the appointment of Ward 3 resident, Lem Ward, to the Smyrna Housing Authority to fulfill current term expiring 12/31/22.

The recommendation requested is for the approval of the appointment of Ward 3 resident, Lem Ward, to the Smyrna Housing Authority to fulfill current term that expires 12/31/2022.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve item 2021-335 for the appointment of Ward 3 resident, Lem Ward, to the Smyrna Housing Authority to fulfill current term that expires 12/31/2022; seconded by Boardmember Susan Wilkinson.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

7. Commercial Building Permits:

8. Consent Agenda:

The items on the Consent agenda were read aloud by City Administrator Joe Bennett for Council approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve the consent agenda as read aloud by City Administrator Joe Bennett; seconded by Councilmember Corkey Welch.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

A. [MIN2021-49](#)

Approval of the June 3, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

The June 3, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes were approved.

B. [MIN2021-50](#)

Approval of the July 19, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes.

The July 19, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes were approved.

C. [MIN2021-51](#)

Approval of the July 19, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes.

The July 19, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes were approved.

9. Ward / Committee Reports:

Ward 7 Councilmember Lewis Wheaton had no report, however made a plea to the unvaccinated citizens and asked them to get their vaccine.

Ward 5 Councilmember Susan Wilkinsons had no report.

Ward 4 Councilmember Corkey Welch reminded the public that school was in session and to be careful traveling the roads to keep students safe.

Ward 3 Councilmember Travis Lindley has no report.

Ward 2 Councilmember Austin Wagner reminded the public that the City still had free vaccines for those still unvaccinated.

Ward 1 Councilmember Glenn Pickens had no report.

10. Show Cause Hearings:

There were no Show Cause Hearings.

11. Citizen Input:

Monserrat Knowlton of 1367 Poplar Pointe SE commented that he is against the sale of the lot for sale to Stillfire Brewery.

Dave Lincoln of 2860 Parkwood commented that he is against the sale of the City green space acre to Stillfire Brewery as well as he is questioning the reasoning behind Stillfire being the only consideration for this property and feels the sale and greenspace planned is being done so around the brewery coming to the City.

Kathy Omatis of 207 Countryside Place SE commented she is concerned about the lack of information being provided to the public about the development.

Kurt Austin commented about the short time frame of the project for downtown redevelopment. and noted only two input meetings were held on June 6 and June 14. He asked specifically how the brewery got the option to purchase this property. He feels the Mayor and Council are not really interested in the Public Input for this project.

Pat Burns of 10 Concord Road spoke about being against the project and submitted her paper comments to the Clerk's office for the official record.

Natasha D, of 400 Belmont Place spoke about the Downtown Development and asked for more open process. Until recently she was unaware of the project. She remarked that previously she had helped plan an Earth Day Festival on the space being referenced for sale to the Brewery. Also she would like to see a traffic study done for the area around the fountain.

12. Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould adjourned the August 2, 2021 Meeting of the Mayor and Council at 7:15pm in the Council Chambers of A. Max Bacon City Hall.