

City of Smyrna

*2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 3, 2018

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

City Hall

Committee of the Whole

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor A. Max Bacon, Derek Norton, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Maryline Blackburn, Charles Welch, Ron Fennel

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Asst. City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Elsa Thompson (Administrative Services Coordinator), Christy Ullman (Executive Asst. to the Mayor & Council), Kay Bolick (HR Director), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Rusty Martin (Senior Planner), Mary Moore (Library Director)

Guests: Larry Terry (Croy Engineering), Pastor Dan Palmer and Parishioners, GIRMA Team – Lindsey Albright (Towers Watson Insurance), Meghan Murray (Towers Watson Insurance), Stan Deese (GMA), Carol Barnaby (Gallagher Bassett TPA), Steve Shields (LGRMS)

2. Call to Order

Mayor A. Max Bacon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

3. Executive Session (Legal)

Mayor Bacon moved the Executive Session to the end of the meeting although it did not take place due to the late hour.

4. Atlanta Dream Center - Pastor Dan Palmer

Mayor Bacon asked Pastor Dan Palmer to step forward and address the Council.

Pastor Palmer handed City Clerk Terri Graham handouts for the Mayor and Council. He described his school as a “glorified internship” that is a 3 to 4 year program that the students take 9 or 18 months at a time. He stated that his missionaries have rescued 1600 women off of the streets in the last 6 years. He advised that they are not a homeless shelter although they have rescued 240 men, women and children off of the streets – he reiterated that they are not a homeless shelter and that they simply helped those people find homes. He advised that the School is located in proximity to Ponce City Market and that they work with all “walks of life”. He noted that the school ministry has been in operation for approximately 14 years.

Mayor Bacon inquired where the students were housed now. Pastor Palmer advised that they are living in a camp on Lake Acworth that belongs to a friend of his. He stated that he currently has 80 students and they can become licensed pastors in 3 years. He noted that some students only come to his school to learn about God but that his school provides opportunities for certification. He advised that the school is funded by students, parents and church funds and that his goal is to keep the students debt free when they graduate.

Mayor Bacon inquired where the students would go when they have completed their schooling. The Pastor advised that they usually go into some form of ministry. Mayor Bacon then asked the Pastor to describe a typical day for a student.

Councilmember Ron Fennel asked Pastor Palmer about the sanitary conditions of the dorms and he also inquired about the privacy the students would have when showering.

The Pastor advised that the building 1 would have multiple bathrooms and displayed a large site plan for Mr. Fennel and Council to see.

Councilmember Corkey Welch inquired about the capacity of the facility. The Pastor advised that he was hoping to get 80 students. Mr. Welch then asked how the students would get to Downtown Atlanta from Smyrna daily. Pastor Palmer advised that they have a fleet of vans to transport the students and that some of the students had personal vehicles to get around.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn asked how many students would be housed in each room. The Pastor advised that their goal was not to overcrowd but that they had no definite number at the time because of the way the facility was currently set up and that he must refer to zoning codes. Ms. Blackburn inquired about the age range of the students. Pastor Palmer stated that their ages ranged from 18 – 25 but there are a few in their 30s.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked the Pastor how long the school had been operating and how long they had been housing students. He advised that they had been in operation for 14 years and housing students for 10 years.

Mayor Bacon asked Pastor Palmer how far the school was from Smyrna (mileage-wise); Pastor Palmer advised that he was quite sure how many children had graduated from their school. Pastor Palmer responded, "hundreds".

Ms. Blackburn asked Pastor Palmer why he had chosen Smyrna. Pastor Palmer advised that he was invited by the Pastor of Eastside Baptist to come see the building and he noted that he loved the area and that it was a good environment.

Mr. Fennel asked the Pastor why the students weren't housed close to public transportation. The Pastor advised that they would be transporting the students to/from the school and that some of them had personal vehicles.

Mayor Bacon inquired why they moved into the facility with no permits. Pastor Palmer advised that the City of Atlanta asked the Atlanta Dream Center to utilize one of their buildings as a shelter, they did not require them to apply for permits so therefore he was unaware that they were violating any laws. He stated that it was an honest mistake.

Council continued to question Pastor Palmer and voice their concerns.

Ms. Wilkson asked Community Development Ken Suddreth for clarification for the uses of the facility. Mr. Suddreth advised that the zoning changes could be written to satisfy the Council and the uses could be specified as well.

