

City of Smyrna

*2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 28, 2018

6:00 PM

City Hall

Committee of the Whole

1. Roll Call

Council: Derek Norton (Mayor Pro Tem), Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Maryline Blackburn, Charles Welch, Ron Fennel

Excused: Mayor A. Max Bacon

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Elsa Thompson (Administrative Services Coordinator), Ashley Youmans (ICMA Management Fellow), Jennifer Bennett (Community Development Director), Scott Stokes (Public Works Director), Chris Addicks (IT Director), Davi Santos (IT), Kathe (IT GIS Specialist), Richard Garland (Parks & Rec Director), Dan Campbell (IT), Sgt. Louis Defense (SPD)

Guests: Larry Terry (Croy Engineering), Averno Gumbs (Intern), Pedro Jesus (Intern), Smyrna Little League Representatives

2. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Norton advised that Mayor A. Max Bacon would not be present at this meeting because he was not feeling well. He also advised that the Mayor and Council Meeting agenda would be read off first since Public Works Director Scott Stokes only had one item on the agenda.

3. IT Department Presentation

IT Department Director Chris Addicks gave an overview of the IT Department's duties and presented his staff structure. He advised that his department consisted of 5 staff members, including him. Mr. Addicks introduced each staff member and gave a brief summary of each of their duties – Kathe Roper, a GIS Specialist did the City maps and she has also done "story maps" for the historical trail; Davi Santos, the Systems Administrator with a primary focus on MUNIS; Dan Campbell, the System Support Specialist handled most of the help tickets for any issues that arise on a day to day; Dat Luu, the Systems Manager handled the City's network and servers. Mr. Addicks stated that the IT Department handled most of the City's electronics which included the Police Department radios. He spoke briefly about cyber security and the steps that staff could take to assist in maintaining a secure network and noted that his department had many upcoming major projects.

Council thanked the IT Department for their great work and their presentation.

4. Smyrna Little League/ State Championship - Richard Garland

Mr. Ethan Shapiro came forward. He advised that he was the President of Smyrna Little League and that Smyrna Little League would be hosting the State Championship Tournament for 10 participating teams from all around the state. He introduced a few Smyrna Little League Boardmembers that were present at the meeting; Elaine Isley (former President of Smyrna Little League), Lisa Dunn (Vice President), Amy McPherson (Boardmember) and Ms. McPherson's children were also present; he noted that her son, Chance was on the 12 Year Old All Star Team and would be participating

in the tournament. He stated that Smyrna Little League has hosted several tournaments in the past but that the 12 year olds group had the opportunity to go to regionals and if that happened, the game would be televised on ESPN. He stated that he felt it was a great opportunity and good for the City. He stated that there are extra responsibilities when hosting one of these events beyond what they normally do when they host; the event is one week long (July 14th – 21st); they will host a banquet for all 10 teams at SunTrust Stadium. He noted that the Atlanta Braves donated game tickets to all of the teams. He noted that there were two issues that Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland wanted him to speak to Council about. One being the lighting at the park, which normally turned off at 11pm. He advised that Little League rules dictated that no new inning could begin past midnight so they were requesting that the lighting be extended until 12:30am or 1am in case any games ran late. He advised that the latest game would start at 8:30pm but felt that it would be highly unlikely that the games would run past midnight but wanted to be prepared.

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton inquired about the timeframe for the tournament. Mr. Shapiro advised that it was a week-long tournament which ran from July 14th through July 21st. He stated that the Saturday and Sunday games would be held in the morning so the lighting issue was not a worry and noted his concern was primarily the Monday through Friday games.

Councilmember Ron Fennel inquired what the City Ordinance stated regarding park lighting.

City Attorney Scott Cochran advised that he did not believe the ordinance addressed the lighting.

Ms. McPherson advised that they had hosted the 12 Year Old District games before and received special permissions from the City in the past.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired what Ward the park was in. She was advised it was in Ward 6. She noted that Ward had no representative at this time.

Mr. Shapiro then advised about the second issue which was parking. He stated that they normally do not charge the guests for parking when they host tournaments however this tournament came with a lot of expenses. He noted that Little League did not pay for anything and since Smyrna Little League was hosting, they incurred the costs.

Mr. Fennel inquired about the estimated costs. Mr. Shapiro advised that they expected to spend approximately \$11,600 to host and that they would attempt to recoup some of that money back from programs, concessions, t-shirts, etc., and parking. He stated that what they have done in the past was charge \$5 per day to park or \$20 for the whole week. He advised that per Little League, this was a donation request and that parents were not forced to pay but it was a recommendation. He noted that most parents come expecting to pay.

Mr. Fennel inquired since this was a public facility and public parking what kinds of rules needed to be adhered to.

City Attorney Scott Cochran recommended that the item be put on the Mayor and Council agenda for approval to set precedent and in addition explain the purpose of the event and advise where the funds would be going.

Councilmember Corkey Welch inquired how many teams would be participating in the tournament and what their fee was to play. Mr. Shapiro advised that there were 10

teams and they incurred no costs to participate in the tournament.

Mr. Fennel asked Mr. Shapiro if his team incurred parking costs when his team participated in tournaments hosted by other entities. Mr. Shapiro stated that they did. He noted that if a Smyrna resident came to the game and did not want to pay to park, the resident would be allowed to park.

Mr. Norton asked the Councilmembers if they all agreed to add the parking item to the agenda as part of Item 8H. All of the Councilmembers present agreed.

