

**Pre-Council Meeting - Preliminary
October 7, 2019
5:00 PM**

*Present: Mayor Max Bacon Derek Norton Tim Gould
Charles “Corkey” Welch Andrea Blustein
Maryline Blackburn (5:40pm) Susan Wilkinson (5:02pm)*

Also, Present: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), David Lee (Chief of Police), Roy Acree (Fire Chief), Frank Martin (Public Works Director), Rusty Martin (Community Development Director), Tom Boland (Economic Development Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Victoria Brown (Benefits Coordinator), Jennie Eldridge (Museum Manager), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Landon O’Neal (Management Fellow), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)

Mayor A. Max Bacon called the October 7, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 5:00 PM.

Mayor Bacon announced that Ward 7 Councilmember Ron Fennel would not be attending the meeting. He would be at the Mayor and Council meeting to announce his stepping down due to no longer residing in the City.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones began her report by introducing Ms. Masala Machochi, an exchange student from South Africa that currently goes to Campbell High School. She shadowed Ms. Saddler Jones to learn more about local government.

She continued by turning the meeting over to Human Resources Director Kay Bolick who introduced the guests that were there to share insurance information.

Guy Morrison and Jamie Fisher who were with Marsh McLennan Agency began by stating that this information is to help decide regarding benefits that would begin on January 1, 2020.

In 2018, insurance was 6% above budget and it appears that 2019 will also come in above the budgeted amount. It was a challenging claims year with five serious high cost claimants. Most carriers declined to provide a quote due to too many claims or too many ongoing claims. The City has a three tier system where most places have a two tier system in place for insurance. From 2014 through 2016 no plan design changes had been made. They suggested adding a new HMO Base option which will make the current base option a level up. The new base option will come with lower up front costs but higher deductibles and raised prescription costs. The City contribution will be going down another 1% this year. The contribution will continue to drop by a percent each year until an 80 (City) /20 (employee) split occurs which was a goal set some

years back. There were some suggestions on how the City could save money. The problem is that the City is not getting bids from other companies due to the liabilities such as high claims. In order to help with this, adjustments will have to be made.

Mayor Bacon felt that time needed to be spent to research the matter and to get insight from employees before making any formal decision on what to do or not do to save the City money.

HR Director Bolick will bring the Health Insurance discussion back at the October 17th Committee of the Whole meeting in order to give everyone some more time to review the information presented. To conclude, Ms. Bolick disclosed that the Renewal Team was made up of City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones, Finance Director Kristin Robinson, Budget Officer Jered Sigmon, HR Director Kay Bolick, Benefits Coordinator Victoria Brown, Mr. Guy Morrison, and Ms. Jamie Fisher.

Council inquired about the benefit of having the Wellness Program. Ms. Bolick explained that it reduces the frequency of claims which ultimately saves the City money. She was willing to supply them with figures to show the cost savings if they were interested.

Ms. Saddler Jones asked Museum Manager Jennie Eldridge to come up and share her updates with Mayor and Council.

Ms. Eldridge stated that they are now in the fabrication process at the factory in Chamblee. Construction and installation should be from October 28th through November 8th with the Grand Opening on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 3:00pm. The displays are being built so that they can be changed out and they are interactive as well. She thanked the Smyrna Historical Society and the Administration Department for their help and input with the museum and displays.

Review of the Agenda for the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Bacon opened the discussion of the agenda by reiterating that Ward 7 Councilmember Ron Fennel will be stepping down at the meeting due to his having moved outside of the City. The Mayor stated that rather than appoint someone for less than a month, wait until after the election and then appoint whoever wins to serve out the rest of Mr. Fennel's term.

The Mayor asked Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch to handle the agenda items that were originally assigned to Mr. Fennel. He also appointed Mr. Welch the Chair of the Finance Committee with a new member to be announced in the near future.

Council inquired about what happens to the old extrication kits and the reasoning behind moving from a Ford Expedition to a F-250 pick up truck. Fire Chief Roy Acree explained that the old kits will be traded in for credit towards the replacements and that the change in vehicle allows for a separate storage compartment for gear exposed to carcinogens.

The dump truck for the Parks and Recreation Department is a replacement for a seventeen year old truck and the new truck came in at \$7500.00 under budget.

Ms. Saddler Jones stated that she was working with the Diversity Task Force to create posters for Spanish Heritage month. She asked Mayor and Council how they wanted to handle Veteran's Day. It was decided that City offices will operate under normal business hours on Veteran's Day 2019.

Councilmember Blustein talked about campaign signs and how the Marshalls lost the only sign that she had picked up.

Councilmember Gould mentioned how he had been receiving a significant amount of emails from residents concerned about dangerous traffic conditions around Campbell Middle School on Atlanta Road.

Councilmember Wilkinson inquired about lowering speed limits around the City. She had read an article that the City of Atlanta voted to approve an internal study to determine the benefits of lowering speed limits around the City. Ms. Wilkinson would like to see something like this done in the City of Smyrna. Other suggestions to assist with speed were to order more of the signs to place around the City that show people how fast they are driving. These signs also collect data which may be useful in the future. Mayor Bacon suggested getting input from the Police and Public Safety Department before moving forward.

Councilmember Blackburn announced that a company named Lead Arson invited Council to come to their offices to see what they have to offer. The company is similar to Schneider Electric. She would like to see a work session be scheduled for a tour through their facilities.

Mayor Bacon spoke of a fundraiser at Zaxby's that he attended earlier that day to help a young boy with autism get a service dog.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the October 7, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:35 PM.