

City of Smyrna

*2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2018

6:00 PM

City Hall

Committee of the Whole

1. Roll Call

Mayor & Council – Mayor A. Max Bacon, Derek Norton, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Maryline Blackburn, Ron Fennel, Tim Gould

Staff – Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Christy Ullman (Executive Asst. to Mayor & Council), Elsa Thompson (Administrative Services Coordinator), Ashley Youmans (ICMA Management Fellow), Jennifer Bennett (Community Relations Director), David Lee (Police Chief), Kay Bolick (HR Director), Tracey Chambers (HR), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Russell Martin (Senior Planner), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director)

Guests – Larry Terry (Croy Engineering), Marsh & McLennan Agency Representatives – Guy Morrison (Employee Benefits Practice Leader), Stephen Cherniak (Health Management Consultant), Jamie Fisher (VP of Client Services)

2. Call to Order

Mayor A. Max Bacon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Please note that the recording for this meeting was lost and the minutes are based on notes taken at the meeting

3. Health Insurance - Marsh McLennan Agency

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones introduced Marsh & McLennan Agency Representatives: Guy Morrison, Stephen Cherniak, and Jamie Fisher.

The representatives handed out a copy of their Powerpoint presentation to Council and Staff.

Mr. Morrison provided claims updates for the months of January through July of 2018. He advised that anything decided at this meeting would go into effect on January 1, 2019. He highlighted reimbursements and pharmacy rebates and explained the process of how they selected vendors. He noted that that Blue Cross Blue Shield had better contracts than United. Mayor Bacon advised that he was not sure if he had good dental insurance. Mr. Morrison advised that Guardian was the incumbent and provided a comparison with Met Life and noted that although, Met Life was cheaper, Guardian was the most cost effective. Councilmembers expressed their concerns about dental implants not being covered. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired if preventative care came out of the yearly maximum. Ms. Fisher replied that it did.

Ms. Fisher then spoke about the retiree life insurance benefit and advised of the company's recommendation to do away with it. Mayor Bacon inquired what the cost for the retiree life insurance benefit was to the City annually and if it was offered to former employees for free. He was advised that it was available to them at no cost. Human Resources Director Kay Bolick advised that most cities no longer offered the retiree life benefit.

Mr. Morrison continued with his presentation and detailed the Health Projection and referred to the negotiated pharmacy contracts. He provided Council with a total cost summary, the 2017 Benchmarking report, and advised that 93% of Smyrna employees

were on the HMO plan and noted that only 14 Smyrna employees had PPO which was the most expensive plan. Mayor advised that he would like to see the PPO numbers to know how much it costs the City.

Mr. Cherniak provided a brief Wellness update.

Mr. Morrison gave a summary of the stop loss market and provided graphs about historical healthcare increases.

Ms. Fisher referred to pages 20 and 21 of the handout and briefly explained medical and prescription renewals, and City/ employee contribution options available for the upcoming year.

Mr. Morrison noted the key decisions that needed to be made and gave a summary of Ms. Fisher's presentation. Mayor Bacon stated that he would like their recommendations.

4. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones advised Council of upcoming events taking place at the Community Center: Woofstock 2019 on Saturday, September 29th and the Sensory Garden Grand Re-opening on Saturday, October 6th. She announced that the Smyrna Police Department (SPD) had partnered with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on their Prescription Drug Take Back program. She stated that SPD would be accepting "no longer used/and or expired prescription drugs" at the front desk, "no questions asked", and that the only requirement was that the drugs be in a closed container. She noted that SPD was in the process of securing a professional drug collection container which would allow citizens the ability to drop off their unused prescriptions in the self-service container. Ms. Saddler Jones advised that Community Development Director Ken Suddreth would be introducing two new staff members at the October 1st Pre-Council Meeting and reminded Council that they would have two 45 minute media training sessions at the next two Committee of the Whole Meetings with the first session taking place on October 11th and the next session on November 11th.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews recommended that Council and staff "be mindful of social media" because Councilman Charles "Corkey" Welch and Mayor A. Max Bacon had their accounts hacked.

5. Review of the October 1, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda

Mayor Bacon read over the items on the agenda. The following items were discussed.

Item 4A – Community Development Director Ken Suddreth stated that he and his staff anticipated the name change and advised that "most complexes sell to new owners after a few years". He noted that the zoning would not change. Mayor Bacon inquired about the new owners and if Community Development staff had met them. Mr. Suddreth advised that they had not.

Item 4B – not discussed; item was tabled to the November 5, 2018 Mayor and Council meeting at staff's request.

Item 4C – Mr. Suddreth advised that the code amendments were to fix all typos, general language and structure of certain paragraphs for the Zoning Ordinances.

Item 4D – Mr. Suddreth advised that information on forms had not been “picked up” on Zoning Ordinances and that the revisions would align the ordinances with the way things have developed over the years.

Item 4E – Mr. Suddreth advised that the update to the Mixed Use Zoning Ordinance needed to be added to make the ordinance compatible with the City’s comprehensive plan.

