



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, August 17, 2017

6:00 PM

City Hall

Roll Call

Council: Mayor Max Bacon, Teri Anulewicz, Andrea Blustein, Ron Fennel, Corkey Welch, Doug Stoner, Susan Wilkinson

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Christiana Craddock (Executive Assistant to City Administrator), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to Mayor and Council), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Ashley Youmans (Government Management Fellow), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Projects Coordinator), Chief David Lee (Police Chief), Major Joe Bennett, Major Terry McCormick, Deputy Chief Brian Marcos.

Guests: Larry Terry, Don Hicks, Zack Strickland (Croy Engineering), Amanda Shelindra, Scott Simcox, Fabiola Charles Stokes, Mitch Hunter (Google Fiber)

Absent: Derek Norton

Call to Order

Mayor Bacon called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

City Administrator Report

Administration Update

Attachments: [Admin Report 8.17.17.pdf](#)

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones announced to Council that an offer was made to Mr. Scott Andrews for the Assistant City Administrator position, and he accepted and will begin on September 11th. He is currently the Economic Development Director at Sugar Hill and he and his wife already purchased a home in the Villages of Belmont. She said he would be present at the Pre-Council meeting on Monday for a more formal introduction.

The next item on the report was an invitation to Council by CCSD to tour the Pre-K program in Smyrna at Belmont Hills Elementary. This pilot program began at Belmont Hills over the summer. A date is TBD, but should be sometime in October, and staff will send a calendar invite out in the near future.

Ms. Saddler Jones announced the Solar Eclipse party at the library on Monday, and said they were expecting a large crowd and would be working with Chief Lee and Parks staff to control the crowd.

The next item under the Admin report was an update on Google Fiber by some representatives. They explained that they had been experiencing construction and

regulatory challenges while building their networks in metro Atlanta and in the other cities in the Southeast. Due to the setbacks, they were making a deliberate decision to slow down their efforts and examine the situation in all their markets while working on new deployment techniques for the fiber network. Ms. Amanda Shelindra, Expansion and City Engagement Lead for Metro Atlanta, explained that the original timeline discussed had shifted, but they were still intending on building their network in Smyrna and servicing Smyrna citizens; however they did not expect progress to resume in the near future. She said Google Fiber was available in some residential multi-dwelling buildings in the City of Atlanta, but all other metro areas were experiencing the same delays as Smyrna. She said a timeline would be communicated as soon as they had one, and they wanted to work with Council to share this information with residents, as they know it will be disappointing to Smyrna residents. She reiterated their commitment to Smyrna, and that they would eventually resume the establishment of their network in Smyrna. There was consensus from Council that they were disappointed to hear the news, and questions were raised about the fiber huts (which the Google Fiber representatives said they were still intending on using). Ms. Shelindra gave examples of issues they had been facing involving utility poles and attachment rights, and Mr. Scott Simcox echoed those problems and detailed challenges with the construction of the network itself.

There was discussion about what Council should tell constituents when they asked about Google Fiber. Ms. Shelindra shared that Smyrna was the first community they have had this difficult conversation with, and they were trying to have these meetings with their markets in person. Councilmember Fennel said he will be challenged as to how to word this information in his upcoming newsletter, and it was important that Council is able to handle the message properly. Ms. Shelindra said that the message is that Google Fiber is delayed, but remains committed to laying network around Smyrna. Councilmember Teri Anulewicz concurred that it was going to be a tough message to deliver, and that Council needed transparency and consistency from Google. It was recommended that Google determine a person or phone number constituents can call about further questions to eliminate Council from being the middle man, as this was Google's message to deliver. Mayor Bacon agreed that Council needed one message and one statement. Councilmember Welch expressed his concerns about the three google huts sitting on City property, unused and with no purpose. Councilmember Teri Anulewicz suggested a joint meeting with all the nine Google Fiber cities to work together with staff and Google to craft the message, similar to when the launch was announced, so everyone would be dealing with the information at the same time. Councilmember Doug Stoner agreed that Council needed a message to put out to constituents, and that they needed to be able to direct them to someone at Google if they have further questions, because consumers should be contacting Google directly with questions/comments, not Council or staff. Ms. Shelindra suggested the Customer Service Line, but that was not well supported. There was further discussion and emphasis on the need for Google to give Council a statement they can share with citizens.

SPLOST Update - Croy Engineering

2016 SPLOST Update - Larry Terry

Attachments: [Splost Update - COW_2017-08-17.pdf](#)

Mr. Larry Terry said the update would provide current status on projects that are underway and in the design or construction process.

The contractor has mobilized at Fire Station 2, and the contract was for 276 days, which puts the completion at 6/1/18. Mayor Bacon mentioned more crusher was needed on the site.

