

**Pre-Council Meeting  
Minutes  
March 19, 2018  
6:00 PM**

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

*Note: Ward 6 Seat was Vacant, and Andrea Blustein, and Susan Wilkinson were absent*

*Also Present: Jeffery Tucker (Assistant 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 of Police), Richard Garland (Parks & Recreation Director), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner)*

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

**Tolleson Pool Update:**

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland updated council and staff on the Tolleson pool and the anticipated repairs. About six (6) weeks ago the Aquatics and Athletics Coordinator, Tyler Addison started the process of getting the pool ready for summer use and discovered the pool was leaking. After speaking with contractors and the water department, Mr. Garland narrowed the cause to one of 2 possibilities. The least expensive would be to repair the expansion joints at a cost of \$3400.00. If the leak persists, the problem could be in the main drain from the bottom of the pool to the pump room. All of the materials that were installed in the 70's are iron piping and the leak could be anywhere. The water loss was about an inch per 24 hours. Mr. Garland recommended that if it is not the expansion joints, we should eat the cost of the water until we have a definite answer on what the future direction of replacing or not replacing the facility. Worst case scenario would be total pipe failure and collapse. It would be cheaper to eat the water cost as opposed to excavating and replacing the pipes. Mr. Garland stated if we were going to replace the pool, the City should not spend the money on excavating. The expansion replacement should occur before the end of the week. At this point, Parks and Recreation is trying to proceed in the most economically cost effective way. Council asked if this direction would give a clearer idea of what we are dealing with and if this would keep the pool running through the summer so that the City could address this later. Mr. Garland said he would have more information after the repair of the expansion joints. Councilmember Maryline Blackburn questioned whether we drain the pool in the winter and Mr. Garland answered no. Mayor Bacon added that in the past, Smyrna operated three (3) City pools and we are now down to one (1).

**Proposed Cobb County Rezoning:**

Community Development Director Ken Suddreth stated the city was notified of a request in Cobb County for rezoning for the McKinney property by way of the intergovernmental agreement. It is not an annexation. The rezoning request was for an RM-12 multifamily rezoning for townhomes that would allow 213 townhomes, multiple designs. Mr. Suddreth stated the City is allowed to

comment on the request. His department would normally handle this but he felt the Council needed to be aware of how this rezoning could affect Smyrna. The City would be on 3 sides of it and they are entering on City right of way and would need our permission. At this time no one has reached out to talk to us yet. To date, Cobb has not provided any impact, elevation or traffic studies. As for the variances, their response was to be determined. The access would be on Spring Street and Campbell Street, which would result in adding traffic into the City. Mr. Suddreth recommended a letter of objection be sent.

### **Proposal Regarding Police Signing Bonus**

Chief David Lee brought forward a proposed plan regarding different levels of recruitment bonuses for officers. A new officer without certification would receive \$2000.00 at signing paid in 2 installments; when the completed the academy and after completing their working test. A certified officer would receive \$3000.00 paid in 2 installments; at signing in their first check and then at the end of their working test. Councilmember Ron Fennel asked if the officer would have to sign a 2 year commitment and the answer was yes. Mayor Bacon asked if any other cities were offering bonuses and Chief Lee stated they were. Mr. Fennel wanted to know how many vacancies the City had and the answer was nine (9). Human Resource Director Kay Bolick stated we are getting applications. Mayor Bacon & Councilmember Derek Norton felt the bonus amount was not enough. Chief Lee stated he is trying to find ways to recruit quality officers and money is a big factor. Mayor Bacon and Mr. Norton were in favor of offering more money. Mr. Fennel inquired if the proposed offer would be adequate to assist with acquiring the type of talent needed and Mr. Lee replied he hoped so. Ms. Bolick stated until we implement the offers, we won't know. Mr. Welch inquired how this would affect existing officers. Chief Lee stated this is an age old problem that we have always faced and we can't please everyone. Mr. Welch proposed going with Chief Lee's request and adding the incentive of earning \$2000.00 more after 5 years. Council felt this may assist in retaining officers. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones reminded Council that the City had budgeted \$25,000.00 in FY18 to do signing bonuses for other positions that have been hard to fill.

### **City Administrator Report:**

- Mr. Roy Acre asked that everyone take precaution because of the bad weather and it was expected to be severe between 10:00 PM and 12:00 AM.
- Keeping Smyrna Beautiful Awards banquet will be Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM, at the Community Center and dinner would be served at 7.
- Park and Recreation's Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Community Center.
- Smyrna Citizens Academy Session will be Tuesday, March 20, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Ms. Saddler Jones inquired if Council would be interested in seeing the Hydraulic Mobile Stage on March 29, 2018. This date conflicted with Council's schedule and an April date would work better.

### **Review of the Agenda**

The Mayor went over the Agenda. He announced that the St. Patrick's Day event went well and there was a big crowd.

Councilmember Charles Corkey Welch asked Councilmembers if they would like to help sponsor an ad for Keeping Smyrna Beautiful in the magazine for the garden tour. He also invited

everyone to a breakfast and a tour on Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Reed House.

Mr. Fennel announced that the Cobb Municipal Association would be the host of the CMA April meeting and he tentatively booked the Reed House and would like the Council to attend on

Mayor Bacon would like to have a decision made on the salary pay plan. He would like to adopt the longevity pay and this item at the next meeting. He also would like to look at the cost of the Tolleson pool and the paver costs.

The Mayor adjourned the Pre-Council meeting of the Mayor and Council at 6:55 PM.