Item 4F/4G – Community Development Senior Planner Russell Martin noted that items 4F and 4G went together. He advised that they were adding two new residential zoning districts, R8 and R10. He stated that they were already in the City’s comprehensive plan. Mr. Suddreth advised that the RAD update was basically flipping “AD” in RAD. He advised that RAD was used for detached housing but once changed to RDA there would be a reduction in requests because there would be more density options available. Mr. Martin provided Council and staff with a handout that detailed the information discussed.

Item 4H – Mr. Suddreth advised that the Zoning Ordinance Tables needed to be amended to be consistent with the other amendments. He noted that the tables had not been updated with several changes in past years.

Mr. Suddreth stated that these items were “housekeeping issues” and that it was phase 1 of updates for his department. He advised that he planned to bring updates to Council quarterly. Mayor Bacon inquired if this was part of the retreat that was attended last year. Mr. Suddreth advised that it was. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired about verbiage that read “after 12 months that it reverts back to original zoning”. Mr. Suddreth advised that the language was rarely used, that there was a due process, and that they found that some projects were not completed within a year because sometimes it took people more than a year to get started. He noted that the language provided an unfair limitation on people and felt that having it would “open the City up to legal issues”. City Attorney Scott Cochran advised that if the City tried to enforce that it would become a legal issue and noted that it had never been enforced. Mr. Suddreth then noted that it was “not functional”. Mr. Cochran stated, “City should not want things to rezone automatically”. Councilmember Tim Gould inquired if there could be a revision clause put into the zoning. Mr. Cochran stated that it would be dangerous. Ms. Wilkinson stated that she did not feel “keeping the language would hurt anything”. Mr. Suddreth stated that he did not believe it would be good practice to keep the language after it was discovered. Mr. Suddreth then advised that regardless of the conditions listed, if the individual decided not to proceed with their project as initially zoned, they would have to go back through the process for rezoning. Mr. Cochran noted that the zoning went with the property not with the owners. Ms. Wilkinson inquired if there were different fees associated.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones read over the Consent Agenda. The following items were discussed.

Item 7E – Ms. Saddler Jones advised that the pricing for the City’s Wellness Program had not changed in 7 years.

Community Relations Director Jennifer Bennett advised that Wade’s Restaurant was requesting authorization to sell alcohol in the restaurant’s parking lot at an upcoming outdoor event they were having. Mayor Bacon inquired where everyone would park if they would be closing of their parking lot for the event. Ms. Saddler Jones noted that

there was a similar event this past August. Mr. Andrews advised that staff would get more clarification about the event from Wade's Restaurant.

No items were added to the agenda.

6. Other Business

Mayor A. Max Bacon advised Council, "if they had a City issued iPad that they were not using to turn it in". He noted that there was a phone number attached to each of them and it was costing the City \$38 per month, per iPad. He then stated that he would be turning his iPad in because he rarely used it. Councilmembers Derek Norton and Corkey Welch stated that they would be turning their iPads in as well. Mayor Bacon instructed Council that they were not to order anything from the IT Department without prior authorization and stated that there were "a few phones" that could not be accounted for.

City Attorney Scott Cochran advised that there needed be an Executive Session. Mayor Bacon stated that they would go into Executive Session as soon as he went around the room.

Councilmember Andrea Blustein advised that the lighting at Linear Park was really needed. She listed criminal activity that had taken place at the park with a stabbing being the most recent incident and stated that Smyrna Police advised that they would be providing extra patrol and walking the park at night also. Ms. Blustein advised that she felt cameras were also needed at the park because of the increase in crimes. Mayor Bacon noted that the stabbing happened at 8:30am in the morning.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn advised that she would like to "revisit" the land use issue discussion regarding her Ward. It was decided that the discussion would take place at the Pre-Council meeting on October 1st. Ms. Blackburn thanked Councilmember Derek Norton his participation in recognizing a young man in the community who had done a good deed for an elderly citizen.

Councilmember Derek Norton advised that he and Ms. Blackburn presented an award to the young that had been recognized at the Council meeting on September 17th for his good deed of pushing an elderly citizen for over a mile to her home when her electric wheelchair stalled. He noted that Evander Hollifield would also be calling the young man.

Councilmember Tim Gould provided an update on trees being cut down and crosswalks on Campbell Road. Mr. Gould also inquired about HOA road priorities.

Mayor Bacon stated that he that trees being cut down would cause an issue with citizens and inquired how many trees were being cut down.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advertised the City health plan's new option of communicating with a doctor via your cell phone, laptop, or computer (if it had a webcam) which is aimed at reducing unnecessary visits to the doctor.

Mayor Bacon inquired if employees knew about this option and stated that he felt City employees were not informed enough about the benefits available to them. He made note that there were derogatory messages on his Facebook page.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones advised that staff was looking into purchasing

a plaque which would display the City's "good news".

Councilmember Derek Norton made a motion for the meeting to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters; seconded by Councilmember Ron Fennel.

The motion carried by unanimous vote by all of the Councilmembers present; Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch was absent.

Meeting went into Executive session 8:17 PM

Councilmember Ron Fennel made a motion to approve the settlement and have the Mayor execute all documents; seconded by Councilmember Derek Norton.

The motion carried by unanimous vote by all of the Councilmembers present; Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch was absent.

7. Adjournment

Mayor A. Max Bacon declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM