

Pre-Council Meeting - Final
April 15, 2019
6:00 PM

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

Absent: *Andrea Blustein*

Also Present: *Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ken Suddreth (Director of Community Development), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner), Richard Garland (Director of Parks and Rec), Mary Moore (Library Director), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), 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 turned the meeting over to Library Director Mary Moore.

Ms. Moore shared with Mayor and Council how an “in house” audit of books and resources had saved the City approximately \$20,000 which was under budget. In order to complete the RFID system, every single book had to be opened and gone through so that the tags could be installed. Through this process, it was discovered that there were many books, primarily children’s books that had to be retired due to their poor condition. She proposed using the leftover budgeted money to purchase replacement books. When asked by Mayor and Council how much it would take to replace the books, she told them around \$40,000. The general consensus was to use the leftover money and find the additional funds so that all the books could be replaced.

Ms. Saddler Jones reported that the City recently received the Georgia Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Reporting Award.

Saint Thomas Catholic Church does an annual pilgrimage for Easter every year, there were no requests for road closures. Those participating walk from Smyrna to Marietta. The Marietta Police Department takes over once the participants get to Pat Mell Road. The purpose of the announcement was to make everyone aware of the event.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews spoke about the inventory of museum items that was recently completed. Work has begun on floors, walls, windows, and displays will follow. The transition of items should begin in July with the facility reopening in September. Some photos were passed around for Mayor and Council to review.

Discussion was had about the length of time that has passed since the project begun.

Ms. Saddler Jones offered a tour of the museum to anyone who was interested.

The Mayor announced that Andrea Blustein was not feeling well and would not be attending the meeting.

Review of the Agenda for the April 15, 2019 Council Meeting

Mayor Bacon opened discussion of the agenda. The order of presentations during the Mayoral Report was communicated along with who would be responsible for the background and acknowledgement.

The Mayor read through the agenda items and asked if there were any questions or concerns.

The agenda item related to a rezoning on Roswell Street was explained by Community Development Director Ken Suddreth. The issue is not actually the rezoning but the desire of the Williams Park community to save a wall on the property that has been there since the late 1930's. Staff recommended that the regulation dedication occur with the five foot sidewalk and two foot grass buffer which means that the wall would need to come down. City Engineer Kevin Moore is not comfortable with the proposed alternative which is to reduce the grass buffer and extend out into the street to get the additional area needed to enlarge the sidewalk.

Mayor and Council discussed possible alternatives, the wishes of the applicant, various factors relating to the stone wall, and potential liabilities to the City.

Mr. Suddreth and Mr. Russell Martin answered questions and offered further information as requested by Council. The consensus from staff was that the wall should ideally be removed, and proper sidewalks and buffers installed. If it was decided that the wall should stay it would be necessary to remove standard stipulations 15 and 17 which are those that require five foot sidewalks with two foot grass buffers.

Staff and Council briefly discussed the Emory Medical Office Building and new parking for Emory Hospital rezoning request. Questions and concerns were already addressed at the Committee of the Whole meeting, so everyone was ready to move on.

Mr. Martin reviewed the Riverview Landing agenda item. The applicant sent over a power point presentation for the meeting to show Mayor and Council the progress to date as well as future plans. Public restrooms will now be added at the expense of the developer as a result of the most recent modifications.

The topic of whether or not utilization of Croy Engineering for oversight on the Multi-Use Trail project was a requirement was reviewed for clarification purposes. How the project was being funded as well as the requirements for the grant that was funding the project were spoken about by Parks and Rec Director Richard Garland. The project is primarily funded by a grant from the

Georgia Department of Natural Resources while the City's expected match amount will come from SPLOST funds.

Councilmember Blackburn asked whether any progress had been made on the Parks and Rec Facility policy. Mr. Garland reported that there was nothing new to report at that time.

Councilmember Gould shared information about the Campbell High School Education Foundation Charity Golf Tournament which will take place on April 29th.

Councilmember Fennel spoke about the dedication/ground breaking of the new building at Whitfield Academy that he attended. He announced the Arthur Bacon Golf Tournament that will take place on May 4th. Mr. Fennel summarized briefly the information that was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting which had taken place earlier that day.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews shared about the Great American Clean Up that was sponsored by Keep Smyrna Beautiful. There was a great turn out and a lot of trash was picked up and properly disposed of. Some information on the expansion of the open container areas map will be presented in an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councilmember Wilkinson spoke of a group of residents from Ward 5 that volunteered to clean up Pat Mell Road and now intend to adopt that area for regular clean ups. She recently attended a school board meeting and she had some concerns about the effects that the new theater building would have on the already scarce parking for students there at Campbell High School.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the Pre-Council Meeting at 6:59 PM.