

Pre-Council Committee of the Whole  
April 17, 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), Mike Jones (City Administrator) Tammi Saddler-Jones (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Heather Peacon-Corn (Deputy City Clerk) and Maxwell Ruppensburg (Management Fellow).*

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

There was discussion brought to the table regarding the recent St. Patrick's Day event that was organized by Red Bird and issues with trash, temporary fencing and beer wagons left and not removed at the conclusion of the event. Additionally there were tables left and all the signage was not removed. Mayor Bacon stated that at 11:30pm the event should have been completely removed and cleaned. Betty Cagle sent a letter and said that she thought it had to be removed and cleaned by 11:30am Monday.

Mayor Bacon has concerns over reports that beer wagons were allowed to set up one day prior to their permit date as well. Parking places were blocked before the allotted time. Mayor Bacon is not comfortable allowing the next event permit for the Crawfish Event before they agree to additional conditions regarding clean-up.

Mr. Jones remarked that he wanted to be clear that although Council voted to issue the permit, it was his understanding that the permit now not be issued until language can be added regarding clean-up. Mr. Jones said he did not understand what Mayor Bacon wanted and he replied he would put it back on Mr. Jones and he would need to be at the event at 11:30pm and make sure all was removed.

Mayor Pro Tem Anulewicz stated that it sounded like the permit was already voted on, and it should have clear language regarding cleanup and the other parameters expected of the City for the event coordinator.

The letter sent to Mr. Jones from Betty Cagle has a bunch of excuses in it in Mr. Jones' opinion but the letter does not do anything to correct the issues or state how they will be corrected. As of today she had sent an email to Community Relations stating six things they will do better. What is being proposed is consistent as to what will be approved.

Ms. Bennett has requested a plan as well and Mr. Jones wants to know what the matric is for issuing the permit.

Councilmember Norton suggested adding a “or what” clause. Additionally it was mentioned that perhaps we need to look into a performance bond for future events. The owners need to be held accountable as she is hired by them. They had the same issues last St. Patrick’s Day event last year.

The permit is not specific enough and does not reflect the language of the vote taken.

JRM has set the standard and Red Bird needs to take note of how they perform at an event.

Mr. Jones moved on to the Civil War Heritage Trail. The City wrote a letter to them last August and they were given permission to move forward with the installation of seven trail signs. They indicated Public Works was not being responsive to them to complete the installation.

Mayor Pro Tem Anulewicz asked what the diversity consultant stated about these and Mr. Jones said he was unable to find his notes regarding any conversation with Robin Crawford.

Mayor Bacon said the signs should not be installed before the crosswalks on Atlanta Road at the front of the Village.

#### **AGENDA REVIEW:**

The zoning request will be tabled.

Authorization for CDBG contracts; this is done every three years and this is to note we have interest in the program for future.

Reclassification Major position to an additional Deputy Police Chief position. Mr. Jones noted he had asked that this go on the COW for the 27<sup>th</sup> for discussion and was surprised that it was present on the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Anulewicz inquired if this was being considered because of the upcoming retirements in the department and Chief Lee replied that was partially the reasoning. Additionally, many PD’s were going to double Deputy Chief positions. The current Deputy Chief is overseeing five majors. The two Deputy Chiefs will now each be over two Major positions allowing for better policing and administration.

Chief Lee went on to reporting about the state certification for the evidence room to be converted using the Smyrna Soccer Club.

This new position will streamline and better balance the overall workload. The costs for the remainder of the year would be \$1,300. The total overall cost would be a 5% increase for next fiscal year. Mayor Bacon is concerned about the minimal increase because a new hire can come in as high as the midpoint but a current employee can only get a maximum of a 5% increase according to policy. The policy is not fair as written. We are penalizing the internal candidate. The difference between Major and Deputy Chief is a 5% increase.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes approvals reviewed.

Approval of the liability insurance reviewed.

Mayor Bacon went around the table and Councilmember Welch asked about the old building on Park Road along North Cooper Lake Road. The building is owned by Mr. Faust. There is a citizen complaint and a request to tear the building down. Mayor Bacon gave the history of the property as he knows it.

Councilmember Ron Fennel gave a CMA report from the last meeting and noted the Lamar Norton the GMA Executive Director will retire at the GMA conference in Savannah. He also gave the details of the steak dinner for the next meeting in Acworth.

