



## Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

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Thursday, June 27, 2019

6:00 PM

City Hall

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### 1. Roll Call

*Council: Tim Gould, Ron Fennel, Charles "Corkey" Welch, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Derek Norton, Mary Blackburn*

*Absent: Mayor Max A. Bacon*

*Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Christy Ullman (Ex. Asst. to the M&C), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Mary K. Arvin (Admin. Svc. Coord.), Janet Liberman (Keep Smyrna Beautiful – Director), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Projects Coordinator), Landon O'Neal (ICMA Management Fellow), Jennie Eldredge (Museum Manager), Tina Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk), Chris Flowers (Lieutenant, Police Department), Robert Harvey (Deputy Chief, Police Department)*

*Guest: Mr. Robert Harrison (Indie Arts Alliance), Alyssa Hobland (Schneider Electric), Greg Teaque (Croy Engineering), Michael Ward (Cobb County 911), Michael Migliaccio (Johnson Controls)*

### 2. Call to Order

*Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Norton called the June 27, 2019 Committee of The Whole Meeting to Order at 6 pm.*

### 3. Indie Arts - Presentation on an Upcoming Event

*Mr. Robert Harrison with Indie Arts Alliance gave a presentation about holding an event on September 21st "MidSummer Night Faire". Mr. Harrison wants to hold an Arts Festival in Smyrna focused on local artists. Also, there will be an artist market with both acrobatic and ariel performers on stage, jugglers, giant puppets, a fire blowing dragon will be present for one night, and food trucks. Mr. Harrison is working with Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland and has hired three police officers; he's also working with the Smyrna Fire Marshal's Department.*

*Indie Arts Alliance has agreed to abide within guidelines set by the City of Smyrna and to use local Smyrna artist like Thomas Arvid, who is a well-known artist. Mr. Harrison has also reached out to the Smyrna Arts Council folks and he has a meeting scheduled with the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Department. This event will be free to the public.*

*Mr. Harrison is looking for sponsors from local businesses to receive funds to pay the local artist, but he did say he'd finance out of his pocket if assistance is low. Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews informed Mr. Harris to seek Council approval before posting on Face Book. Mr. Harris said he posted this proposed event on Face Book with a message reading "save this date", pending approval from the City*

of Smyrna.

*There will be no street closures for this event. An area arts school called "Space" is one of groups Mr. Harrison has contacted to see if they wished to perform at the Arts Festival.*

#### **4. Schneider Electric Presentation**

*Ms. Alyssa Hobland with Schneider Electric provided an overview and how they can potentially help the City align with sustainability projects they identified with assistance from the City Staff. Ms. Hobland said, Schneider Electric can provide a way to reduce project cost in one package.*

*Schneider is responsible for designing and monitoring projects, and they take on all the risks. The overview handout produced a way to generate revenue and savings. Schneider Electric takes the responsibility for designing, implementing the project, and a guarantees savings; Schneider will write a check for the differences. LED lighting is a project along with Salt Water conversion in pools.*

*Lastly, Ms. Hobland spoke about using Solar energy and how it can help local businesses through power purchase agreements. The City can receive Solar infrastructure through a third party who installs the solar energy, and then pays Schneider as the utility provider without any up-front cost. The City would seek permission from the community to show how this will benefit with a 30% cut in utility cost. It's a unique opportunity to combine a lot of different infrastructure and sustainability projects under one comprehensive solution and pay for it in a way that's budget neutral and utilizing our existing operating budget to help fund it. This will get residents excited and the City will show how they're providing a budget cut. Schneider is also doing a lot with waste water treatment and they will provide an electronic version of their handout to the Council.*

#### **5. City Administrator Report**

*City of Smyrna Museum Manager Jennie Eldredge presented on the renovation deadline occurring at the museum and that the grand opening dates is scheduled on Saturday, October 15, 2019 at the Smyrna Museum. Public works added new adjustable LED lighting, freshly painted walls and trim, and refinished hardwood floors to the museum. Ms. Eldredge informed the Council and Staff that the Smyrna Historical Society is officially IRS 501 © 3 registered as of June 19, 2019.*

