



Meeting Minutes - Final
City Council

Monday, February 3, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Rollcall

Present: 7 - Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Austin Wagner, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Tim Gould and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Also Present: 1 - Scott Cochran

Staff: 19 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, David Lee, Joe Bennett, Robert Harvey, Roy Acree, Brian Marcos, Jennifer Bennett, Frank Martin, Tyler Addison, Louis Defense, Frank Durrance, Rick James, Landon O'Neal, Jon Carter, Terry McCormick, Chris Flowers, Mark Binicewicz and Trey Stevens

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the February 3, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Invocation and Pledge:

Pastor Richard L. Bush, Mt. Zion Baptist Church (1789 Hawthorne Avenue) delivered the Invocation and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Changes:

There were no Agenda Changes.

3. Mayoral Report:

A. [2020-61](#) Performance by The New SwanSilvertones in honor of Black History Month

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-61.pdf](#)

The New SwanSilvertones were introduced by Pastor Bush and performed a lovely song of Praise and Worship.

B. [2020-60](#) Proclamation in Recognition of Black History Month

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-60.pdf](#)
[Black History Month proclamation 2020 signed.pdf](#)

Councilman Lewis Wheaton read aloud the Proclamation for Black History Month and made the presentation.

4. Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations:

There were no Land Issues, Zonings or Annexations.

5. Privilege Licenses:

There were no Privilege Licenses.

6. Formal Business:

- A. [2020-56](#) Public Hearing - Apartment Name Change Request 2020-56 - 2323 Ward Street - Name change from Sun Valley Apartments LLC dba Sun Valley Apartments to The Ward Luxury Apartments LLC dba The Ward Luxury Apartments with Elad Karta as agent.

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-56.pdf](#)
[WARD LUXURY APTS.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve item 2020-56, a Public Hearing and Apartment Name Change Request for the property located at 2323 Ward Street for the name change from Sun Valley Apartments LLC dba Sun Valley Apartments to The Ward Luxury Apartments LLC dba The Ward Luxury Apartments with Elad Karta as agent; seconded by Councilmember Susan Wilkinson.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

- B. [ORD2020-01](#) Amend Section 2-104 of the City Code regarding operational guidelines for the City Administrator so that the city administrator, subject to limitations exercises control over the regular operational activities of the City Clerk's office and defining the word "Control".

Attachments: [Issue Sheet ORD2020-01.pdf](#)
[Revisions for clerk reporting to Adm \(002\).docx](#)
[Ordinance 2020-01 City Clerk - City Administrator.docx](#)

City Attorney Scott Cochran noted this was an internal "housekeeping" item for the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve item ORD2020-01 an Ordinance to amend Section 2-104 of the City Code regarding operational guidelines for the City Administrator so that the city administrator, subject to limitations exercises control over the regular operational activities of the City Clerk's office and defining the word "Control"; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

Nay: 1 - Councilmember Wilkinson

C. [2020-68](#)

Approval of the appointment of Ron Davis to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), to fulfill term through April 2020

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-68.pdf](#)

Councilmember Travis Lindley remarked on the pleasure of Mayor and Council to have Mr. Davis join the Downtown Development Authority.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve item 2020-68 for the appointment of Ron Davis to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), to fulfill term through April 2020; seconded by Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

D. [2020-70](#)

Appointment of Deputy Police Chief Joe Bennett as City of Smyrna Chief of Police upon retirement of current Police Chief David Lee.

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-70.pdf.rtf](#)

Mayor Derek Norton invited current Police Chief David Lee forward to speak regarding his upcoming retirement from the City after serving seven years. He stated that Chief Lee had served the City well and done a fantastic job. He also remarked about Chief Lee's leadership, particularly in Community Policing and in having a great relationship between the department and the community.

Chief Lee stated it was both joyful and sad at the same time because he had been doing this pretty much his entire life. He went on to say that although it would be different he looked forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren. He closed by saying that Deputy Chief Joe Bennett will do a great job for the department and he thought the Mayor and Council had made the right choice for his successor.

Mayor Norton then reviewed the resume of Deputy Chief Bennett. He is a lifelong Smyrna resident with a bachelors degree from Reinhardt University, a Master's from Columbus State and is working toward a doctorate in public administration from Valdosta State. He's been with the Smyrna police department since 1995.

