



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, November 3, 2016

6:00 PM

City Hall

Roll Call

Council: Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Ron Fennel, Derek Norton, Corkey Welch

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (Assistant City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Christiana Craddock (Executive Assistant to the City Administrator), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Government Management Fellow), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Rachelle Ballard (Human Resources Manager), Scott Stokes (Public Works Director)

Guests: Richard Garland (Parks and Rec Director Candidate) and Randy Logan (GMA)

Absent: Mayor A. Max Bacon and City Administrator Mike Jones

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

City Administrator Report

Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones introduced the candidate recommended for the Parks and Rec Director position, Mr. Richard Garland, and asked him to tell Council about himself. He gave his professional background, which included 25 years as the head of the Parks and Rec Authority in Rome/Floyd County as well as a background in sports turf. He said that Parks and Rec was his passion and he valued how important it is to a community for growth, fellowship, and giving children an opportunity through athletics to learn how to succeed, fail, and accept that failure.

Councilmember Ron Fennel asked Mr. Garland about tennis courts and using the Hotel/Motel tax for them, and Mr. Garland explained how they built their new tennis facility in Rome by using that tax to help with the operation. He said using the hotel/motel tax to cover marketing for new facilities was a creative way to use those funds because if a City is not prepared to spend money to market a facility, then they need to reconsider such a project, because local tennis play would not support a facility that large (60 courts, which is hosting the ACC tennis tournament in 2017). He also mentioned the benefit of building facilities that are multi-functional and could be used for soccer, rugby, lacrosse, and cricket. He said it was also important to think about concessions and the potential to lease space in such facilities. Councilmember Corkey Welch asked Mr. Garland to share the various programs he had in Rome, and he listed a plethora of sports programs, day camp offerings, and special populations programs. Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz mentioned the importance of maintaining a level of accessibility and affordability in the City's programs. There was discussion

about the benefits of sports turf in parks facilities. Councilmember Ron Fennel asked Mr. Garland what made Smyrna appeal to him, and he said that he was aware of the growth and opportunities happening in Smyrna and it was the right place at the right time. He said he initially applied for the Parks Superintendent job, but then applied for the Director's position when he saw that was open; his preference was to start at the Director level, but he was willing to enter at whatever level to get in the door. Councilmember Derek Norton asked if he would be moving to the City, and Mr. Garland said he would, but he and his wife needed to sell their home and she needed to find a job (she is currently the director of the Child Advocacy Center in Rome). The conversation ended with discussion about the City's trail system, the Council versus Authority structure of the Parks and Rec Department, and the diversity and large minority population in Smyrna, and the importance of that community being represented in the Parks programs. It was announced that his appointment would be added to the Agenda for Monday's Council meeting, with a start date of November 21st.

Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones informed Council that they needed to be present in Council Chambers on Monday at 5:30pm so the new camera angles could be adjusted and set for each Councilmember. Councilmember Ron Fennel said there was a Finance Committee meeting at 5:00pm on Monday.

Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones asked Councilmember Derek Norton to tell Council about the Citizen of the Year Award given to Chief David Lee at the Smyrna Area Council breakfast. He said the entire command staff from the PD was in attendance, as well as Chief Lee's wife, Lisa. Chief Lee was completely surprised by the award, which was much deserved.

Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones told Council that dates were being looked into for the Mayor and Council retreat in February, and right now the second week of February (Thursday and Friday) was tentative. There were concerns expressed about the Georgia Assembly session and scheduling around that, and she said she would look at some other options and check the availability of Mr. Mike Hourihan, retreat facilitator.

Discussion Re: Defined Benefit Plan - Kay Bolick and Randy Logan (GMA)

HR Director Kay Bolick introduced Mr. Randy Logan and said he would be speaking to Council about some of the death benefits that need to be updated in the City's defined benefit plan. Mr. Randy Logan said there were some things he wanted to bring to Council's attention that GMA is encouraging the City to update to make the pre-retirement death benefits reflective of what they should be, and bring them to the standard among all GMA cities. He said that if an employee qualifies for pre-retirement death benefit, the employee can make anyone they would like to be the beneficiary. He said an employee names a primary and a secondary, but if neither are living, then the benefit goes to the employee's estate. However, the City's current plan states that in order to be eligible for the pre-retirement death benefit, an employee has to be at least 30 years of age with 5 years credit in service. He gave an example that if an employee is 29 years old and has worked at the City for ten years and he passes away, then according to the City's plan, no benefit would be paid to his family (or beneficiary) because he was not 30 years old. GMA suggests that requirement be removed. Additionally, an employee can only name a spouse or a minor child as a beneficiary, and GMA recommends that be broadened. He also said the definition of a minor child (which is currently defined as anyone up to age 19 or up to age 26 if enrolled in college) should be amended, as GMA does not want to be put in the