*City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones informed the Council and Staff about a SPLOST meeting with Cobb County on Friday, June 28, 2019 to discuss a proposed SPLOST 2022 list.*

*The Smyrna Fire Department will hold a promotional ceremony to recognize recent promotions of Lieutenant and Engineer on Friday, June 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm, held at the Brawner Hall. Promoted were (2) Fire Lieutenants and (5) Fire Engineers.*

*Council member Susan Wilkinson for the record brought up the S. Cobb corridor issue and the intensive study done that touches (5) Wards and the importance to annex this area for safety due to numerous pedestrian deaths. Also, for the safety of high school students who cross this area every day.*

*A future date will be set to discuss the proposed FY2020 budget for new personnel and all reclassifications. The city offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.*

## **6. Review of the July 1, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda**

*Council spoke of the appointment of Ward 1 representative Latarsha Pearson to the Smyrna Housing Authority as a representative through the remaining term to expire in May 2020.*

*Deputy Chief Harvey spoke about the authorization to enter into an amended User License Agreement for 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System with Cobb County, GA in the amount of \$1,154,692.29 over the contract term of October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2027 funded through Smyrna E-911. This agreement takes all of the 2007 Cobb County Municipalities entered into this agreement along with all users to operate on the 800 MHz public safety radio system that was amended in 2015 and set to expire between 2020 and 2025 and combines them into one by year and date. Previously there were three different agreements with five different end dates. The cost is based on the number of radios, infrastructure, and usage. The City of Smyrna budgeted this cost over several years.*

*By executing the amended and restated license agreement dated October 1, 2018, the City will continue the Cobb 800 MHz public safety radio system without interruption and set all users with the same terms. \$1,612,633.66 (\$457,941.37 from Cobb County 2016 SPLOST and \$1,154,692.29 from Smyrna E-911 Fund).*

*All user agencies will be billed according to the contract for these services. The Board of Commissioners has approved this amendment.*

## **7. Other Business**

*Council member Susan Wilkinson brought up the "Housing Solutions" class at the GMA Conference in Savannah, GA., and that she learned the importance of doing a housing survey or studies to determine the needs of one's City. Other cities attending the GMA classes mentioned that their cities Downtown Development Authority members are also members of GICH.*

*The City of Savannah spoke about an affordable housing program, where they put down \$40,000.00 on a \$169,000.00 home purchase where the buyer is approved for the remainder and the City will eventually get the \$40,000.00 refunded.*

*Ms. Wilkinson commented on a neighbor wanting the City to assist with muffler noise within a gated community. City Attorney Scott Cochran commented that public street laws cannot be enforced in gated communities. This issue sounds like a HOA problem and not a violation of a noise ordinance.*

*Councilmember Maryline Blackburn informed the Council and Staff that Clarkston, GA has affordable housing projects in the works, and they will become the first tiny home city.*

*Councilmember Tim Gould informed the Council and Staff about a traffic meeting in front of Campbell Middle school on July 1st to discuss the addition of a safety median before school starts, to prevent cars from riding down the turning lane. Mr. Gould attended the GMA Conference in Savannah and brought up the notion of doing an inventory of City assets to determine what we need to differentiate us from other*

*surrounding cities in Cobb and our geographic area. There was conversation regarding stock related products such as cigarettes and alcohol being sold to minors under age 18, and the by-partisan bill recently dropped, states merchants must display signs stating this.*

*Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews reminded the Council and Staff of the upcoming 2020 Census meeting with the County for the complete count update on July 15th. Mr. Andrews said, we will be advertising that the City Staff will be meeting on July 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Magnolia room.*

## **8. Adjournment**

*Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Norton adjourned the Thursday, June 17, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:12 pm.*