Deputy Chief Bennett was invited to the podium with his wife Mary Bennett and said that there were great things in store for the City. "As Mayor Norton mentioned, I'm a lifelong Smyrna resident, I went to our local schools in Smyrna. [My wife] Mary and I have chosen to raise our children in this community. So it is my goal to keep Smyrna a safe place to live work and play for our citizens."

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to approve item 2020-70 for the appointment of Deputy Police Chief Joe Bennett as City of Smyrna Chief of Police upon retirement of current Police Chief David Lee; seconded by Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

7. Commercial Building Permits:

There were no Commercial Building Permits.

8. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould to approve the consent agenda as read aloud; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

- A. [2020-62](#) Approval of the January 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-62.pdf](#)
[01.16.20 January 16, 2020 COW Minutes - Final.pdf](#)
- B. [2020-63](#) Approval of the January 21, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-63.pdf](#)
[01-21-2020 January 21 2020 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - FINAL.pdf](#)
- C. [2020-64](#) Approval of the January 21, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-64.pdf](#)
[01.21.2020 January 21, 2020 M&C Minutes - FINAL - No Attachments.pdf](#)
- D. [2020-49](#) Approval to extend the Advanced Disposal Commercial Sanitation Contract for one year, with optional annual renewal periods up to five years, ending February 28, 2025.
Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-49.pdf](#)
[Advanced Disposal.pdf](#)
- E. [2020-59](#) Approval and adoption of Restated Defined Benefit Retirement Plan documents and authorize the Mayor to execute related documents

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-59.pdf](#)
[Smyrna CM 1 29 2020.pdf](#)
[Summary of Amendments 1 6 2020.pdf](#)
[Amendment 1 to DB Master Plan 9.28.2018.pdf](#)
[Smyrna Addendum 1 29 2020.pdf](#)
[2018 Master Plan .pdf](#)
[Smyrna AA 1 29 2020.pdf](#)

- F. [2020-71](#) Approval of professional Services Agreement with Diligentia Consulting, LLC regarding various public safety initiatives including community policing, recruitment, traffic violation assessment and other duties as directed.

Attachments: [Issue Sheet 2020-71.pdf](#)
[Diligentia Contract 2.3.2020.tif](#)

9. Committee Reports:

Councilmember Glenn Pickens - Ward 1 - Reminded the public of the upcoming meeting at 6:30pm with Councilmember Travis Lindley and Councilmember Austin Wagner at Fire Station #3 (2825 Park Road) off of Spring Road regarding the Spring Road Development.

Councilmember Austin Wagner - Ward 2 - No Report

Councilmember Travis Lindley - Ward 3 - Reminder of a Ward 3 neighborhood meeting on March 15th at 4:00pm at City Hall. He also mentioned the passing of Deacon Billy Alford of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He also spoke about the recent GMA event, Cities United and what was learned by all in attendance. He came away with an overall sense of how well the City has been run over the years when listening to other cities from all over the state

Councilmember Corkey Welch - Ward 4 - Expressed his thanks to Chief David Lee for his years of service to the City.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson - Ward 5 - Also expressed thanks to Chief Lee and remarked that she looked forward to working with incoming Chief Bennett.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould - Ward 6 - Spoke about the Meet and Greet for Peace event recently held at Brawner Hall and thanked staff that worked hard to bring it together. He also offered congratulations to both Chief Lee and Chief Bennett.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton - Ward 7 - Stated he was excited to work with Chief Joe Bennett and thanked Chief David Lee for his service. He also remarked about the upcoming Black History Month Celebration on Saturday, February 15th from 11am - 6pm and noted Congressman David Scott to be in attendance as well as Dr. Archie Ervin, Vice President of Institute Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Georgia Tech.

City Attorney Scott Cochran echoed what Council had stated about Chief David Lee and incoming Chief Joe Bennett.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones spoke about Chief David Lee's leadership and noted he would need to finish up their book club discussion before retiring on Friday.

She also congratulated Chief Joe Bennnett and his wife Mary.

10. Show Cause Hearings:

There were no Show Cause Hearings.

11. Citizen Input:

Resident Alex Backry of Shawnee Trail spoke about the lack of citizen input and referendums regarding projects and purchases the City has engaged in over the last several years. He named specific projects and stated he hoped the new regime would consider involving the citizens more in major purchase and spendings.

12. Adjournment:

The February 3, 2020 meeting of the Mayor and Council was adjourned at 7:41PM by Mayor Derek Norton.