

Pre-Council Committee of the Whole
October 3, 2016
6:00PM

*Present: Max Bacon Susan Wilkinson Andrea Blustein
Derek Norton Ron Fennel Corkey Welch
Teri Anulewicz (6:03) Doug Stoner*

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Mike Jones (City Administrator), Tammi Saddler-Jones (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman, Ken Suddreth, Kristin Robinson, Maxwell Ruppensburg

City Administrator's Report:

City Administrator Mike Jones began the meeting with an update to the water main break that occurred today on King St SE and Bank St. due to construction by Google Fiber. He showed pictures of the water main break damage to the column in front of the architect's office as well as the column. There was structural damage under the building. The water had undermined the building and the column holding the corner of the building compromised the integrity of the building which caused evacuation of the building. The contractor is drilling across King St. and boring towards the building. They bored into the water line. There have been three structural engineers out to determine the damage and half of the building will remain vacant. They have poured a material under that end of the building under the column to support that end of the building at the direction of the structural engineer because the column has settled 1 ½". There is a metal beam currently stabilizing the structure of the building.

Mayor Bacon asked if the building owner had been notified and Mr. Jones said yes and he helped locate the engineering plans of the building.

Mayor Bacon asked where the water lines were located and about the process for marking lines. He also wants to know when a company comes in to get a permit, does that give them permission to block a sidewalk or a road without the City's permission or any notification to the City.

He also asked whose responsibility it is to say the road is closed or the sidewalk is closed. He thinks it is the City's responsibility to have those signs notifying residents. Public Works Director Scott Stokes said it is the responsibility of the contractors to notify the residents and the public that roads and/or sidewalks are closed and they are doing work.

Councilmember Blustein said they need to put up signs identifying them as Google Fiber because some people will assume it is the City.

Mr. Jones says it is impractical to notify everyone impacted. Mayor Bacon said at least a digital sign in the area notifies those impacted. Councilmember Fennel asked why the Facebook page and the website were not being utilized to inform the public. Google did everything that the City required of them except drilling onto private property. Councilmember Fennel said if he knew the details he could easily put the information on his FB page as well and in his newsletter for his Ward.

City Attorney Scott Cochran remarked that no one wants to be inconvenienced by this but notifying the people will be the smallest issues because if the City had not gotten involved and forced them to stabilize the building nothing would have been done and the damage would have been catastrophic. Both Mr. Jones and Mr. Cochran talked to the Google Engineers about their encroachment onto private property. They were more concerned about policy and having to reroute their fiber.

Mayor Bacon thinks there needs to be signage at the worksites and Mr. Jones says that is not feasible to have staff keep moving signs because they are laying 1000 feet of fiber a day.

Councilmember Welch opined that the permit requirements need to change where is mandatory that signage is placed at the worksites. He inquired as to the Ordinance that would dictate this.

Councilmember Fennel asked if it was appropriate for them to post signage identifying them as Google as well.

Mayor Bacon asked about the lines you can see in the pictures and they were explained to him as well as how the lines are laid. He asked why there could not be one big pipe with everyone's lines in it.

Mr. Jones will continue to update the Mayor and Council about the building.

Mr. Jones discussed the property on Atlanta Road that was discussed at the COW that was being considered for Brawner Hall overflow parking. The cost of the property is \$350,000 and it's estimated to be \$400,000 to put in approximately 75 parking spaces. Mayor Bacon wants to know where we are going to put overflow parking. He also thinks that the property might be less than the asking price as well especially because of zoning. The asking price is so high that any builder could not build. This is one of the last parcels left on Atlanta Road.

Councilmembers Stoner and Welch think it was worth a conversation with the owners about their asking pricing. Councilmember Fennel says he would be interested in leasing the property for 30 days at a time if available. Councilmember Stoner will contact the property owners to have the conversation about the property for parking and price.

Mr. Jones announced Travis Landrum's resignation and stated that Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones would be the Interim Parks and Rec Director. Mr. Landrum informed Mr. Jones that Friday was his last day and he did not want to provide a notice of leaving his employment with the city. We have posted the position on the website and have reached out to the other candidate; however he has taken a position elsewhere.

Woofstock, hosted by a Star94 – a local radio station was a tremendous success this past weekend. There were many compliments from citizens to Council.

Mr. Jones wants to move forward to go ahead and hire the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Superintendent. They will take their direction from Tammi Saddler Jones until the Director position is filled.

Mayor Bacon discussed the Keep Smyrna Beautiful appointments, the position requires a monthly time commitment. Councilmembers Fennel and Wilkinson do not have appointees chosen yet for their perspective Wards. Both appointments will be tabled to the next meeting.

Because of today's leak events, there will be no department head reports.

SPLOST 2016 they have the actual hard numbers for the auditors who will be here next week.

HR Director Kay Bolick reviewed the suggested changes for the 2017 Insurance options that were discussed in detail at the COW Agenda review meeting on September 29, 2016. The employees will incur an additional 1% increase and the City will continue to move towards a lower percentage rate of contribution. There will also be a new Spouse Charge of \$100.00 per month for spouses who have available coverage at their own place of work but choose to stay on the City employee's policy.

Councilmember Fennel asked about a future joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Board again and wanted to look at dates in December. He also spoke about Cobb Municipal Association.

Mayor Bacon asked the Council if they had anything additional and there was nothing further; the meeting was adjourned at 6:52PM.