

City of Smyrna

*2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 29, 2018

6:00 PM

City Hall

Committee of the Whole

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor A. Max Bacon, Andrea Blustein, Charles "Corkey" Welch, Ron Fennel, Tim Gould, Maryline Blackburn, Susan Wilkinson

Council (Excused): Derek Norton

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), Richard Garland (Parks & Rec Director), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), David Lee (Police Chief), Robert Harvey (Deputy Police Chief), Tom Boland (Economic Development Manager), Jessica Myers (Dept. Admin Asst.), Jodi Mills (Sr. Prog. Coord.), Tyler Addison (Athletics & Aquatics Director), James Vojtisek (Parks Superintendent), Lee Sanders (Event/Sales Asst.), Theresa Galletta (Facility Event Coord), Lewis Lay (Recreation Coord.), Jason Krogh (Parks Admin. Asst.)

Guests: Larry Terry (Croy Engineering), Eric Bosman (Kimley-Horn Rep.), Rich Allen (Axon Enterprise, Inc. Rep.)

2. Call to Order

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

3. Kimley-Horn Presentation - Eric Bosman

Community Development Director Ken Suddreth introduced Eric Bosman, a Kimley-Horn Representative. Mr. Bosman advised during his presentation that the "Top End 285 Transit Feasibility Study" was a partnership between the Cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville, Dunwoody, Sandy Springs, Smyrna, and Tucker and the Cumberland and Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (CID). He noted that that the top end of I-285 had 18 miles that coincided with Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) managed lane program and advised that Kimley-Horn was the company doing the transit study. He stated that they would compare and contrast the feasibility of rubber-wheel versus rail transit in GDOT's express lanes and noted that managed lanes were not currently being designed to run rail lines. Mr. Bosman advised that one of their many goals was to facilitate discussions, in mid to late December, among the Top End Mayors regarding the potential for high-capacity transit along I-285. He also advised Council and staff of other goals and objectives of the study which included reviewing the revenue potential of at least two special service district models along I-285 and listed the process: interviews with each Mayor/City Manager and CID; December Mayors meeting to review transit feasibility; January Mayors meeting to review special service district models and stated that the process should be complete by early February 2019.

4. Parks & Recreation Department Presentation

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland gave an overview of the department's accomplishments over the last year. He stated that the department had 22 full time employees and 60 part-time employees and noted that during the summer, the department could have as many as 100 part-time employees. Mr. Garland also briefly

listed the different programs they offer.

Department Administrative Assistant Jessica Myers introduced herself and stated that she had been with the City a little more than 12 years. She listed her job duties, which included accounting, assisting the director when needed, and handling rentals for all City parks. Ms. Myers noted the positive comments she received from citizens about the Community Center.

Athletics and Aquatics Director Tyler Addison stated that he started his career with the City as a lifeguard in 2000. He gave a brief overview of his position's responsibilities and stated that he also was a swimming instructor.

Facility Event Coordinator Theresa Galletta stated that she oversaw the City's 4 historic buildings – Brawner Hall, the Reed House, Aunt Fannie's Cabin, and Taylor Brawner House. She gave an overview of the various events held at the facilities and advertised "Christmas at Brawner's" Coat Drive that would take place on December 14th from 5pm-8pm. She advised that they have received over 200 donated coats every year which they provide to various local ministries.

Events and Sales Assistant Lee Sanders stated that he'd been working for the City for over 3 years and advised that he handled all bookings except the athletic bookings. He noted that did animation and motion graphics and had been utilizing his skills for some of the department's advertisements.

Senior Program Coordinator Jodi Mills advised that she had been in recreation since the early 1990s and gave an overview of her job related duties. She introduced staff member, Lewis Lay and noted that Ms. Lay had recently returned from a trip with some of the City's senior residents, where they visited the Civil Rights Trail. Ms. Lay praised the City of Smyrna and stated how much she loved working here. Ms. Mills introduced Jason Krogh. Parks Administrative Assistant Jason Krogh advised that he moved here from South Florida a few months back. He stated that he was looking to add more camps over the various school breaks as well as develop and implement a variety of adult and children programs. Ms. Mills advertised advised that they had expanded the Christmas events this year and gave an overview of the various holiday events taking place.

