

Pre-Council Meeting - Preliminary
July 15, 2019
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Max Bacon Derek Norton Tim Gould
Maryline Blackburn Susan Wilkinson Andrea Blustein
Ron Fennel

Absent: Charles “Corkey” Welch

Also Present: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Terri Graham (City Clerk), David Lee (Police Chief), Rusty Martin (Interim Community Development Director), Bo Jones (Assistant Director of Public Works), Kevin Moore (City Engineer), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Landon O’Neal (Management Fellow), and Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)

Mayor Max Bacon called the Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones began her report by asking Police Chief David Lee to speak about a recent situation regarding noise complaints.

Chief Lee provided some background information on the situation which occurred in Ward 5. There have been numerous complaints for noise at the same address. Both the Police as well as the Marshal’s offices have been involved with this particular problem. The details regarding the problems are still forth coming. Chief wanted to make sure all the information is available before deciding on the next step.

Mr. Russell Martin with the Community Development Department also provided information since there were numerous occasions when the Marshals were involved. Code states that noise must be measured by a decibel reader, however the City is not currently in possession of this equipment.

Mayor and Council suggested purchasing the necessary equipment so that these types of complaints can be properly handled. Complaints about the particular address have been received by members of the Council since at least March but City records show this has been ongoing since sometime in 2018. Council asked Chief Lee to contact the concerned resident and provide them with an update.

Ms. Saddler Jones then asked Mr. Martin to speak on a Fence Ordinance that was proposed and tabled some time ago.

Mr. Martin reviewed what has happened to date in regards to a proposed update to the City's fence ordinance on the subject of privacy fencing on corner lots. In the past ten years, there have been thirty four requests for an increase in fence height on the side yard and all of those were approved. Four foot tall fences are allowed but most residents have requested either six or eight foot fences. The question is should people that own corner lots be given the same privileges as those on inner lots. The point in bringing it up was to get direction from Mayor and Council. Community Development will do whatever is asked of them.

There were some Council members with concerns about the ordinance. They felt that it would be better if these types of fence requests remain before the License and Variance Board so that everyone has a voice in such situations.

After some more discussion it was decided to move ahead with the section of the ordinance stating that the decorative part of the fence must face the street and sometime in the future, the height issue will be addressed. More time to research the issue and gather facts was the reasoning behind the decision to hold off on that part for now.

On the final item of the City Administrator Report, Ms. Saddler Jones spoke of the emails she had been receiving regarding the old Ruby Tuesday location. She asked Mr. Martin to provide an update of the status of code violations on that property.

Mr. Martin explained that the property is owned by an investment company out of California. The company was contacted and stated that they would be out there in the next two days to make sure everything is cleaned up and to code. There are boarded up windows due to missing glass, trash piling up, and there are some homeless using the lot as a camp. All of this should be resolved in the very near future.

Review of the Agenda for the July 15, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting

Mayor Bacon announced that he will not be seeking re-election but stated that he will remain Mayor until his contract with the citizens is up. He then opened discussion of the agenda.

The rezoning on Spring Road with 108 townhomes was reviewed by Mr. Martin. He explained that all parties are in agreement and have worked everything out. Planning and Zoning Commission passed the rezoning at the June meeting. The only concerns he was aware of were in regards to traffic and the concern that it will generate additional problems in an already congested area. He presented the plans for additional clarity on the proposed project.

There were some questions regarding the variances which were answered by Mr. Martin.

Mayor Bacon summarized his thoughts on the proposal based upon the past two and a half years since the property first went up for sale.

Council discussed the proposed project and how it fits with the LCI study as well as the Future Land Use map.

With discussion of the agenda complete, Mayor Bacon moved on to announcements.

Chief Lee shared information regarding former Police Chief Hook who is suffering from health complications and is not doing well.

Councilmember Tim Gould thanked City Engineer Kevin Moore for helping in getting the island installed in front of Campbell Middle School.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn would like to see a smoking ban considered after a recent smoking ban passed in the City of Atlanta.

Councilmember Ron Fennel thanked Mr. Moore for his help with the quiet zone which was previously approved and has yet to be completed.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked for other people's thoughts on an ordinance recently passed in Doraville.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the July 15, 2019 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:55 PM.