

**Pre-Council Meeting - FINAL**  
**December 7, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**

*Present:*        *Derek Norton*                      *Tim Gould*                      *Travis Lindley*  
                      *Lewis Wheaton*                      *Susan Wilkinson*            *Austin Wagner*

*Absent:*         *Glenn Pickens*                      *Charles “Corkey” Welch*

*Also Present:* *Jeffrey Tucker (Assistant City Attorney)*

*Staff:*         *Joe Bennett (Interim City Administrator), Penny Mocerri (Interim Assistant City Administrator), Rusty Martin (Community Development Director), Carol Sicard (Human Resources Director), Frank Martin (Public Works Director), Roy Acree (Fire Chief), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)*

**Mayor Derek Norton called the December 7, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:30 PM.**

**Review of the Agenda for the December 7, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting**

Mayor Norton opened the discussion by announcing that Ward 7 Councilmember Lewis Wheaton will be handing the invocation and the pledge for the Mayor and Council meeting.

Discussion was had about the three privilege licenses. Any questions were answered, and it was announced that the item for Sparkles would be tabled to a later date.

The occupational fees item was summarized which is simply that the change is being made to allow for City code to be in line with the State definition. Councilmember Tim Gould will handle this item for the meeting.

Interim Assistant City Administrator Penny Mocerri provided the information about the agenda items pertaining to museum property. There are many items which have been donated over the years and these allowed for documentation of official ownership of said property.

Mayor Norton went over the DDA appointments as well as announcing the next meeting that would take place. He asked Councilmember Travis Lindley to handle this item during the meeting.

Due to the Windy Hill construction project, there will need to be some road closures in the Belmont Circle area. This will be voted on as part of the consent agenda. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson expressed concern about the short notice to those that live in the area.

Upon conclusion of the discussion on the agenda, Mayor Norton opened up the meeting to announcements.

Fire Chief Roy Acree provided updates about COVID and how it is affecting the city and surrounding areas. He provided some additional information about the vaccinations including when they may be available to administer to the essential workers on staff with the City.

Hazard pay was discussed. Interim City Administrator Joe Bennett explained that it was decided after much research and discussion that hazard pay would not resume at this time, but this will be reevaluated as it becomes necessary.

Human Resources Director Carol Sicard consulted with Mayor and Council about the employee Christmas gift cards. It was unanimously decided that the city would move forward as in years past.

Interim Assistant City Administrator Penny Mocerri announced that 57 people had already signed up to participate in the City's Christmas lights program. This will provide citizens with a map of addresses where they can go to see lights during the holiday season. It was a way of providing festivities and a way to celebrate while still adhering to social distancing and safety precautions during the pandemic.

Councilmember Tim Gould spoke about an article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution about the parks concept plan. He also spoke about a meeting with a neighborhood that is considering annexing into the city and announced that there will be a meeting in the near future with Community Development and the neighborhood to determine what steps would need to be taken in order for this to happen.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired about homestead exemptions and how those are handled for properties annexed into the City. Would they receive retroactive exemptions, or would it go into effect once the property was actually a part of the City? Community Development Director Rusty Martin offered insight into this but recommended that she consult with Finance Director Kristin Robinson for a more in-depth answer into these questions.

Councilmember Travis Lindley expressed his concern about the lack of places nearby the city for residents to early vote in the runoff election. Councilmember Austin Wagner provided some information that he was given when he inquired into the early voting locations. There was discussion to reach out to the Cobb County Board of Elections to see if any further locations could be added.

**Mayor Norton adjourned the December 7, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:57 PM.**