

**Pre-Council Meeting - Preliminary**  
**March 4, 2019**  
**6:00 PM**

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

*Absent: Ron Fennel*

*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), 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.**

The Mayor introduced Ms. Precious Ojiagbaje who would serve as Honorary Mayor for the evening.

**City Administrator Report**

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones stated that she was going to yield her time to guests that were there to speak about the Smyrna Streets Alive event.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews introduced Laura Bracci and Mary Groover who are Smyrna residents and co-chairs of the Smyrna Community Health Advisory Council. They were at the meeting to present information to the Mayor and Council about Smyrna Streets Alive.

Ms. Bracci explained that the idea for the event came from Columbia (the Country) which started a program back in 1974 and still closes roads to this day for people to gather. The City of Atlanta does this program four times a year. The first annual Smyrna Streets Alive event was held on October 14, 2018 and twenty-four businesses participated. Businesses were not charged but were asked to come out and set up some sort of activity for people to do together that gets them active and outdoors.

Ms. Groover talked about the positive feedback that was received from the businesses as well as participants. They wanted the City to sponsor another event to take place on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6pm. Ultimately, they would like to alter the location from last year to a more visible area like Atlanta Road. They also asked for some more funding for advertising to get the word out to the community. The possibility of selling t-shirts was discussed as a way to raise money for events in future years.

Mayor Bacon reiterated that they would like more bathroom facilities along the route. He also asked what all the City did to set up for the event last year such as setting up blockades to close down streets.

Mr. Andrews stated that the point of this presentation was to get a jump on preparations for the event because last year things were last minute, and communications were not as good as they could have been.

Ms. Saddler Jones asked for the neighborhood response. They explained that it was very positive. People who lived along the route set up things to do as well such as a karaoke stand.

Councilmember Welch asked if there were ways for people who lived in the area to get to and from their homes. Management Fellow Ashley Youmans explained that notification was sent out and arrangements were made for people to be able to get to and from during the event.

The Mayor suggested turning it back over to staff and allowing them to come up with potential alternate routes, improvements, and numbers for the budget.

Mayor Bacon then asked what type of businesses participated last year. Ms. Bracci stated that they targeted local businesses and that some examples of companies that participated included local gyms and doctor's offices.

The organizers stated that they would love to see the route changed to include Market Village and Atlanta Road up to Windy Hill Road which is just under a mile. This would be similar to what the City of Atlanta does when they close down Peachtree Street.

Ms. Saddler Jones said that Community Outreach did an updated events calendar and that there were copies available for everyone to take.

Mr. Scott Andrews spoke of his trip with members of the Youth Council to the Capitol last Friday. He said that it was a great experience all around. They got to witness former Councilmember Teri Anulewicz pass her first bill and have their picture taken with the Governor.

Ms. Youmans invited everyone to come to the Citizen's Academy Administration Session which will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Ms. Saddler Jones reminded everyone that there was a Vision Plan Community Update Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm over at the Community Center.

### **Review of the Agenda for the March 4, 2019 Council Meeting**

Mayor Bacon opened discussion of the evening's agenda. He was going to allow the Honorary Mayor to take over once the Mayor's Report was complete.

The Mayor asked for clarification regarding item 5A being tabled. Mr. Suddreth answered that it will be tabled until the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is necessary because the notice was not properly posted per requirements. It must be visible from the outside of the building facing the road and this one was posted on the inside. It was an oversight but had been corrected after Community Development contacted Adventure Outdoors to let them know where the sign needed to be posted.

Mr. Welch asked if there was anything in our ordinance dealing with businesses within a business. City Attorney Scott Cochran stated that there was nothing dealing with that at this time but that it could be added.

Mr. Suddreth clarified that they are given the signs and it is their responsibility to post them. He said that he would send someone out to the business to check and make sure that the sign was now correctly posted so no more delays would be needed.

The Mayor wanted to know if the applicant was aware that the hearing would have to be tabled until the next meeting. The HR person at the business said that she would notify the applicant of the change.

Mayor Bacon asked if there were any questions about the second privilege license on the agenda.

Ms. Wilkinson asked why there were some differences between the wording on the agenda and the staff summary. Mr. Suddreth explained that it was all the same with just some wording moved around.

The Mayor asked when the parking lease agreement would expire. Mr. Cochran stated that from the date the agreement is signed until the end of the semester.

Mr. Welch asked if the parking spots were being paid for. It was explained that the City would be receiving \$30.00 per parking spot.

Mayor Bacon wanted to know if the spots would be marked so that people would not lose the spots that they paid for. The spots would not be marked and no problems with the spaces were anticipated.

A requirement of the Police Grant on the agenda was that a public hearing be held before the Memorandum of Understanding could be approved.

Mayor Bacon talked about the Campbell Baseball game that took place on Friday, March 1, 2019. He threw the first pitch along with Dr. Jeanne Walker and Ms. Kara Gold. He said that the field looked great.

The Mayor asked Ms. Christy Ullman to provide information to Council about the registration for the upcoming GMA Convention. He stated that he was glad to see Ms. Ullman back to work after being out with the flu.

Ms. Andrea Blustein said 2125 Spring Road is the address for Linear Park. This information was finally found out from the person that handles GIS for the City.

Ms. Wilkinson inquired if there had been any complaints or reports of problems due to flooding caused by the rain. Ms. Blackburn had received a complaint from a citizen and Ms. Saddler Jones was going to check with Public Works to see if they had heard anything.

In response to the discussion, Ms. Wilkinson noted that she had driven by a new home that was recently built on Bank Street and the water from the rain was close to entering the house. She expressed concern about flooding in that area and wanted to know what could or should be done about it. The Mayor thought that there had been a pump installed in that area some time ago, but Ms. Wilkinson said she was referring to a different area of Bank Street.

Mr. Scott Andrews wanted to mention that Councilmember Norton was also down at the Capitol when the Youth Council was there to visit. He had forgotten to mention him during the earlier discussion.

Mr. Norton had some concerns about development on the east side of Bell Drive. The homes look nice but the roads, grounds, driveways need a lot of work. He was afraid to drive down there in his pick-up truck. He would like to see something done to clean up and complete the work in that area.

Mr. Welch had a meeting with Mr. Andrews and Ms. Jennie Eldredge, Director of the Museum about some construction. The focus of the meeting was on the downstairs which will house the research room and serve as the home of the Smyrna Historical and Genealogical Society. Ms. Eldredge is proposing putting up a wall to divide the areas as well as some furnishings and flooring.

Mayor Bacon asked for an estimated date of opening for the Museum. Mr. Welch said probably toward the end of the year around September or October. Mr. Andrews explained that it took some time to go through the artifacts and then move them to be stored until construction is complete. They are still seeking items for the museum to complete certain displays such as Lockheed Martin and the Rose Garden.

Some discussion was had as to who or where additional items could come from.

The Mayor thought that there was enough there to display without anything additional, however Mr. Andrews said there was not enough quality items to complete the displays at the level that they are seeking to achieve.

Mr. Suddreth announced that Mr. Rusty Martin and his wife recently welcomed a healthy baby girl.

**Mayor Bacon adjourned the Pre-Council Meeting at 6:50 PM.**