



Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, February 27, 2020

5:00 PM

City Hall

****PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING START TIME CHANGE TO 5:00PM****

Roll Call

Present 8 - Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Austin Wagner, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro tem Tim Gould, and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Also Present 1 - Scott Cochran

Staff 17 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, Robert Harvey, Bo Jones, Janet Liberman, Joe Bennett, Landon O'Neal, Richard Garland, Kristin Robinson, Jered Sigmon, Chris Addicks, Roy Acree, Russell Martin, Joey Staubes, Brian Marcos, Terry McCormick, and Chris Flowers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 27, 2020 to order at 6:00 PM.

2. New Business / Presentations

A. Green Community Designation Program - Janet Liberman

Janet Liberman, Keep Smyrna Beautiful Director, made an introduction of Fatima Tarawally from her department who initiated the first half of the presentation regarding the Atlanta Regional Commission Green Communities Program.

Fatima spoke about the City of Smyrna's Environmental Stewardship Efforts and reviewed the presented Power point presentation. She reviewed the different certification levels, spoke about the different categories and went into detail about each available categories points for specific items.

B. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Initiative - Janet Liberman

Ms. Liberman then came forward and reviewed the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, identified the three proposed locations and the cost associated with that, as well as charges that could be accessed for their use.

Councilmember Corkey Welch spoke about perhaps picking a stronger location than

the two spots behind City Hall. Something closer to the restaurants with more visibility.

Keep Smyrna Beautiful will come back to Council with additional information.

C. Personnel Requests / Reclassifications from FY2020

Finance Director Kristin Robinson handed out an attachment reviewing the FY19-20 reclassification requests and reviewed the final proposed decisions with the Committee.

- Jail Personnel would be given up as previously discussed.*
- The requested Firefighter new positions would also be eliminated per discussion with Mayor Norton.*
- Facilities Superintendent is recommended for Parks and Rec to allow for one person to be the facilitator for the other respective people who rent out facilities.*
- The Management Fellow would be increased to include retirement benefits and stay competitive.*
- The Clerk of Court would be made Court Administrator.*
- An additional person would be added at the Recycling Center and Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked if this would allow for the later night hours as previously had. Janet Liberman responded in the affirmative.*
- Firefighter reclassifications would also be approved and Corkey Welch asked if that would reduce the overtime happening in the department. Fire Chief Roy Acree responded that until he is fully staffed with firefighters, he would continue to have overtime, however, the reclassified staff would allow for some reduction of that time.*
- A full time Lifeguard for the Wolfe Center would also be added.*
- The Senior Crime Analyst position was removed to accommodate the maintenance costs for the body cams and dash cams as previously discussed.*

Mayor Pro tem Tim Gould wants to rely on the City Administrator and Department Heads recommendations since they are the ones dealing with the departments on a daily basis and have the most knowledge of need.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones responded that she agreed with all the requests and reclassifications as described by Kristin Robinson.

IT Director Chris Addicks reviewed the need for a data Analyst in his department as well.

Public Works Assistant Director Bo Jones remarked that himself, Director Frank Martin and Assistant Direct Mark Patrick were unable to project manage the bids and jobs in their department as well as all the locate requests coming in, thus, their request for the two positions requested.

3. Review of the March 2, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Norton quickly reviewed the upcoming agenda for the Mayor and Council and no questions were presented about the items from the Council.

Community Relations Director Jennifer Bennett made a presentation regarding the request for additional monies to come from Hotel / Motel to allow for a larger budget for bands for the Birthday

celebration. She noted that other cities were spending in upwards of \$100,000 to draw people to their city's with bigger name bands and performers. Brookhaven is also trying to work towards an amphitheater. The recommended price range is \$40,000 - \$50,000 for a named band.

The consent agenda was reviewed, and a few questions were asked about the polling location changes and updates.

Croy presented Windy Hill and the bid return naming Baldwin Paving as the recommended winning bid as low bidder. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked about the concept approved by Mayor and Council was what was put out for bid. There was also discussion of the access of Windy Hill during the construction period of three years.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked to have the Ward maps pulled up on the mondo board to review the area outside of her Ward which is surrounded by unincorporated Cobb County. She has worked on her relationship with Cobb County Commissioner Lisa Cupid over the past years. This unincorporated area that includes Osborne High School will open up in the fall and the stakeholders of that area feel the career academy is as important as working with Campbell High School.

Councilmember Tim Gould spoke about the possibility of us taking over the middle school property again and the costs associated with that.

Councilmember Austin Wagner spoke to someone from EPA regarding the air quality testing as well as potential grants. Fire Chief Roy Acree said those specific grants were not available to the City and only applicable to the state. We can, however, partner potentially.

He also spoke about the website CCCR postings and the hope that all would be posted and a better location on the site would be chosen for this information.

Councilmember Travis Lindley spoke about the letter that went to the County School Board and noted no response had been received at this point. The traffic nightmare that will be caused has been noted by the residents of the area.

The cemetery restoration off of Hawthorne was moving forward with good progress. Grave restoration would start this weekend.

Also, the ethics reform package was being worked on by Landon O'Neal.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton thanked Parks for the bundle put together for the silent auction.

He also spoke about a question that came up with Ward 7 residents concerned about the railroad noise and Mr. Wheaton had spoken to City Engineer Kevin Moore and Assistant Engineer Ashley White and they informed him that the discussion was still ongoing as to how to resolve. There are additional monies needed to complete the upgrades.

He also mentioned the Diligentia Consulting contract and had some additional questions.

Deputy Police Chief Robert Harvey updated the Committee regarding a local bank robbery.

Mayor Norton asked each Councilmember for a report or announcement.

Councilmember Corkey Welch asked about the GMA website corrections and noted that some had been made but several were still incorrect.

4. Executive Session (as needed)

5. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 6:25PM.