

**Pre-Council Meeting - FINAL
December 21, 2020
6:30 PM**

Present: *Derek Norton* *Tim Gould* *Travis Lindley*
 Lewis Wheaton *Susan Wilkinson* *Austin Wagner*
 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), Joey Staubes (Planner II, Community Development), Carol Sicard (Human Resources Director), Bo Jones (Assistant Public Works Director), Roy Acree (Fire Chief), Brian Marcos (Deputy Fire Chief), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)*

Mayor Derek Norton called the December 21, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:30 PM.

Review of the Agenda for the December 21, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Norton opened the discussion by noting that Reverend Collin Brown would be doing the invocation and pledge due to the illness of the person originally scheduled. He also mentioned that item K under formal business would be moved before item A. Councilmember Lewis Wheaton was asked to handle the proclamation. The Mayor let everyone know that he would be reading his end of year update during the Mayoral Report.

Mayor and Council spent some time discussing the plat approval with variances on King Springs Road. There was a question as to whether or not an HOA was required. Community Development Director Rusty Martin said that was yet to be determined. If the four homes would have to share a stormwater detention facility than yes, an HOA would be required, but if this is not the case than no.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson was concerned about how the side setback reduction would impact houses already in the area.

Per Councilmember Tim Gould’s request, Mr. Rusty Martin explained why the application had been submitted as it was. By keeping the R-15 zoning and doing a plat approval with variances, it allowed the builder to keep these homes in line with the others in the area. The goal was to keep consistency with other homes recently built in the area. By not having to develop or change any existing infrastructure, the City was also able to save money.

Councilmember Travis Lindley whose ward this falls into was pleased with the plans and noted that it was very consistent with the area.

Mayor Norton reiterated that item K under Formal Business would be moved before item A. This was the item pertaining to raises for City employees. He spoke about the raises for Public Safety and how they were long overdue. These increases will go a long way to retaining quality employees and filling any vacant positions that may be open in those departments. He assigned the item to Finance Committee Chairperson Charles “Corkey” Welch. Councilmember Welch said he was happy with where the City is with the budget and is glad to be able to move forward with the pay increases. He made a point of acknowledging the hardships that Public Safety has had to endure recently and wanted to make sure that they knew how much they are appreciated.

Interim City Administrator Joe Bennett thanked Mayor and Council for all that they have done and continue to do for staff. He said that both Police and Fire are almost fully staffed and that these raises will go a long way in keeping the quality employees at the City for many years to come.

Human Resources Director Carol Sicard asked for direction for those employees that have topped out in their job classification. She was told to move forward, and that the upcoming paygrade study should correct this from occurring in upcoming years.

Councilmember Welch suggested looking into an annual cost of living raise which is how the Cobb Water Authority deals with the issue of employees topping out in their paygrades.

Mayor Norton opened the meeting to any announcements that those in attendance may have.

Interim City Administrator Joe Bennett announced that the Library was closed except for curbside pick up. COVID rates were increasing so staff was moving to a Phase 2 opening through January 1st with further evaluation to come.

Interim Assistant City Administrator Penny Mocerri let everyone know that there was an issue with online utility pay due to a MUNIS update and that IT is working to correct the problem as soon as possible. This problem was not disclosed in advance of the update to allow the City time to prepare. It was suggested that late fees resulting from this be waived.

Mr. Bennett asked Mayor and Council how pay for CARES Act should be handled since it technically expires on December 31, 2020. They elected officials said to continue operating as if the CARES Act was still in place.

Mayor Norton adjourned the December 21, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:53 PM.