Mr. Jones and he met with the representatives from the Great Promise Scholarship and there will be six scholarships to students at Campbell High School for Chattahoochee Tech. Assistant City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones was volunteered as the prime contact.

Councilmember Stoner gave an update regarding parking signs and speed detection machines in the Shawnee Trail area. A speed study has been completed. Mayor Bacon reminded the Council that the removal of the signs needs to be addressed and voted on by the Council since they were voted on to be placed by the Council. Mr. Stoner has not taken action because he said the policy for No Parking signs needs to be updated. Councilmember Lnenicka spearheaded the signs back in 1989. Policy and criteria needs to be in place.

Ms. Saddler-Jones stated City Engineer Eric Randall has drafted a policy regarding No-Parking.

There was continued discussion regarding the parking signs.

Councilmember Wilkinson remarked about curves in the road and having No Parking signs for safety. Mayor Bacon said people purposely park on Sherwood to slow down traffic.

She also asked about Glendale Place and a landscape plan for the intersection.

The Braves game was discussed and parking in the area.

Mike Jones said it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the day to day operations of the City and he noted that he and Mayor Bacon were at odds over many things.

At the retreat there was discussion about decision points and management and he went on to say he does not know what goes on an agenda and what doesn't. He remarked that he has department heads that could not count on what he has told them to stay true. Mayor Bacon in his absence and prior to him leaving was involved deeply in the day to day operations but it is confusing some staff. He stated staff was not happy and neither was he. He does not think we can continue to go down this path and it is not going to work. He'd like to have an opportunity to sit with the Mayor but the one set for today was canceled. He'd like to speak to him and to the Council about moving this forward. He doesn't think there is anything here that cannot be fixed but he cannot fix what he doesn't know is broken.

He stated he is burnt out with trying to guess what issues are wrong and being second guessed. He did not sign up for a position to do that. He came to the City because it was his understanding that the City was looking for someone to run the day to day operations who was not afraid to make decisions and do what was in the interest of the Mayor and Council. And that is all he wants to do.

In the absence of direction his personality is to move it forward. If that is not what they want he needs to know that.

Mayor Bacon responded that other than a couple of issues, he would not say that he is deeply involved in the day to day operations; absolutely not. I was involved in about three or four issues that came up that he didn't know about. Mr. Jones interrupted and replied that he said 'deep in the weeds, Mayor'. Mayor Bacon went on to say that the only thing he got involved in was Ms. Saddler-Jones being off. He had approved Mr. Jones' time off but Mr. Jones had already approved her time off for the same days. Then you were going to let your assistant work from home and nobody was going to be in the City Administrator's office. You cannot do that and not have the City Administrator, the Assistant City Administrator and the Executive Assistant all out of the office.

Mr. Jones interrupted again and stated 'If you don't have any more faith in me on something that simple, we have a problem.' Mayor Bacon replied then we have a problem. Mr. Jones interjected that it was that simple.

Mayor Pro Tem Anulewicz remarked that the City Administrator and the Assistant City Administrator are out of the office at the same time at meetings and conferences. Mr. Jones said it happens all the time and it was a point of discussion if somebody wants it to be a point of discussion. He went on to say he had already spoken with Ken Suddreth and he had

managed the day to day operations previously, and was more than capable of managing the City of Smyrna for one day. We have qualified department heads, a finance major was asked to come back. She had a personal issue and ended up taking a day off because we wouldn't let her work from home. We trust with her with a \$100,000,000.00 budget but not with a four hour decision to work from home. My assistant has had medical problems that you're not aware of; it is in her personnel file, and I gave her the flexibility to do that. That was a decision that I made and I'm sorry if that is counter to what you want.

Mayor Bacon said it is all about one thing: Communication. You do not communicate with my office or with me... Mr. Jones interrupted and said communication is a two way street.

Mayor Bacon continued and said you expect me to call you and that's not the way it works.

Councilmember Blustein replied that she knows for a fact that Mr. Jones had been running around this place screaming and yelling at older women. That is unacceptable. Penny Murphy left because of the way you treated her. And she knows there are a couple of more that are having the same problem with you. That is disgusting in today's time and I have told them that if they want to pursue this she will be right there with them.

Mayor Pro Tem Anulewicz suggested that Councilmember Blustein and Mr. Jones speak to Kay Bolick in HR. Mr. Jones replied that Penny made poor choices on one day and the other was Terri Graham and I wish she was here to hear this because she is part of the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.