Mayor Bacon noted that Planning and Zoning had previously turned down the Atlanta Dream Center's request and inquired if the Pastor knew why. Pastor Palmer advised that they did not ask the questions that the Council was asking at this meeting and he believed that it was due to confusion in the communication; he felt that he was not using the correct language and using too much "church language" and it was confusing.

Mayor Bacon advised the Pastor that he was sure there would be more questions for him on Monday at the Council meeting and thanked him for his time.

5. Property & Liability - GIRMA (Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency)

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones called Human Resources Director Kay Bolick to the podium to introduce the GIRMA representatives. Ms. Bolick advised that the City would be incurring another increase in insurance premiums this coming year so she thought it was important for Council to understand why the increases keep happening and for them to hear it directly from the people who can explain how these figures are calculated and what the City can do in the future to bring those numbers down. She introduced Ms. Lindsey Albright, Towers Watson Insurance (insurance brokers).

Ms. Albright passed around information packets to Council and spoke about trends that were negatively impacting the premium and what the City can do to bring those costs down. Mayor Bacon asked Ms. Albright if there was anything that made the premiums go up so much. She advised that the amount of claims were what's causing the costs to continue to rise.

Mr. Stan Deese with the Georgia Municipal Association came forward. He presented an overview of claims the City has had over the last 10 years and noted how much money has been paid out that have negatively impacted the premium. Mr. Deese emphasized that in recent years the fire department averaged \$113,000 in claims per year whereas they only averaged \$4,600 per year in previous years; the police department averaged \$518,000 in claims per year whereas it was only \$124,000 per year in previous years; lastly, he stated that the Public Works Department was now averaging \$144,000 per year whereas it was \$15,000 per year in previous years. Mr. Deese stated that auto claims over the last 5 years were the most impactful, namely from the City's police department.

City Attorney Scott Cochran interjected and clarified to Council that having a "claim" did not mean that there's been a payout. Mr. Deese agreed with Mr. Cochran and stated that some of the numbers are estimates of what the liability could be.

Councilmember Derek Norton asked Mr. Deese if other cities, comparable in size to Smyrna, were seeing the same numbers. Mr. Deese advised that Ms. Carol Barnaby and Mr. Steve Shields would be up next and could possibly better address that question.

Councilmember Ron Fennel asked for clarification regarding the premiums rising. Mr. Deese advised that during the underwriting cycle they look back at the last 5 years. Mr. Fennel stated that he was piggybacking on Mr. Norton's question and asked for the number comparison. Mr. Deese stated that the reason the numbers looked so bad was because the City had been receiving really good, low pricing over the years and that the claims compared to those numbers made things look worse than they were.

Carol Barnaby with Gallagher Bassett (3rd party administrator for the GIRMA program) came forward. She stated that she's the one who receives the claims, assigns them and supervises the process. She reiterated that the majority of claims were auto claims and law enforcement claims but that auto was the highest, majority of those auto claims stemming from the police department. She stated that a lot of money was being spent on claims that range from 1st party property damage (city's vehicles), 3rd party liability (damage to the other party's vehicle) and bodily injury claims. She noted that there is an open bodily injury claim that the City will definitely have to pay out but that she did not know how much the damage would be at this time. The most frequent auto claims were rear-enders, intersection accidents and accidents backing up into objects.

Mayor Bacon asked for clarification on the "intersection" claims. Ms. Barnaby gave different scenarios of what was considered an "intersection" accident. Mayor Bacon questioned if employees were being held accountable for these accidents. Ms. Barnaby advised that she did not know. Ms. Bolick responded and advised that employees are indeed held accountable. Mayor Bacon inquired if any employees had been let go because of at-fault accidents. Ms. Bolick advised that the City's employee policy had regulations in place for these circumstances but that there were no employees who had been let go although they were no longer in a position where they could drive.

Mr. Fennel inquired as to how big of a challenge was this for the City. Ms. Bolick noted that the City has a large number of vehicles and that there were a number of claims that could be avoided if the driver were simply paying attention.

Mayor Bacon noted that he felt the current policies and procedures weren't harsh enough and that strong discipline was needed in order for employees not to be repeat offenders. Ms. Bolick stated that the City practiced aggressive discipline and the disciplinary action depended on the level of damage, frequency of accidents and noted that the punishments could range from a written warning to suspensions and maybe even termination.

Mr. Norton questioned if there was an identifiable number of incidents for distracted driving and if so, did the City have a separate policy addressing that. Ms. Bolick stated that there was no separate policy for this but that she believed the "hands-free policy" would help with distracted driving issues.

