

**Pre-Council Meeting - Final
September 16, 2019
6:00 PM**

*Present: Mayor Max Bacon Derek Norton Ron Fennel
Charles “Corkey” Welch Andrea Blustein Tim Gould
Maryline Blackburn (6:08pm) Susan Wilkinson (6:07pm)*

Also, Present: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Jeffery Tucker (Assistant City Attorney), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Rusty Martin (Community Development Director), Tom Boland (Economic Development Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), 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 September 16, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:05 PM.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones began her report by discussing a potential partnership with the Cumberland Community Improvement District (CID) in getting a grant for the Cobb Pedestrian Bridge. This was a project that was listed in the SPLOST project list if there were to be a six year cycle. The grant is from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and would cover the majority of the costs of the project.

Finance Director Kristin Robinson spoke about the financial impact that the project would have and potential sources from which to draw the match funding. If the next SPLOST does not pass, there are other places where the money can be drawn from. The City’s portion is expected to be paid over a three year period from 2021 through 2023. The payments for the City are as follows: \$85,000 in 2021, \$30,000 in 2022, and \$790,000 in 2023.

Mayor and Council were supportive of moving forward with the grant process and the pedestrian bridge project.

Economic Development Director Tom Boland reminded everyone that a resolution would be required as proof of willingness to commit to the \$905,000 match and is due no later than October 11, 2019 so it would have to go before Council at the October 7th meeting.

Mayor Bacon spoke about the Air Quality Task Force meeting that had taken place earlier in the day. The meeting had a good turnout and was orderly throughout. Three days of testing data was presented, and this is from when the plant was shut down due to a construction project. This should be viewed as positive because more testing will be done once the plant is back up and running sometime around October 1st. There will be data available from when the plant is both

open and closed. This will better gauge how much the air quality is affected when the plant is in operation. All of the information presented at the meeting is available on the City website under the latest news tab on the home page. Another meeting will occur once more information becomes available. Several people expressed a desire to publicize the meetings on a larger scale so that as many people as possible will attend.

Ms. Saddler Jones informed everyone that Special Projects Coordinator Maxwell Ruppberg gave his notice earlier in the day. He has accepted the position of Director of Supportive Housing with the Georgia Department of Environmental Health and Disabilities and his last day with the City will be Friday, September 27th.

The final announcement was a reminder that Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews is out of the office and will return on September 30th.

Review of the Agenda for the September 16, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Bacon opened the discussion of the agenda by suggesting that the Arts Council be recognized first and then move onto the Proclamation for Constitution Week.

Community Development Director Rusty Martin reviewed the subdividing plat approval agenda item with Mayor and Council. There would be no zoning change and all the applicant is asking to do is return to the original plat from 1936 which had the property as two lots rather than one.

Towards the end of the meeting Assistant City Attorney Tucker provided some details on State Code relating to conflicts of interest regarding the re-platting agenda item where the applicant is the Chairman for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Powell recused himself and stepped out of the Chambers during the presentation and vote during the Planning and Zoning meeting.

Councilmembers inquired about the criteria used to establish variances because there are a set of criteria utilized for zoning, but this property did not require a rezoning, so they did not apply.

The release and settlement agreement for 4144 Manson Avenue was discussed. Clarification was given on the history of the property and why the agreement was of benefit. This has been in the works for four years and was finally coming to a conclusion.

The Civic Rec Digital software allows Parks and Recreation Department to pass on the credit card processing fees to the customer as was previously approved by Mayor and Council. While the program does not directly integrate with Munis, it works best with the needs of Parks and Rec. Ms. Robinson answered any questions that Mayor and Council had and informed them that it would lead to a cost savings of over \$20,000 annually.

Mayor Bacon announced that Item F (Approve the closing of the following areas of Smyrna Market Village for a Downtown College Football Saturday: West Spring Street from Atlanta Road to the pavilion, inclusive of the roundabout and both lanes alongside the storefronts of 1260 and 1265 W. Spring Street from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM on Saturday, September 21,

2019) would be removed from the Consent Agenda because it was not to a point where moving forward was wise. It will be revisited for a future time since the concept went over well. The withdrawal of the agenda item will be announced during the agenda changes portion of the meeting.

Councilmember Blackburn addressed the Mayor's Veto. (Mayor A. Max Bacon vetoed agenda Item 8D. Approve the closing of the following streets for the Smyrna Parks and Recreation's Casper's Fall Carnival and Movie and the Smyrna United Task Force Event: King Street from Village Green Circle to Bank St., and entire Village Green Circle from Atlanta Rd. from 4:00 PM. - 10:00 PM on Friday, October 11, 2019.) on Friday, September 6, 2019 at 2:57 PM. The Mayor and all members of Council were properly notified via email of the veto.) She inquired if it was properly noted in the September 3, 2019 minutes and asked how she could go about overriding it since she was not in support of the veto.

Mayor and Council discussed what led up to the veto. It was said by several that there was not enough information available about the event. The Mayor and some Council were in full support of both events but felt that they should be held separately. The "Spice of Life" event that used to take place was brought up because it was multicultural and embraced the diversity of the City. Some thought that the event should be brought back and enhanced. Several members of Council said they would be very supportive of an event but felt that one large event would be more successful than many smaller events. It was said that the key to successful events is planning and finding a way of doing things that will work and using this as a blueprint for future events around the City.

The initial vote would require a motion to suspend the rules to add an agenda item. It would then require four votes to add an agenda item and five votes to override the Mayor's Veto. Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Tucker suggested that a motion be made during the agenda changes section to add it to the agenda.

Ms. Saddler Jones noted that staff will do a better job of communicating future events with Mayor and Council to avoid any further confusion. Everyone agreed that prior notice of events would be a good idea.

Councilmember Wilkinson inquired about the application for a block party. She wanted to know if it was ready because there is a group that are wanting to host such an event. If there is a street closing, it will have to come before Mayor and Council. She also brought up speeding in the City. She has received complaints and witnessed cars driving way above the speed limit on Atlanta Road and through residential neighborhoods. She feels that lowering the speed limits might be a wise idea. The Mayor suggested that Ms. Wilkinson, being the head of the Transportation Committee, come back to Council with some suggestions and solutions.

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will take place on October 3, 2019 because there are five Mondays in the month of September.

City Clerk Terri Graham reminded Mayor and Council that their Campaign Disclosure Forms are due October 1st.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the September 16, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:55 PM.