Bartow Paving was awarded the citywide resurfacing project, in a 45 day contract that began the end of July.

There was discussion about coordinating utility work with resurfacing projects so that the City is not repaving a road in order for it to be torn up by a utility company months later.

A map of Windy Hill Blvd was shown with status of the parcels on the north side – parcels in blue were already acquired, in red were in condemnation, and in orange were still in negotiation. 26 out of the 40 parcels are currently acquired and completed. Mr. Larry Terry said they met with Cobb County two weeks ago to go over the plans, and these meetings will be monthly. He said acquisitions would begin soon on the south side for the temporary easements. Mayor Bacon inquired about the Windy Hill bonds, and Mr. Terry said he thinks they have expended around \$10-\$10.5M so far. Mayor Bacon asked if the \$15M was going to be enough, and Mr. Don Hicks (Croy) replied that the \$15M would not be enough, but it was never meant to cover it all. Mr. Scott Cochran said that was correct and the bonds were for jump starting the project and added that the SPLOST revenue received has been more than projected. Mr. Terry said the R/W Committee was negotiating firmly with the property owners and was working to get them down as far as possible with each deal. Mr. Don Hicks said construction was scheduled to start in June 2018.

Next item was a Sidewalk and Trail Audit which Croy did for PW Director Scott Stokes to help him understand where all the gaps in the sidewalks are. He said they did the entire City, and Councilmember Fennel requested that Council get a copy of the map for their respective wards.

The Access Control card reader project was completed, and the Roswell Street Roundabout was 90% complete as far as the design, and the R/W acquisition for this project should start next month, with construction beginning in the fall.

Lastly, interior photos of the Reed House were shared, and a completion date of 11/7/17 was given for the exterior. Mayor Bacon said a plan needed to be put in place for the grand opening and he wanted local artists participating.

Review of August 21, 2017 Mayor and Council Agenda

Community Development Director said the first item under Zonings was a request that stemmed from the Spring Road improvements. RaceTrac had a lot of landscaping conditions on their property, and with the recent road improvements, a lot of those came out, so they have requested that we use and adopt the existing current plan just for their records. He said staff rolled over the appropriate conditions, and this was just a clean-up item.

Under Formal Business, there was an agreement for the City to do Powder Springs' E-911 services, which will be implemented on November 1st.

There was also a resolution in support of the City's participation in the Great Promise Partnership, which had been discussed at several previous COW meetings.

Under Consent, there was authorization for the Smyrna Fire Department to purchase a

new data management software, ImageTrend, which was supported by the State Fire Marshal's office. Deputy Chief Brian Marcos said this new software would help them stay compliant and allows for the ability to customize the software. He said Cobb County had already moved to it and other municipalities have been touting its effectiveness.

Other items under consent were the beer trailers for Atkins Park for the Taste of Smyrna, Woofstock, and Jonquil festivals. There was discussion about the issues regarding clean-up for some of these events, and Mayor Bacon said the only problems that they had with clean-up involved events ran by Red Bird Events (these events on the agenda will be run by JRM and Star 94.1).

Next were road race closures for the Smyrna Village 5K/10K and the Smyrna Public Safety race. There was discussion about a letter the City received from the VRS people who do the Spooktacular race, and that they pulled out of Smyrna because they could not use their own routes (the City's new policy dictates that race organizers choose from three pre-approved race routes). It was noted that the new policy stemmed from the 2016 Spooktacular race, which had a plethora of issues in neighborhoods, and it was noted that the City had never received complaints before in the magnitude that it did regarding that race. Mr. Maxwell Ruppensburg noted that the other races on the agenda had no issues with the new ordinance and process, and it had worked very well, and both staff and the race organizers were happy with the process.

Mayor Bacon asked that Councilmember Andrea Blustein make the motions for Councilmember Derek Norton's items in his absence.

4. Other Business

Councilmember Doug Stoner said he was working with City Attorney Scott Cochran and Mr. Ken Suddreth on an ordinance regarding a cigar specialty shop, which they would be bringing to Council in the upcoming month or so. It would allow the high end cigar shop, located in Ward 2 in the Carraba's shopping center, to serve alcohol in limited amounts.

Councilmember Andrea Blustein expressed her concern with the location of the COW meeting and the lack of an exterior exit in the HR Training Room.

Councilmember Ron Fennel said the next CMA meeting would be in Powder Springs, and at the previous meeting they heard from Dobbins AFB about the pending Georgia Tech project on their site. He also said the Finance Committee met the previous week and they would be meeting again in September to review SPLOST and bond ratings.

Adjournment

Mayor Bacon declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.