

**Pre-Council Meeting
Minutes- FINAL
April 16, 2018
6:00 PM**

*Present: Mayor A. Max Bacon Maryline Blackburn Ron Fennel
Derek Norton Charles "Corkey" Welch Susan Wilkinson
Andrea Blustein*

Note: Ward 6 Seat was Vacant,

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler-Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman, (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Ashley Youmans (Community Liaison) and Lisa Ochoa (Deputy City Clerk), David Lee (Chief), Richard Garland (Parks & Recreation Director), Tommy Price (Parks & Recreation), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Kay Bolick (H. R. Director), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner), Scott Stokes(Public Works Director)and Jennifer Bennet (Community Relations Director)

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

Police Recruitment & Enlistment Bonus – Chief David Lee:

Chief David Lee shared the following proposed plan for recruiting and re-enlisting officers in his department:

- Non-Certified Officers – a \$3,000.00 sign on bonus that would be paid out in two parts, \$1,500.00 after police academy training was completed, and \$1,500.00 after completed working test period. If the prospective officer had three (3) years of active military duty experience, there would be an additional \$1,000.00 upon successfully completing the test work period.
- Certified Officers Recruitment – certified officers would receive \$5,000.00, \$2,500.00 on the first check and the remaining \$2,500.00 after the completed working test period, another \$1000.00 if the officer had three years of military experience. To qualify, the officer would need two (2) years of previous experience with another agency.
- A re-enlistment bonus would be offered at the five year mark that would total \$5,000.00 if the officer committed at the 5 year mark to continue with Smyrna for 2 more years, he/she would receive \$1,000.00 at the time of signing and the remaining \$4,000.00 after completing two more years.
- If a previous employee wanted to return and was eligible, he/she could receive half of the offered sign on bonus. Existing officers that have been with the City for 5 years and 1 day would not be eligible.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item would be on the May 7, 2018 City Council Agenda.

On-call Pay - Chief David Lee:

Chief Lee stated that the officers came to him requesting to be paid while on call. The officers informed Chief Lee that the fire fighters were compensated while on call and felt this should be extended to the officers as well. Fire fighters received \$50.00 per day, Public Works received \$25.00 per day and Parks and Recreation received \$25.00 per day on the weekend. While on call, the employee would be prohibited from drinking, going to the movies, etc. The Police Department and Public Works would have three people on call daily and Parks and Recreation would have one person on duty during the weekends.

Mayor Bacon asked how often did the City utilize the on call officer and Mr. Lee stated not that often. Human Resource Director Kay Bolick stated the current policy excluded the Police Department, but the updated policy would include 3 officers on call daily at a cost of \$50.00 per day. Off duty Officers on call for the court would receive \$15.00 per day. The estimated cost for court and police on call would be \$92,000.00 a year and total cost would be \$127,000.00 for the three departments.

Mayor Bacon stated this item would be on the May 7, 2018 Council Agenda.

Sports Field Maintenance – Richard Garland

Parks and Recreation Direction Richard Garland proposed that his department could save the City money by caring for the 25 acres of sports fields that Ashford Gardens currently maintains. The City has paid Ashford Gardens \$121,000.00 yearly for one cut per week, fertilization, over seeding, mowing, and top dressings. Without adding additional staff, Parks and Recreation would like to take on the maintenance of the sports fields. Mr. Garland proposed that his department would provide two cuts per week, top dressing, over seeding, complete fertilization and weed control at a cost of \$102,000.00 per year saving the City about \$19,000.00 per year. Last year, Parks and Recreation maintained and over seeded fields that were outside the contract with Ashford and Gardens at a cost of \$8000.00 that would be included in the \$102,000.00.

Mayor Bacon inquired if the Veterans Memorial could be added to this because he felt it was in disarray. Mr. Garland explained that the cost to repair the Veterans Memorial would be about \$30,000.00 and the City has paid Ashford about \$3600.00 per year to maintain the property. He felt that once the Veterans Memorial was repaired, the maintenance cost would be inconsequential. His department would maintain all the fields at Jonquil, Brinkley, River Line, Chuck Camp, Ward, Cobb, and the Veterans Memorial. The department would need to lease purchase additional equipment.

Mayor Bacon asked if the contract with Ashford Gardner could be amended. Mr. Garland stated that the City had a year to year contract with Ashford Gardner and he would like to implement his proposed plan at the end of the contract. He also noted that the proposed plan was for the fields only not the landscaping.

City Administrator Report:

- City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones reminded Council and staff of the Windy Hill Boulevard Information Meeting in the large gym at the Community Center on April 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. A Special Called Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 1PM. She also noted that Reverend Palmer would be at the May 3, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting to speak about the Atlanta Dream Project.
- Mayor Bacon announced the passing of John Williams. He stated Mr. Williams was a major player in the downtown redevelopment.

Review of the Agenda

The Mayor went over the Agenda. There were no changes to the Agenda.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired as to how long the traffic circle would be closed during the 9 month construction and how this would affect businesses in the area. Director Scott Stokes stated the closure would be for 60 days and that contractors would be required to leave access to the businesses.

Councilmember Ron Fennel announced the Finance Meeting on Monday, April 23, 2018 that would be open to the public.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews stated staff was working on cemetery pricing, clean air ordinance, and expanding the restaurant district should be on the next agenda.

Mayor Bacon said he had concerns about allowing patrons to walk in with a drink from another establishment. Most of the restaurants were not interested in the liability of allowing the drinks to come in from other businesses. Ms. Wilkinson said that several of the businesses have brought up banning smoking at all establishments. The restaurants would like the city to enforce nonsmoking so they won't have to do it. Mayor Bacon said the businesses can stop it themselves.

Mayor A. Max Bacon adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM.