

Pre-Council Committee of the Whole
May 15, 2017
6:00PM
FINAL

Present: *Mayor Max Bacon* *Derek Norton* *Andrea Blustein*
 Teri Anulewicz *Susan Wilkinson* *Doug Stoner*
 Ron Fennel *Charles (Corkey) Welch*

Absent: *None*

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler-Jones (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Richard Garland (Parks and Recreation Director), Scott Stokes (Public Works Director), David Lee (Chief of Police), Jered Sigmon (Budget Manager), Heather Peacon-Corn (Deputy City Clerk) and Maxwell Ruppensburg (Management Fellow).

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Parks and Rec Director Richard Garland spoke about an evaluation to be performed regarding the department as a whole to include parks and staff. Ms. Saddler-Jones also mentioned there has been poor attendance for the Parks and Rec committee and there were two current vacancies that needed to be filled. Individual Council members asked about specific member's attendance.

Mayor Bacon reiterated the Commission is a powerful commission with a lot of influence and it is difficult for individual Councilmembers to choose members as opposed to the Mayor who can choose from the entire City.

Every other month and the first Monday are the meeting dates.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Mayor Bacon reviewed the two Proclamation presentations and one recognition for the Whitfield Academy boys' soccer as State Champions.

Honorary Mayor Harold Truong would be present at 6:30pm to be introduced to Council and would preside over the meeting after the proclamation presentations.

The Land Items, Zonings and Annexations were reviewed and were discussed who would handle each item.

The daycare item would be motioned by Councilmember Doug Stoner and he spoke about the 8' fence request as opposed to a 6" fence for the neighbors. There has been feedback but it is from the non-residents of Ivey Glen subdivision.

Councilmember Wilkinson asked about the Fire Department turning radius for this property as well as the access for the garbage trucks access.

She also asked about the inter-parcel access from the Chevron and Councilmember Stoner said that would not be an option for the new development. City Attorney Scott Cochran noted that the inter-parcel agreement was in addition to the current access so the access they have would need to suffice.

The purchase of the Chuck Camp Park equipment was discussed.

The vote to move Tammi Saddler-Jones from the Interim City Administrator to the City Administrator was discussed.

Mayor Bacon asked about the paving project and the company performing the work.

Councilmember Ron Fennel reviewed the Budget presentation and Mayor Bacon asked about the Millage rate remaining the same and if there were raises for employees in the budget. The team was recognized again for their accounting standards as a triple A bond rating.

Councilmember Wilkinson asked about any changes that were made since the Thursday COW meeting. Ms. Robinson, Finance Director, spoke about House Bill 146 in regards to the Firefighters.

Ms. Saddler-Jones spoke about recommended approval of the Loss Prevention Risk Analyst position from the non-recommended position. Councilmember Blustein asked when this was changed and the Council responded that it was discussed at the COW and Councilmember Fennel said that he made the recommendation at the COW and the rest of Council was in agreement.

Councilmember Corkey Welch asked about the Museum and the monies in the budget. The document had been completed and signed and was tweaked for over the last two years. Harold said he was going to stay and make sure the new employee would have the correct information and he could offer guidance to them. Mayor Bacon has not signed the document yet and it needs to be voted on by the Council.

Harold Truong joined the meeting and was introduced to the council and other attendees.

The Budget Public Hearing dates were reviewed. Additionally, Ms. Robinson asked Councilmember Wilkinson if she had specific concerns regarding the recommended additional positions in the budget. Ms. Robinson asked that any concerns needed to be addressed prior to the June 1, 2017 COW agenda meeting. Mayor Bacon noted that if

meetings were missed by the Council, they needed to reach out to Finance to get updated on the latest budget and get all questions answered. Mayor Bacon said he was sure there were some things put back into the budget that he will not be happy with and someone will need to explain these to him.

Mayor Bacon conversed with Harold Truong and asked about his summer and future plans.

Mr. Garland reviewed the information about the studies regarding the inert dumpsite property. Councilmember Wilkinson asked about potential EPA / EPD tests regarding the site.

Councilmember Welch asked about a pocket park in that area that was promised to the nearby residents. The Council twenty years ago should have been having this discussion regarding the dump site and Mr. Garland replied that the site is not on the EPD list. Mayor Bacon also replied that the EPD was a group not to be on the wrong side of.

Mayor Bacon stated that he was not impressed by Rafetilis and their presentation he was on a conference call and listened to 45 minutes this week. They reworked our current structure and raised rates for residential and lowered rates for the commercial. Ms. Saddler-Jones noted they recommended a \$.50 increase to storm water which the City would implement. The rate would go from \$2.45 to \$2.95 with a 5% increase over the next few years.

Councilmember Welch said he understands the \$75,000.00 fee for the study if they created a model as that was very time consuming. He had also asked for a copy of the model during the presentation at the COW and it had not been sent to him.

The drought restrictions would have a direct impact on the fees collected through the water department and the collective commented about the lack of growth in Smyrna and that we had only a 1% increase in overall water usage. We are currently losing money on storm water and we are trying to get to a break-even point.

The property between Reed House and Community Bank of the South has had an application submitted to build 41 townhomes as noted by Councilmember Stoner.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked about the posting of the Steering Committee the following morning and she remarked that the Planning and Zoning Board would be in attendance. Mr. Cochran said they cannot do any official action and it would need to be posted at the door and faxed to the MDJ. This is the steering committee for Planning and Zoning.

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Councilmember Welch asked if we had sold the Hooper-Turner property yet and Ms. Saddler-Jones responded no.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fennel to enter into Executive Session to discuss Legal; seconded by Councilmember Norton. The motion carried in favor unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fennel to enter back into Regular Session; seconded by Councilmember Norton. The motion carried in favor unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.