



City of Smyrna

A. Max Bacon City Hall
Council Chambers
2800 King Street SE
Smyrna, GA. 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Approved City Council

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Rollcall

Present: 6 - Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Austin Wagner and Councilmember Tim Gould

Also Present: 1 - Jeffrey Tucker

Staff: 6 - Joe Bennett, Penny Mocer, Heather Peacon-Corn, Tina Monaghan, Joey Staubes and Tyler Addison

Call to Order

City of Smyrna Mayor Derek Norton called the July 6, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting, held at A. Max Bacon City Hall Council Chambers, to order at 7:00PM.

1. Invocation and Pledge:

Reverend Kathryn Davis, Smyrna First United Methodist Church (1315 Concord Rd) came forward to offer the invocation and to lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Changes:

There were no agenda changes.

3. Mayoral Report:

Mayor Norton spoke about the inaccurate information that had been circulating regarding the downtown redesign plan. It was approved and now Mayor, Council, staff and citizens can move onto the details. In terms of the green space and the brewery, there is a non-binding letter of intent. Stay tuned for more discussion at upcoming meetings and every step will be discussed as it comes along.

4. Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations:

A. [ORD2021-13](#)

Public Hearing - Approval of code amendments to the City Code of Ordinances to move variance requests from the Mayor and City Council to the License and Variance Board beginning July 14, 2021.

Mr. Joey Staubes, Planner II, provided background information on the ordinance. This undoes what was passed a few months ago and reverts it back to the way that it was with a three member board comprised of staff that meets twice a month.

Mayor Norton reiterated that any challenged items will still go to Mayor and Council.

The public hearing was announced and one person came forward to speak.

Ms. Jenny Bartee, 4094 Laurel Springs Way, spoke about the changes and expressed concern that the changes do not allow for enough public input or information.

Mayor Norton closed the public hearing and then explained that this is not a new way of doing things but just reverting it back to the way it was.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens made a motion to approve item ORD2021-13, a Public Hearing for the approval of code amendments to the City Code of Ordinances to move variance requests from the Mayor and City Council to the License and Variance Board beginning July 14, 2021; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Wagner and Councilmember Gould

5. Privilege Licenses:

There were no Privilege Licenses.

6. Formal Business:

There were no Formal Business items.

7. Commercial Building Permits:

There were no Commercial Building Permits.

8. Consent Agenda:

City Administrator Joe Bennett read aloud the consent agenda at the Mayor's request.

Councilmember Wilkinson wanted some adjustments made to the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. She had asked about the plaza area and whether the stage would be permanent or portable stage but the minutes do not read that way. On page 5 it stated that the downtown redesign plan was presented on June 2 but it was actually June 3.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve the Consent Agenda as read aloud by City Administrator Joseph Bennett; seconded by Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch.

The motion to approve carried by the following vote with noted changes to the June 17, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes:

Aye: 5 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson and Councilmember Wheaton

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Wagner and Councilmember Gould

- A. [MIN2021-40](#) Approval of the June 17, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.
- B. [MIN2021-41](#) Approval of the June 21, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes.
- C. [MIN2021-42](#) Approval of the June 21, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes.
- D. [2021-238](#) Approval to use Council Chambers for Wards 3 & 6 Joint Neighborhood Meeting, Sunday, July 18, 2021, from 4:30pm - 6:00pm.
- E. [2021-262](#) Award RFP 21-015 Full Service Janitorial Contract . All request for proposals were reviewed and scored by City Staff, the review team selected the highest ranking firm and recommend American Facility Services Of 1325 Union Hill Industrial Court Suite A, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004 in the amount of \$ 169,200.00
- F. [CON2021-07](#) Approval of the contract with Cliff's Fire Extinguisher, located at 311 Bell Park Drive, Woodstock, Ga 30188 in the amount of \$20,075, for one year with option to renew if performance and pricing is acceptable, for the annual inspection and maintenance of all City alarms, sprinklers, extinguishers and kitchen systems using Cobb County Annual Contract #18-6384 and to authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

9. Ward / Committee Reports:

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson spoke about the Pond study from 2019 and that it did not include the plan that was recently passed. There was a meeting at Brawner with only 30 people and another with the Youth Council with even less in attendance. It was not a plan but a study where data was gathered from the community. When Council received the plan, it was June 3rd and that was when they were informed about the public meeting that took place on June 8th. There were concerns expressed about things in the plan such as traffic flow and lacking a traffic study. It was communicated at a Committee of the Whole meeting on August 30, 2020 that it was a high level plan. First time she saw the plan that was recently passed was on June 3rd. She showed the information received from South Cobb Drive study and wishes that the same would have been done for this project as well.

Councilmember Welch reminded everyone that the Fourth of July was over and fireworks need to cease.

10. Show Cause Hearings:

There were no Show Cause Hearings.

11. Citizen Input:

Mr. Mike Mitchell, 1181 Church Street, signed up to speak about the downtown

redesign. Supposedly there were two public meetings that people didn't know about but he found out about them from social media. Panic in change is normal but it is important to focus on the positive aspects and he encouraged people to move forward. What is being done is good and positive.

Ms. Teri Anulewicz, 1121 Parkview Place, former Councilmember and current state representative. Spoke about reasons for moving here years ago and how she thought the roundabout would be the best place for a splash pad. She feels that there are too many roads in the downtown and that the area to be redeveloped is in desperate need of a change. Traffic issues will be resolved with the added light, etc. She is thrilled by the brewery and encouraged others to visit breweries that are all over the area.

Ms. Pat Burns, 10 Concord Road, feels that Croy Engineering could have done a better job on the refresh design. She feels that the city buildings in the area are out of date and could use a refresh. She spoke about issues with past Croy designs that would have harmed historic features. Ms. Burns feels that the brewery should go to Ward 7 not in the center of town. Parts of the plan are lovely but work needs to be done.

Ms. Jenny Bartee, 4094 Laurel Springs Way, does not feel that the downtown refresh is needed. She is upset about the lack of public input. She is against the brewery and feels that its placement is inappropriate and possibly illegal. It is a stretch to say that a brewery is family friendly. Seems hard to believe that it would take 2 million dollars to fix the fountain. The roundabout is cherished as is the fountain.

Mr. Mike Smith, 203 Angla Drive, moved here because it is a great place to raise a family. Looks forward to the proposed changes and is very excited. Both he and his wife feel like it is exactly what it is missing. All in favor of change and thanked elected officials for making Smyrna a great place to live.

Mr. Alex Backry, 3459 Shawnee Trail, proud of Ward 4 and 5 for wanting to delay the vote on the redesign. Wants to know what the rush is on the downtown redesign because SPLOST funding will not be distributed until 2022. A flyer sent out in the mail announcing the meetings would have brought more people to the input meetings. He read off some information about SPLOST and spoke about transparency in government. He concluded by stating that he feels as if he lived in a City of Socialism.

Mr. Joseph Blankenship, 1403 Wedmore Way, spoke about moving to Smyrna and enjoying the market village. Travels all over and loves visiting breweries and small businesses. He was excited about the proposed development and what it will bring to the city. Very much in favor of the redevelopment project.

Mr. David Lincoln, 2860 Parkwood Road, feels that the roundabout anchors the downtown. Does not like the look of the plan that was approved. Feels like the brewery and its placement does not make sense.

Mr. Daniel Parker, 4121 Daniel Green Trail, wanted to give support to the project. Moved to the city in 1998 when the city was not a desirable place to live. Cannot say enough great things about the community. Can't please everyone and hears a lot of negative things about breweries. Proud to be a citizen of Smyrna.

Ms. Montserrat Knowlton, 1367 Poplar Pointe, is a part of a group of demographics of single women and feels like over the years things have changed. More families and

now more youth in the population. All of the changes are predicated around the brewery, which is a place where children cannot go to be entertained. Thinks that children and teenagers need a place to go.. Spoke about an area in Chattanooga, TN where there are rock climbing walls and other activities geared toward youth. Location of brewery next to a church and the Community Center is not ideal.

Ms. Natalie Pitchford, 3943 North Cooper Lake Road, is a teacher, parent, etc., spoke about commuting to other metro areas for date nights, as well as other activities with her kids and husband. She said this plan is a beginning and a first step to making this a destination rather than traveling elsewhere to enjoy the arts. In support of the plan.

Mr. Scott Taylor, no formal speech planned but is an advocate for the downtown proposal and everything mentioned in it. Children have grown up going to breweries. Looking forward to not having to drive to another city to find something to do. Smyrna used to be a sleepy town that has transformed and can become a place where people want to come rather than go elsewhere.

Mr. Anthony Alvarez, lived in community for 16/17 years and is in full favor of the growth and progress of the downtown area. COVID taught us a lot including how underutilized the green space was until recently. 100% behind the improvements.

Ms. Jennifer Vanderloop, 3575 South Sherwood Road, is all for the brewery and feels that the green space next to the community center is underutilized but is concerned about the roundabout and traffic patterns. Take some more time to consider traffic patterns and the roundabout. All for more green space.

Ms. Shaun Martin, 2884 Anderson Circle, feels that change is necessary and wants to see the city get a slice of the entertainment industry that other cities have. Her concern is losing the city's identity by getting rid of the fountain and other such historic features. Doesn't want us to look like Roswell. Don't sell the property.

Mayor Norton reminded everyone of the State of the City address to take place on July 28th at 6:00 PM at the Community Center and it will be streamed online for those unable to attend in person..

12. Adjournment:

The July 6, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting was adjourned by City of Smyrna Mayor Derek Norton at 8:03PM.