A brief discussion was held about an accident that occurred earlier in the day that involved a sanitation truck.

Mayor Bacon asked if employees were aware of the massive amount of claims. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones stated that more than likely employees were not aware because it hadn't been communicated to them but that she and Ms. Bolick were on a mission to educate the employees on the importance of safety and that they planned to revamp the Employee Safety Committee. Ms. Bolick advised that the police officers were taking steps to improve by rewarding officers that have no accidents and implementing a driver's course, not only in a classroom setting but out on a driving course. She blamed a "hurried society" for the issues with distracted driving accidents.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired if all of the accidents occurred while on the job. Ms. Bolick advised that there were a handful that happened after hours and noted that recently one of the officers had hit a log that was in the road which caused substantial damage to the City vehicle. Mr. Fennel interjected and stated that those types of accidents were understandable and that it was the preventable ones that the Council was most concerned with.

Steve Shields, Risk Control Manager with LGRMS presented an overview on how to prevent the claims. He stated that they needed support from the Council in order for the process to be successful. Mayor Bacon stated that he did not get that statement as this was the first time the Council had heard about the large number of claims. Mr. Shields recommended a quarterly review of the claims, safety training for employees and other measures that could assist in bringing down the number of claims.

Mr. Fennel asked if any training had been done with the department heads in the last 5

years. Mr. Shields stated that no training had been completed. Mr. Fennel inquired if Mr. Shields mentioned the training because he felt there was a need; Mr. Shields responded, yes. Mr. Fennel asked if there was a reason why it hadn't been requested. Mr. Shields advised that they had only started offering the training in the past 18 months. Mr. Fennel stated there's a need for more attentiveness and asked Mr. Shields if they can strategize to improve the current situation. Mr. Shields noted that, that is the goal. Mr. Fennel asked if it's possible to focus attention to one specific issue. Mr. Shields advised that it's possible. Mr. Shields noted the training and driving courses available to the City at no extra charge, as they are benefits included in the City's membership. Mr. Fennel stated that he would like to get the trainings underway.

Councilmember Corkey Welch stated that he was interested to know how many of the claims are one vehicle accident claims. Ms. Barnaby stated that she may be able to track that number because of the way the claims are coded and that she would see what they could come up with. Mayor Bacon stated that if an employee had a "backing up accident" there should be a file or something to record the incident. Ms. Barnaby agreed that there would be. Mr. Welch wanted to know if they could target repeat offenders. Mr. Shields noted that they can indeed target repeat offenders and stated that other Cities have made employees pay the deductible if they are found to be at fault for the accident.

Mr. Shields thanked the Council for their time and support.

6. Rec. Fees & Riverview Landing - Richard Garland

Mayor Bacon asked Parks and Recreation Director Richard Garland to come forward. Mr. Garland addressed the possible removal of the non-resident facility rental fees. He stated that staff decided to speak about this issue because the Reed House did not have a non-resident fee and noted that the fee structure for the Reed House needed to be revisited if Council chose to continue with the two tier fee. Mr. Garland stated that staff had a discussion about all patrons being treated the same and paying the same fees.

Councilmembers Susan Wilkinson and Ron Fennel stated that they were in favor of keeping the non-resident fee in place and also, keeping the resident fee at a discounted rate. Mayor Bacon stated that he was in favor of keeping the two tier fees and if it needs to be adjusted they could revisit the issue at a later date. Councilmember Corkey Welch asked if they can agree upon a percentage across the board. Mr. Garland advised that he thought that would be a good way of handling the situation and that they could offer residents a percentage off of whatever they number is they decided upon for the base fee.

Ms. Wilkinson asked if employees received discounts off of the rates and if it varied. Mr. Garland advised that employees typically received a 50% discount across the board off of whatever the residential rate is.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised Mayor and Council that he felt it would be beneficial to look at cost recovery for recreation as a whole sometime in the future and noted that it would be helpful to Mr. Garland and his staff.

Mr. Garland advised that he would redo the fee structure and send it to Council.

Mr. Garland switched gears and spoke on the Riverview Landing Project. He stated that Community Development Director Ken Suddreth was helping him review this

project, that the developer had a beautiful concept for the park and that the developer was prepared to turn that part of the project over to the City upon its completion. Mr. Garland advised that he was concerned that there were no restroom facilities in the project plans in the park portion and that he was debating what would be more beneficial – building restrooms at this stage in the project or waiting until later. He gave a brief overview of the project and stated that he believed restrooms would be needed at some point due to citizen demand, as part of the site will be used recreationally.

