

Pre-Council Committee of the Whole
November 21, 2016
6:00PM

*Present: Max Bacon Andrea Blustein Derek Norton
Ron Fennel Corkey Welch Doug Stoner*

Absent: Susan Wilkinson, Teri Anulewicz

Also Present: Jeffrey Tucker (City Attorney), Mike Jones (City Administrator), Tammi Saddler-Jones (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman, Kay Bolick and Maxwell Ruppensburg

City Administrator's Report:

City Administrator Mike Jones spoke about the need to rent a high person van as opposed to owning / leasing one because the lack of use is causing them to run poorly. The bus requires a CDL licensed driver.

Mayor Bacon remarked that the van had specific uses because it was purchased with CDBG funds specifically for use for senior citizens.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming budgeted funds for merit increases as well as possible cost of living increases. Mr. Jones remarked that he had requested HR Director Kay Bolick to contact the company who processed the Salary Study to present an update by Wednesday, November 30, 2016 for discussion at the COW Agenda meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016. Previous years have allowed for either a merit increase or a cost of living increase.

The Council can decide to provide both; for example, they can issue an across the board cost of living increase for all employees and then a percentage for merit increases based on evaluations.

Last year's low was 1.5% and the high was 3.5% for the merit increases. A cost of living increase raises the pay scale. A cost of living can be given in addition to a merit increase.

We are not comparing positions against the national but only against other local municipalities.

These decisions are typically made the middle of December by the Council.

10% of the staff has still not completed the annual insurance open enrollment largely due to Police and Fire shifts.

Mr. Jones phone call regarding the new Campbell High School gym was not returned. Upon hearing back from them he will respond to Council. The original letter went to City Attorney Scott Cochran and although they were working with staff, staff did not let us know about drainage issues. It was supposed to be a park at that location.

Councilmember Stoner asked if we were going to let Mr. Gomez know that what is planned is not going to fly in Smyrna.

Agenda Review:

Mayor Bacon asked about item 6D; the three hour parking near Campbell Middle School.

There will be two items tabled. One is already on the agenda and the other is item 4F that will be tabled until December 19, 2016 Mayor and Council Meeting. This will be announced under Agenda Changes.

Mr. Jones said he spoke to Scott Stokes, Public Works Director and he is not comfortable with a lift station at this development.

Item 6D was added to the agenda, regarding the 3-hour parking signs to preclude students from parking in these areas. Ward Park parking will also be locked once completed to preclude students from parking in that area as well. Students have paid parking they should be using.

Mr. Jones said there was some conversation regarding the use of the parking lot for Porch Light to serve Alcohol for their event and the letter requested was submitted by the owner that the building owners were aware of the request.

Councilmember Charles (Corkey) Welch will present item 6D.

City Clerk Terri Graham had a report regarding Court Services. As a result of conversation regarding the appeal process, Mr. Jones wants to have a conversation with HR about the current process. Because of the current process and policy, the employee is on paid administrative leave for 10 days, can appeal to the City Administrator and the Committee for that department and the employee stays on paid administrative leave until the process is complete and the hiring process is on hold until complete as well. Mayor Bacon thinks employees appeal should stop at the City Administrator. Managers and appointees should go before the Council.

Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler-Jones spoke about the Coming Home from the Holidays event and there was a S'mores bar that Jodi Mills asked if the Council would like to participate with this particular area of the event.

Mayor Bacon asked if any of the Council attended the Hero's Banquet. A citizen remarked that no one from Council attended this event.

Councilmember Ron Fennel reminded the Council about the CMA Holiday Dinner on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Porch Light will be catering the event. To be held at the community center.

Councilmember Doug Stoner mentioned he spoke with Mr. Jones about the 10K race this weekend. Corkey Welch had one complaint. The signs regarding the race were placed away from the race path. There needs to be better signage prior to the race to allow time for residents to make alternate route plans. There is a consensus that races in general are not as organized as they could

be in the City. Councilmember Stoner would like to look at the policies regarding how we handle these types of events and the traffic issues it creates for neighborhoods.

Ken Suddreth said we have hired a new building inspector, Adam Dodd. We now have three building inspectors.

Mike Jones remarked about the reimbursement to the Fire Department for the usage of our help with the wildfires personnel and truck usage. It will be a reimbursement of approximately \$6,000.00.

Councilmember Fennel had several constituents ask why the ladder truck from Fire Station 4 was located at Fire Station 5. Mr. Jones replied it was due to the renovation.

Jeffrey Tucker, Assistant City Attorney did not have a report. All the docs from Denton's are printed and awaiting the Mayors signature. The refinance of the bonds will average a savings of approximately \$36,000 a year for the life of the 10 year bond. The rates were lowered as well.

Mayor Bacon confirmed we were closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.