



# City of Smyrna

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

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Monday, November 7, 2022

7:00 PM

A. Max Bacon City Hall - Council Chambers

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### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

**Also Present:** 1 - Scott Cochran

**Staff:** 4 - Joe Bennett, Dan Campbell, Jill Head and Heather Peacon-Corn

### Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the November 7, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in Council Chambers at 7:01 PM.

#### 1. Invocation and Pledge:

Councilmember Charles Welch led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Agenda Changes:

#### 3. Mayoral Report:

*Mayor Norton recognized local business and restaurant Zucca Bar & Pizzeria as it celebrated its 20th anniversary. He also mentioned that Crafts and Drafts, formerly the Fall Jonquil Festival, was a success. Mayor Norton also thanked Support Smyrna for the help they have provided to local veterans.*

#### A. [PRC2022-20](#) Proclamation in Recognition of Veterans Day Poppy Distribution, November 11th, 12th and 13th, 2022

*Councilmember Susan Wilkinson read and presented the following proclamation:*

*A PROCLAMATION  
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA  
In Recognition of Veterans Day Poppy Distribution November 2022*

*Whereas, America is the land of freedom, preserved and protected willingly and freely by citizen soldiers; and  
Whereas, millions who have answered the call to arms have died on the field of battle;*

and

*Whereas, A nation at peace must be reminded of the price of war and the debt owed to those who have died in war; and*

*Whereas, the red poppy has been designated as a symbol of sacrifice of lives in all wars; and*

*Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary has pledged to remind America annually of this debt through the distribution of the memorial flower,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim during the month of November in 2022, the 11th, 12th, and 13th as VETERANS DAY POPPY DISTRIBUTION DAYS and ask that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy.*

**B. [2022-532](#)**

**Smyrna Arts Council Artist Recognition for the new City Hall exhibit  
*Ward / Citywide***

*The Smyrna Arts Council and the City of Smyrna announce a new exhibit of fine art to be displayed in City Hall, on display through January 2023. The exhibit features eight (8) talented local artists, the majority of whom are Smyrna-based:*

*Aida Arias - a Puerto Rican-born contemporary painter and mixed media artist;*

*Bihter Alapan - an embroidery artist;*

*Justin Groom & Becca McCoy, as Leafmore Studios - exhibiting a collaboration of hand-illustrated photography;*

*Paula Winter - a former Cobb County teacher creating unique collage art;*

*Carol Vasbinder - a watercolorist;*

*Jason Walesh - a pop-culture designer and recycled materials collagist; and*

*Bill Hunton - a Smyrna-based fine art and commercial photographer and musician.*

*Curated by Smyrna Arts Council Vice President Leah Barnes, the Community Art Exhibit in partnership with the City of Smyrna provides an opportunity for local artists to display their work and for residents to gain exposure to art being created within the community. The exhibit is open for viewing during City Hall's normal business hours. Follow Smyrna Arts Council on Facebook and Instagram @smyrnaartscouncil for profiles on the featured artists, glimpses into the exhibit, and to learn about the other events and happenings sponsored by the Council.*

**4. Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations:**

**5. Privilege Licenses:**

**6. Formal Business:**

**A. [2022-526](#)**

Approval of the recommended 2023 employee benefits insurance plans, providers and plan designs as recommended by Insurance Broker, John Knop of Oakbridge Insurance and staff and authorize the Mayor to sign

and execute all related documents.

**Ward / Citywide**

*Joe Bennett, City Administrator, presented the following background:*

*This item is for the annual review and renewal of employee benefits. Every fall, with assistance from our broker, the city re-evaluates and selects its insurance plans, providers and plan designs for Employee Benefits as outlined below:*

*Medical, Rx, Stop Loss -*

- Medical insurance plan and claims administration - Move to Allied, a third-party administrator, while keeping the employee contributions the same.*
- o Utilize the Aetna Signature Administrators (ASA) PPO network.*
- o Keep overall plan designs the same. Eliminate redundant HMO High plan. Offer 3 plan options-High, Middle, Low (HDHP).*

*Stop Loss - Move to Pareto/HHS*

*Total annual maximum increase 1.93% or \$169,486.19*

*Rx - Renew with ProCare, ElectRx and Veracity - no change*

*Dental - Renew with Guardian - 6% increase to employees - this is 100% employee paid.*

*Vision - Renew with Guardian - no change*

*Basic Life and AD&D, voluntary life, and short-term and long-term disability - Renew with Guardian - no change*

*Health Savings Accounts - Renew with Health Equity - no change*

*Flexible Spending Accounts and COBRA Administration - Renew with Discovery Benefits/WEX - no change*

*Human Resources and Finance staff recommend approval of the recommended 2023 employee benefits insurance plans, providers and plan designs as recommended by Insurance Broker, John Knop of Oakbridge Insurance and staff and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.*

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item 2022-526, the 2023 employee benefits insurance plans, providers and plan designs as recommended by Insurance Broker, John Knop of Oakbridge Insurance and staff and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

**B. [2022-525](#)**

Approval of a proposal in the amount of \$34,500 to be paid out of 2022 SPLOST by Pond and Company (3500 Parkway Ln #500, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092) for the design development, construction documentation, and construction period services for the Ward 7 Riverline Park Splash Pad located at 6043 Oakdale Rd. Smyrna, Ga 30126 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

**Ward 7 / Councilmember Wheaton**

*Joe Bennett, City Administrator, stated as part of the 2022 SPLOST, the city is*

*constructing a splash pad and restroom at Riverline Park. Pond and Company has proposed design development, construction documentation, and construction period services in the amount of \$34,500 from 2022 SPLOST.*

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines made a motion to approve item 2022-525, a proposal in the amount of \$34,500 to be paid out of 2022 SPLOST to Pond and Company (3500 Parkway Ln #500, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092) for the design development, construction documentation, and construction period services for the Ward 7 Riverline Park Splash Pad located at 6043 Oakdale Rd. Smyrna, Ga 30126 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

**+0+3** [2022-533](#)  
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**8\*27/**  
**C./**

Approval of the 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting dates as reviewed and attached and authorize the City Clerk to post a legal ad in the Marietta Daily Journal to publish said dates.