Councilmember Ron Fennel noted that they had not completed the conversation with the developer about the restroom facilities and stated that staff should consider addressing the County about diverting some of their park funds. He also stated that he was happy to work with staff, the County and the developers from a political standpoint on this project.

Mayor Bacon asked if the developer had been approached about running the water and building the restrooms. Mr. Garland advised that they had and stated that the developer was in the process of completing phase one which included constructing a parking lot, building an amphitheater, kayak storage, a shower area, amongst other things and staff thought it be a good time to ask how much the developer thought it would cost to include a small restroom facility; he noted that the developer advised that it would cost approximately \$150,000 to build a small, sheltered, two-stall restroom.

Mayor Bacon clarified if the developer would be building an amphitheater and other things then turning over the park to the City. Mr. Garland agreed that, that would be taking place. Mayor Bacon inquired if any cost tests had been completed about how much it would cost to maintain it. Mr. Garland advised that he had not but that the developer had spoken with Public Works Director Scott Stokes about what that figure would be and he did not have that information with him.

Councilmember Corkey Welch noted that there was another park in a similar situation and stated that he would like staff to ask the developer to add utilities to this project. He noted that he would like for the City to come up with a standardized design that could possibly be used at both locations.

Mayor Bacon asked who would benefit from the restrooms and stated that the first plans Council and staff had received about this plan were “unbelievable” and it never happened a now they’re down to just apartments. Mr. Garland advised that there was also a retail component but he would allow Mr. Suddreth to respond. Mr. Suddreth stated that the project had 3 components - apartments, town homes and single family homes; he noted that in total there would be 600 units. Mayor Bacon asked how long the project would take. Mr. Suddreth advised that it would take about 3 -5 years to complete.

Mayor Bacon expressed concern about the distance Parks and Rec. staff would have to travel to clean the facility – he estimated it was about 20 miles roundtrip. Mr. Garland advised that he would do an odometer reading to get an accurate distance and travel time and report back. Mr. Garland noted that the project was approximately 5 minutes away from Riverline Park and that staff was already going there every day for trash pickup. Mayor Bacon stated that he would like the developer to run the water/sewer lines. Mr. Garland stated that he was in agreement with that statement and noted that this was the reason for the presentation to Council that evening. He also noted that there were concerns about the developer stating that they were already at

their financial limits for the project so either the City would have to pay for the restrooms to be built or find another creative financing arrangement and suggested that the City could possibly reduce the developer's permit fees

Mayor Bacon stated that he wished this information was made available to Council when the developer appeared before them for their rezoning application because they could have gotten the developer to include something in their plans that would benefit the community, paid for by them instead of the City having to incur the costs.

Councilmember Ron Fennel noted that this property was donated to the City as a City Park and that meetings were held early on regarding the maintenance. Mayor Bacon felt that the fire department would have to be involved because they would need more rescue equipment and new equipment such as boats due to this being a riverfront property – which he felt would run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mayor Bacon stated that he believed the long-term costs for restrooms would be high for the City and asked when the decision would have to be made. Mr. Garland advised that the developer may need to know within a few weeks as the developer was ready to start on the first phase soon.

Councilmember Corkey Welch asked if there were concept plans available that displayed where the restrooms would be. Mr. Garland advised that there weren't any but that he could show him where staff believed was the most logical location. Mr. Welch noted that the short-term decision Council had to make was as to whether or not they wanted to build restrooms and the long-term decision was whether or not they wanted to maintain said restrooms; he believed that at the very minimum, a water and sewer line should be run. Mr. Garland stated that the developer was willing to run the lines but wanted to be reimbursed if they did. Mayor Bacon asked if there was a cost on running the lines. Mr. Suddreth advised that the amount to run the lines was included in the \$150,000 that was mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Bacon noted that fire and rescue should be involved in this project because of the potential dangers there was not enough information to make a decision.

Mr. Fennel stated that the County has a station not too far from the project site equipped with water training so he did not believe that the fire and rescue aspect needed to be addressed this soon. He also noted that a dock on the Chattahoochee River was deeded to the City, one of two docks on the Chattahoochee approved in the past 30 years, in addition to the 12 acres.

Mayor Bacon inquired if the City purchased additional liability insurance for this property. Mr. Garland advised that he did not believe the City incurred any additional insurance costs for the property. