

Pre-Council Meeting - Final
July 1, 2019
6:00 PM

Present: *Derek Norton* *Tim Gould* *Charles “Corkey” Welch*
 Maryline Blackburn *Susan Wilkinson* *Andrea Blustein*
 Ron Fennel

Absent: *Mayor Max Bacon*

Also Present: *Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Landon O’Neal (Management Fellow), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)*

Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Norton called the Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones began her report with a brief summary of her recent meeting with Cobb County regarding SPLOST. She then asked Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews to speak about the meeting.

Mr. Andrews said the meeting was short and the main concern of the County was the list of joint projects, but they also seemed in favor of the City projects as well. There was enthusiasm for the Aquatic/Gymnastic/Learning Library project that is a joint project with the County.

Ms. Saddler Jones reiterated that the focus of the meeting was on joint projects but some of the other projects were discussed as well.

Council discussed the Aquatic/Gymnastic/Learning Library project. Clarification on who would be responsible for the maintenance costs once construction is complete was given which was that the City of Smyrna would be the responsible party. The question of whether or not it would be a House Bill 489 issue came to light because the facility would be for use by those in the unincorporated areas of the County as well as City residents. Also discussed was if there were any accurate estimates as to the annual costs related to such a facility.

Ms. Saddler Jones went on to inform Council that the Finance Department put out the information regarding property taxes and the required public hearings. There will be a disclaimer published that notifies citizens that the City is not raising taxes this year. There will be a series of Public Hearings in July and the millage rate will be voted on in August.

The City owns a property at 5811 O’Dell Road which once had a house which has since been demolished. The City has been attempting to sell this property for quite some time. Ms. Saddler Jones brought this forward because the contract with the agent is up for renewal. She was

seeking the opinion of Council as to whether to renew or seek other agents since the property has been for sale for over five years with no movement.

Council discussed that the property is challenging in the location, the topography, the fact that it is on septic and that it is not actually in the City. The area is not ideal for residential property which is what it originally served as. It is approximately one acre and the asking price is \$124,050.00. The consensus was to seek other possible agents to see if that will help in the sale of the property.

Review of the Agenda for the July 1, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Norton opened discussion of the agenda.

The agenda items were read through, but no one had any questions or comments.

Mr. Norton asked for if anyone had any announcements and started with Ms. Blustein.

Councilmember Blustein talked a little about the Cumberland Church property. She expressed that it would have been a great location for the aquatic center or even a market similar to the Marietta Market or Ponce Market. She had recently heard from some unhappy residents about the proposed townhome development set to go in there that are concerned about additional traffic in an already heavily congested area.

Councilmember Gould spoke about a recent meeting that he and Councilmember Norton attended at Argyle Estates in relation to a proposed 48,000 square foot medical building set to be built across from Campbell Middle School. Over fifty residents showed up to the meeting and every last person was against the proposed development. They would prefer retail and restaurants. Pedestrian improvements in the area are also being looked into as a result of the meeting. Students need to be able to safely make it to school. Mr. Gould also addressed a variance for Apex Animal Hospital to go in where the old Quick Trip was located. There is an outdoor enclosure listed and he would like more details about this. He asked staff to get information out about the 2020 Census. There are residents that would like to participate. Mr. Andrews said he would email everyone the details. To conclude his report, Mr. Gould provided a summary of the recent Education Committee meeting where the topics included joint field usage agreement and Tobacco 21 Ordinance which would address underage vaping.

Councilmember Blackburn expressed her feelings about the name change for the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Department to the Department of Environmental Services. She feels that it takes away from a citizen group that would love to be more involved with the City. There is a company called Southface which specializes in getting communities involved with the 202 Census. She would like to see staff reach out to them to see what they can do to help make sure everyone is counted.

Councilmember Fennel spoke about wanting to have a Community Development Committee meeting in the near future. He wants to discuss creating a bank of funds for sidewalk development around the City. Walkability is what people want within the City and a way to

make sure this comes to fruition is by putting money aside specific to sidewalks. For example, rather than have a developer build a sidewalk to nowhere, have them bank that money for sidewalks where they are needed.

Councilmember Wilkinson attended a lecture about human trafficking while down in Savannah at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention. She said that there is an organization that has people willing to come to the City to speak about what to look for and how to combat human trafficking right here in the City.

Councilmember Welch concurred that the sidewalk bank was an excellent idea and should be looked into further. He also updated Council on the issue of no parking signs versus painted curbs in a subdivision on Concord and North Cooper Lake Road.

Mayor Pro-Tem Norton adjourned the July 1, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:42 PM.