Mr. Garland introduced the City's new Parks Superintendent, James Vojtisek. Mr. Vojtisek gave an overview of his duties and responsibilities and noted some of his goals within the department.

Mayor Bacon commended Parks and Recreation staff members and thanked them for what they do for the City and the citizens.

Mr. Garland listed the department's most impactful accomplishments and noted how encouraged he was about implementing some of the projects in the Parks Master Plan and thanked Council for the opportunity to work for the City of Smyrna. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones advised that Carlos Perez would be doing a presentation on the Parks Master Plan at the December 13th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mayor Bacon extended a "congratulations" to Park's Maintenance Coordinator Bert Turnell and Jessica Myers for winning State awards.

5. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones announced the "Mayor's Education Awards" being held on December 3rd at 5:30pm, she noted that it would be preceded by a reception at 5:00pm and advised that there would be no Pre-Council Meeting that evening. Ms. Saddler Jones made a recommendation that Monday, December 31, 2018 be a City Holiday. She noted that the City was already scheduled to be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 so many employees would be off on Monday, December 31st. Mayor Bacon inquired if the Cobb County would be closed on December 31st; Ms. Saddler Jones advised that she was not sure. After a brief discussion, Councilmembers present were in agreement with the recommendation.

Ms. Saddler Jones advised that staff was recommending that they City add more cyber security based off what happened to the City of Atlanta. She stated that for additional 1 million dollars coverage above the \$250,000 automatic "no additional cost" coverage offered through GIRMA, the annual cost would be \$6,834. IT Director Chris Addicks noted that so far, the City of Atlanta has spent approximately 9 million dollars trying to recover from the cyber hack that impacted them. After a brief discussion, Councilmember present were in agreement with the recommendation.

Ms. Saddler Jones displayed the approved 2019 NFL Super Bowl Banners and advised that City could not only select one design because they came as a bundle. She advised that Community Relations Director Jennifer Bennett was working with the vendor to have them displayed along Spring Road and noted that the City was still not sure how much the banners would cost. Mayor Bacon advised that he attended a meeting at Cobb County and found out that the NFL would not cover any costs that the cities would face for hosting the Super Bowl in Atlanta. There were brief discussions about what to do with the banners after the Super Bowl.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews reminded Council that on Dec. 5th tree work begin at Zion Cemetery. Ms. Saddler Jones advised that the Community Relations Department had been contacted by Rabbi Ephraim Silverman of Chabad of Cobb about hosting a menorah lighting. ; Thursday, Dec. 6th – "Menorah Lighting" in front of City Hall at 6pm, she noted that Rabbi Ephraim Silverman of Chabad of Cobb would be officiating the event and that there would be live music and Hanukkah treats. She also advised that the program was scheduled for 1 hour with no street closures; Friday, Dec. 7th – "Shop with a Hero" SFD, SPD and City Employees will Christmas shop with a group of 70 students then take them to the Community Center to take pictures with Santa; Thursday, Dec. 13th – COW meeting: ExteNet Presentation, she advised that it was recommended by Ryan Fender from GMA because of a new FCC Law that may affect site fees, reducing them from \$1,350 to \$270; Ms. Saddler Jones announced the Employee Holiday Luncheon that would take place on Thursday, December 13th at the Community Center from 11:30am to 1pm and advised that employees were encouraged to wear their ugliest Christmas sweater or most outrageous holiday attire.

6. Review of the December 3, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda

Mayor Bacon advised that they would be being by addressing Item 4F, referencing approval of the "purchase of 80 body worn cameras and 76 vehicle mounted dash camera systems, along with all required peripheral hardware/software and maintenance" for the Police Department and noted the costs that would be incurred by the City. Deputy Chief Robert Harvey gave an overview of the body worn cameras and why the ones they currently have needed to be upgraded. Mr. Harvey advised that PD administration saw a need and started doing research. He advised that he met representatives of Axon Enterprise, Inc. at a conference in Philadelphia and was very

