

**Pre-Council Meeting - DRAFT**  
**February 5, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**

*Present:*        *Mayor A. Max Bacon*                      *Maryline Blackburn*                      *Susan Wilkinson*  
                     *Derek Norton*                                      *Charles “Corkey” Welch*                      *Ron Fennel*  
                     *Andrea Blustein*                                      *Doug Stoner (arrived at 6:40 PM)*

*Absent: Andrea Blustein*

*Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler–Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Maxwell Ruppertsberg (Special Projects Coordinator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Russell Martin, (Senior Planner), Scott Stokes (Public Works Director), Christy Ullman, (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Ashley Youmans (Community Liaison) and Lisa Moore (Assistant to City Clerk).*

**Mayor A. Max Bacon Called the Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.**

City Administrator’s Report

Ms. Jones reported that on February 3, 2018 around 1:00, there was a fire on 1080 Falling Valley Court in Ward 1. One elderly man was deceased. The deceased’s cat was found in the fire and fire rescuers resuscitated the unconscious cat. There were no other injuries and the fire is under investigation. The man was in a wheelchair and may have been a heavy smoker.

Mayor Bacon reviewed the Agenda for the Mayor and Council meeting.

Item 4-A. Councilmember Maryline Blackburn discussed the Special Land Use Permit. She believed there was another location (Cacye Foods) on Roswell Street who was interested in the tower, but they had not been contacted by Verizon. She then received an email that Verizon had contacted them about locating on the store’s property, not the property across the street where the owners own the lots. Ken Suddreth stated that the lots are too small and may need more setback variances with those lots.

The Mayor asked what the problems were with the existing location. Ms. Blackburn stated that the residents in the area are against the Public Storage site because they are trying to redevelop the area and believe the tower will be an eyesore. The Mayor asked who is redeveloping the area and do we have any requests for there? Mr. Suddreth stated that there were no plans that he knew of. Mr. Bacon said the Public Storage business generates a lot of money and to redevelop that property would be difficult. If it is not allowed there, where will it be placed? There is no one that really wants it in their residential area. Ms. Blustein stated that part of the problem is the Dobbins air traffic plan.

The Mayor stated they don't want it anywhere around there. Ms. Blackburn said the residents proposed some other sites. One was the Senior Center and the other one was across the street from Cayce Foods. Mr. Suddreth said the Senior Center sits 70' lower which means they would have to have a 200' pole and the FAA would not approve that height. Ms. Blustein stated the land there would also have to be leveled first before it was built. Mr. Suddreth stated the property across Kayce is two parcels, and it has not been evaluated yet because it just was suggested today. There would be a lot of waivers needed to use this site. The Mayor wanted to know what the opposition was. Ms. Blackburn said there would be a lot of public comment at the Council meeting. A map was shown to clarify where the property and other proposed sites are located. Mr. Cochran stated that there was potential for lawsuit from the Federal Courts. The tower would be located on the Hawthorne side of the Public Storage. Mr. Fennel asked for clarification of what homes are impacted. There are three homes, some commercial buildings and a church. Mr. Cochran said that to redevelop the storage place would be difficult because there would have to be a more valuable use. Mayor Bacon asked if the current application was further away from the residential section than the other potential sites. Mr. Suddreth showed the sites on the map and discussed where the residential use for the area is located.

Item 6-A. The Mayor asked about the Cemetery preservation. He asked about getting the trees cleaned up and said it was taking too long to get them cleaned up. Mr. Ruppensburg said he had an estimate of \$5,000 to do the arbor work. Keep Smyrna Beautiful is getting ready to get that done. It would be done before the preservation work. The Mayor is concerned that it needs to be done now while it's winter and there is no foliage on the trees. He also asked when the Hawthorne Street cemetery hasn't been cleaned up. The City committed to clean it up, but there are some issues with the developers being sick. The Mayor asked if the City should go ahead and clean it up even though we do not own it, but there is a commitment to the community to get it cleaned up. He would like to move forward to at least get it cleaned up this season. Mr. Andrews said that he would discuss with Keep Smyrna Beautiful and find out their plans to work in the cemetery. Ms. Wilkinson asked which cemetery on Hawthorne the Mayor was referencing. It is the one that was Mt. Zion Baptist Church cemetery. The Mayor stated there was a cemetery called New Smyrna Cemetery where a cell tower is placed. When it was placed there, the developer agreed to keep the cemetery cleaned up and he has done so. The one that the Mayor was discussing was the one across the street where the neighborhood was supposed to keep it cleaned up and it hasn't been done. The Mayor wanted it cleaned before the spring. Mr. Fennel asked if any action was need from Council to get the process started. Keep Smyrna Beautiful could do the cleanup if an easement is obtained on the property. Mr. Welch asked if that project was to be added on to the Smyrna Memorial cemetery work. Mr. Ruppensburg said that an estimate or assessment on the preservation could not be done until the brush is cleared. Mr. Andrews said he would discuss with Keep Smyrna Beautiful and the Museum to get volunteers to work on cleaning the cemetery. Mr. Fennel said it does not need Council action if the work is done by volunteers. It will just need a release from the church to work on the property.

Item 8-F The Mayor said he believed these permits were all going to be done at one time. He believed that all these events and related permits should be approved at the same time. Ms. Graham reviewed past minutes and found that the permits had already been approved in

November 2017. Ms. Wilkinson and the Mayor stated that the reporting of the traffic circle is vague.

Ms. Jones stated that she would announce the Smyrna Citizens Academy. There are 10 people signed up and 5 Council nominated people whose applications are pending. The class is limited to 25 people. Ms. Wilkinson agreed to mention the course.

Ms. Graham announced that she had hired a Deputy City Clerk, Lisa Ochoa. She will start on February 12, 2018. She comes from City of Powder Springs, where she assisted the City Clerk.

Ms. Blustein asked when path lighting would be installed in the linear park. There are street lights, but lighting on the path is needed. This is from Spring Drive to Village Parkway. It is very dark in there.

Ms. Wilkinson said there would be citizens who would be at the meeting to speak about Traffic Calming.

Mr. Fennel stated there would be a meeting of the Cobb Municipal Association on February 13, 2018. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber in Marietta.

Mr. Stoner stated he would announce his resignation during the Committee Report.

Mr. Andrews reminded Council about the Vision meeting February 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Brawner Hall. He asked Ms. Blustein to announce. There should be about 70 people in attendance and they would love to have Councilmembers present.

Mr. Welch said there would be an Arbor Day celebration Saturday at North Cooper Lake Park and he would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground.

Members of the Fire Department would be at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Ms. Blackburn thanked Ms. Jones for giving her an opportunity to meet all the department heads and learned about what they do for the City. She said she has gotten a lot of emails from citizens for a request of a sand volleyball court. There were many sent to all the Council.

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