position of making judgement calls on who is eligible or trying to keep track of that information (college enrollment). He said the responsibility of picking a beneficiary should be on the employee. Councilmember Ron Fennel confirmed that GMA is recommending the City allow employees to name anyone to be their beneficiaries, and Mr. Randy Logan said that was correct. There was some discussion regarding the retirement health benefits and the City's OPEB, and Mr. Randy Logan recommended the City reach out to Rocky Joiner with further questions, as his group specializes in that. Human Resources Director Kay Bolick said she would bring a draft of the changes regarding the pre-retirement death benefit to Council for adoption, which would require an ordinance change.

Review of November 7, 2016 Mayor and Council Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz began to read the Agenda. There was discussion on several Consent Agenda items. Regarding the bid award for the Fox Creek Lake Rehab, Mr. Scott Stokes explained that the scope of work involved the dredging of the pond, breaching the damn, and replacing the outflow structure. He said the entire project came in \$200K under budget and that was because the contractor who won the bid specializes in dredging lakes. City Attorney Scott Cochran said an amendment to the concession agreement with Fox Creek/Mosaic would be on an agenda soon. Mr. Scott Stokes said a preconstruction meeting would be held soon with the contractor and Fox Creek to go over the schedule. He said they are waiting on a Corp of Engineers permit, and hope to have a December 1st start date, with work done by the end of February.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired about the Hickory Acres Storm Drain bid and asked what was being done. Mr. Scott Stokes said they were replacing the pipe and collection distribution box under the road, under the ROW. She asked if it would cause more water to go downstream and Mr. Stokes said no, it would be the same amount of water. She asked about easements, and Mr. Stokes said Croy was handling those easements. She asked about trees being taken down for this project, and Mr. Scott Stokes said maybe only one or two. She said she may want to look at the plan so she could understand it better.

Mr. Scott Stokes explained the scope of work for the Kings Springs Storm Sewer improvement and said they would be redirecting the water so that it does not come off and flow across the residents' driveways, as it currently does. He said they would be putting pipe in and running it down the road, and direct the water to the catch basin.

Other Business

Councilmember Andrea Blustein reminded Council of the Keep Georgia Beautiful Awards banquet on December 2nd at the Marriott Century City.

Councilmember Ron Fennel said his last SBA meeting serving as president would be December 1st, and the program would be focused on Arts Appreciation. He also announced the CMA December 13th meeting and referenced program highlights and the agenda. He also mentioned the Hometown Connection Program on November 17th with local and state legislators. There was discussion about when and where it would be held, and the conclusion was the COW meeting would be held as normal, at 6:00pm in the HR Training Room, for Council and Staff only. At 7:00pm everyone, including the legislators, would meet at the Smyrna Croy office for a brief 15-20 minute presentation, with dinner to be followed at Atkins Park.

Councilmember Doug Stoner said he would be sending out an email regarding a tour with the Director of ARC on December 16th. He also discussed the Shinall/McGee property, across from Brawner Hall, that is for sale and the idea of it being potential overflow for parking for the Reed House, Taylor Brawner, Food Trucks, etc. He said Croy did a very basic design/draft of what a parking lot could look like on the property, and they estimated about \$285K for close to 114 parking spaces. He and Councilmember Norton walked the property to look at the topography. He said he was going to talk to the Shinalls to see what they would be interested in regarding price and if the City would be willing to pay that. There was also discussion about other potential uses for the space.

City Clerk Terri Graham said she had an item to add to the Agenda under the Mayoral Report from the Police Department, a plaque to be presented to a citizen for her support of the SPD.

Government Management Fellow Maxwell Ruppensburg reminded Council of the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th.

There was discussion among Council about the meeting scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, on November 21st. Two councilmembers are scheduled to be out of town (Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz and Councilmember Susan Wilkinson).

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Teri Anulewicz declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.