impressed. He gave a list of surrounding cities that were already using Axon and made note that the antiquated system they were currently using was causing issues with open records requests. City Attorney Scott Cochran advised that confidential information must be edited from the videos and that "presently there was no way to edit the information out of videos". Mr. Cochran stated that not being able to properly edit had become a "huge issue" and noted that the new software had the ability to redact information and would be "very helpful". Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch expressed his concern about the "new company" going out of business and stated that he did not want the City to incur another expense if it did. Chief David Lee advised that the new company had been around a lot longer but were operating under another name. Councilmember Ron Fennel advised that the new company had purchased the company that manufactured the older body worn cameras. Rich Allen, an Axon Representative, advised that Axon had been in the "bodycam industry" for 12 years and that they were the largest body worn camera vendor in the world. Mayor Bacon inquired if this was a budgeted item. Mr. Harvey advised that it was not. Mr. Lee stated that he felt that "if money was spent to upgrade the current equipment and the item was tabled until July 2019 (in order to add it to the new budget) it would be a waste of money". There was a brief discussion about where the allocation would come from (if approved). Mayor Bacon stated that he wanted "officers to have the best equipment" and that he was in agreement with acquiring the new software. Mr. Lee advised that the new equipment would not need to be turned off/on manually like the current equipment. Mr. Cochran inquired about the records retention schedule. Mr. Harvey stated that he believed "non-evidential" matters were held for 6 months and "evidence" for 3 or 5 years. After some discussions the Mayor asked that the meeting proceed to the other items on the agenda.

Mayoral Report – Mayor Bacon advised that JRM Management handled the "Food Truck Tuesdays" for the City and commended them for the donation of \$10,000 to the Educational Foundation. There was some discussion about JRM Management's role in "Food Truck Tuesdays".

Recognition of City Employees – City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones listed which employees would be recognized and which award they would receive.

Item 6A – Mayor Bacon inquired why this item would be tabled again. Mr. Cochran advised that it was ready however staff thought it "would be smart" to table it to make sure that everything was "covered".

Item 6B - D – Mayor Bacon inquired if there were any additional appointments that needed to be taken care of. Councilmember Tim Gould advised that Nell Robinson needed to be reappointed as the Ward 6 representative for Keep Smyrna Beautiful. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson advised that she had a citizen serving on two boards, he was stepping down from one of the boards and that she was looking for someone to fill to fill the seat. Mayor Bacon inquired if she had selected someone already and she advised that she did not.

6E - Acquisition of Properties on Windy Hill – Mr. Cochran listed the properties and gave a brief overview of ongoing issues in the acquisition process. There were some discussions about the issues hindering the acquisition.

Consent Agenda – no discussion

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised that he had received word during the meeting that Deputy Fire Chief Brian Marcos was requesting that "5 dash cams and

5 body cams” be added for the Fire Marshalls to Item 6F. Council expressed their concerns about the Fire Department requesting them. Mr. Harvey advised that he was told by Fire Personnel that the cameras could utilized to catch someone leaving the scene of a fire or possibly “catch something” that they may have overlooked. Mr. Andrews advised that the cost would be an additional \$54,000. Mayor Bacon made note that the late request was unfair to staff. Ms. Saddler Jones advised that staff would be speaking to the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief for clarification. No items were added to the agenda

7. Other Business

Councilmember Ron Fennel advised that he would be bringing his family to the Mayoral Awards because his sons’ teachers would be getting awards.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn inquired whom she should address about speed limits. She was advised to speak to the City Engineer. Ms. Saddler Jones inquired the street name Ms. Blackburn was concerned about. Ms. Blackburn advised that it was King Spring. City Attorney Scott Cochran inquired if radar could be “run” in areas where the speed limit was less than 35 miles per hour. Deputy Police Chief Robert Harvey advised that in certain areas such as school zones and historic districts they could. Mr. Harvey gave an overview of the process of changing the speed limit and offered to assist Ms. Blackburn with submitting the necessary paperwork to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the area she was concerned about.

Councilmember Tim Gould advised that he attended a Tree Board had a meeting and that they were considering modifying the tree ordinance. Mayor Bacon stated that he did not want to adopt anything that would prohibit the City from annexing property. Mr. Gould advised that Jan Campbell was stepping down after 10 years and that he would like to recognize her at a Council meeting.

City Clerk Terri Graham reminded everyone about the upcoming election on December 4th and noted that early voting would end on November 30th.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised Council that they may receive emails complaining about the Parks Director.

8. Adjournment

Mayor A. Max Bacon adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.