Mr. Shapiro then addressed Item 8H; road closure on Hunter Road between Concord Road and Dunn Street SE. He advised that Smyrna Little League was concerned that visiting families would not understand that there was an active road behind the bleachers and as a safety precaution would like the road to be closed during game times.

Ms. Wilkinson inquired if the American Legion parking would be used. Mr. Shapiro advised that they had received permission to park there.

Mr. Fennel inquired if they would be charging people to park at the American Legion. Mr. Shapiro advised that they would not be charging anyone to park there and that they more than likely allow staff and the empires to park there.

Mr. Norton advised that the item language needed to be corrected to reflect the timeframes for road closures to take place only during game times.

A brief discussion was had about the logistics of parking access and possible traffic issues.

Mr. Norton dismissed Mr. Garland for the evening since he had no other items on the agenda.

Everyone thanked the Smyrna Little League representatives for their time.

5. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones asked the IT Director Chris Addicks to play the public service announcement videos that the Community Relations Department had been working on.

Community Relations Director Jennifer Bennett came forward and advised that the videos were recorded in order to give the public a better understanding of the new Hands-Free Law that was going into effect on July 1, 2018. She stated that they recorded 4 different versions which would be played, one being a longer version. She noted that the videos starred 2 City of Smyrna Law Enforcement Officers and a Campbell High School student. Ms. Bennett advised that they had launched the longer version of the video online and that it had reached 2,500 people and had already been viewed by 1,500 times.

Council commended Ms. Bennett, Sgt. Louis Defense and Videographer Pedro Jesus for the great work they did on the videos.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised that he had reached out to all of the Planning & Zoning and Downtown Development Authority members and provided

them with their new City emails. Mr. Andrews reminded Council about the upcoming July 27th trip to tour performing arts centers in Suwanee, Woodstock and Sugar Hill.

Ms. Saddler Jones advised that Keep Smyrna Beautiful was awarded a \$7,000 Community Watershed Grant from Keep America Beautiful. She advised that KSB would be working with Richard Garland and Maxwell Ruppensburg to do a stream bank restoration at Lake Court Park. She noted that the information was not to be made public until Keep America Beautiful gave the City an official press release. Ms. Saddler Jones advised Council of RFID tagging of 80,000 items that would be taking place at Smyrna Library. She noted that RFID was an ID system that used small radio frequency identification devices for identification and tracking purposes. She provided Council with a copy of a published article Deputy Fire Chief Brian Marcos wrote for Fire House Magazine. She provided Council and staff with the information for Shane Watola's funeral and reminded Council that the City would be closed on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Ms. Saddler Jones advised that there would be a Retirement Luncheon for Public Works Director Scott Stoke on Thursday, July 5th at Brawner Hall and noted that she would be appointing Assistant Director Frank Martin to be the Interim Public Works Director position until filled. Councilmember Corkey Welch inquired if there was any consideration into splitting the Public Works Department into two departments and noted that most cities have a Public Works Director and a Water/Sewer Director. Ms. Saddler Jones advised that it was being discussed and the option was being explored.

6. Review of the July 2, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda

addressed earlier in the meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton noted that there were only items on the Consent Agenda. He inquired if there was any additional information reference Item 8D, the Title Ad Valorem Tax.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones advised that it was something that was addressed annually.

Mr. Norton then asked Public Works Director Scott Stokes to address Items 8E and 8F. Mr. Stokes advised that the reason for rejecting all of the bids was due to wanting to change the scope of work and also add another road to the project. He noted that once the bids were officially rejected at the Council Meeting on July 2nd and that the City would re-advertise for rebids on July 3rd. He stated that the bids would be revised to strengthen the scope to be certain that the contractors comprehend the bids thoroughly and understood what was expected of the projects. Mr. Stokes then addressed Item 8G; he advised that new HVAC units would be installed at City Hall and at the City Jail. He noted that the contractor was the lowest bidder and that they had previously done work for Cobb County. He stated that the HVAC replacements would be a long project due to the large size of the units being installed.

Mr. Norton asked Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland to address Item 8H reference road closures for the upcoming State Championship Tournament. Mr. Garland advised that Parks and Recreation staff had met with Smyrna Little League reference the tournament and that some issues came up that he felt should be brought before Council to be properly addressed. Mr. Garland then asked the Smyrna Little League representatives to come forward and address Council and Staff. ****this item was addressed in Section 4 of these minutes****

Mr. Norton inquired if anything needed to be added to the agenda. Nothing was added.

7. Other Business

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton advised that he would not be at the July 2, 2018 Mayor and Council Meeting. He then asked City Clerk Terri Graham to speak on disclosures.

Ms. Graham advised Council and staff of the due dates for the disclosure forms and she also provided information about the upcoming July 24, 2018 election and voting precinct locations.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired if Council would consider adding an Animal Control Officer position to the City staff. She noted that she has received many complaints from citizens about dogs roaming the neighborhoods and parks without a leash.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn stated that she also had concerns about dogs roaming in the neighborhoods unleashed.

Councilmember Corkey Welch advised that he had never received any calls or complaints about unleashed dogs.

Councilmember Ron Fennel stated that he had never received any calls about dogs either.

Mr. Norton asked staff to provide Council with information from when the City employed an Animal Control Officer.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised that he would get that information for them.

There were no further discussions or comments.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.