**Ward / Citywide**

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item 2022-533, the 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting dates as reviewed and attached and authorize the City Clerk to post a legal ad in the Marietta Daily Journal to publish said dates; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

**D.** [2022-534](#)

Approval of an amendment to the 2023 adopted budget to increase the Buildings and Grounds Technical Services line item \$150,000 and a decrease a prior year Capital Improvement Project by the same amount.

**Ward / Citywide**

*Joe Bennett, City Administrator, presented the following background:*

*The City has started a plan to be more proactive in planning for repairs and maintenance moving forward. Building and Grounds has identified a vendor that can provide an assessment of City roofs and provide a maintenance plan going forward. We have also identified some security upgrades to City Hall, Library, and the Community Center. The CIP project from budget year 2018 was established to re-roof the Community Center and we realized some savings on that project. Staff agrees that moving funds out of that project and back into the General Fund would be a good use for these funds without having to reduce another expenditure line item.*

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item 2022-534, an amendment to the 2023 adopted budget to increase the Buildings and Grounds

Technical Services line item \$150,000 and a decrease a prior year Capital Improvement Project by the same amount; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

- E. [2022-544](#) Authorization to submit the Comprehensive Plan Update to Department of Community Affairs for review

**This will be tabled to the November 21, 2022 Mayor & Council Meeting.**

***Ward/ Citywide***

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to table to the November 21, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting item 2022-544, the authorization to submit the Comprehensive Plan Update to Department of Community Affairs for review; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to table to the November 21, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

7. **Commercial Building Permits:**

8. **Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley, seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens, that the Consent Agenda be Approved. The motion carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Wheaton

- A. [MIN2022-76](#) Approval of the October 13, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

***Ward / Citywide***

These Minutes were Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- B. [MIN2022-77](#) Approval of the October 17, 2022 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

***Ward / Citywide***

These Minutes were Approved on the Consent Agenda.

- C. [MIN2022-78](#) Approval of the October 17, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes  
**Ward / Citywide**  
These Minutes were Approved on the Consent Agenda.
- D. [GRA2022-04](#) Authorization for the approval and acceptance of the State of Georgia FY2023 Law Enforcement Training Program Grant, awarded to us on October 6, 2022, through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in the amount of \$37,800.00 for the purchase of a new firearms simulator for the new PD Training Center in Ward 7 and authorize the Mayor to sign and Execute all related documents.  
**Ward 7 / Councilmember Wheaton**  
This Grant was Approved on the Consent Agenda.
- E. [GRA2022-05](#) Authorization for the approval and acceptance of the FY2020/2021 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN): Community Policing Microgrant, awarded to us on October 6, 2022, through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in the amount of \$2,754.00 for the reactivation of the Bicycle Unit (uniforms, bicycle upkeep, training classes and equipment) and authorize the Mayor to sign and Execute all related documents.  
**Ward / Citywide**  
This Grant was Approved on the Consent Agenda.
- F. [AGR2022-32](#) Authorization for the award of Survey and Design Services for 3260 Concord Circle, Smyrna, to be awarded to CPL Architecture ( 3011 Sutton Gate Dr.Suite 130, Suwanee, GA 30024) in the amount of \$16,400.00 to be paid from Professional Services and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.  
**Ward 3 / Councilmember Lindley**  
This Agreement was Approved on the Consent Agenda.
- G. [2022-545](#) Approval to use Council Chambers for Concord Lake Village Annual HOA Meeting, Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:30 pm  
**Ward 3 / Councilmember Lindley**  
This Authorization was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

## 9. Ward / Committee Reports:

*Mayor Pro Tem/Councilmember Gould recognized the Forest Hills Preservation Group's Fall Festival held this past weekend. He stated they raised \$650.00 for Cat & Dog nonprofit Group.*

*Councilmember Welch recognized Falcon Prep Academy and Ms. Tierra Falcon for being one of six finalists for the Georgia Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award.*

*Councilmember Lindley reminded everyone to vote on November 8, 2022.*

*Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, listed the wards and corresponding polling places in the City of Smyrna for the election taking place November 8, 2022.*

**10. Show Cause Hearings:**

**11. Citizen Input:**

*Bill Strickland - 2962 Lexington Trace - expressed that the 150th birthday Celebration was wonderful, and he also mentioned how much he likes the Smyrna 311 app. The issue Mr. Strickland was going to talk about was already successfully handled by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Strickland did take a moment to speak about a traffic light issue at the Lexington intersection and how dangerous it can be. He stated he has spoken to the Police Department about it, but he also recognized that the police department is short officers and cannot patrol that area all the time. Because of the construction on Windy Hill, there is a lot of traffic cutting through the area which is increasing the danger of this intersection because people are speeding. He thanked Mayor and Council for their time.*

**12. Adjournment:**

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the November 7, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting at 7:27 PM.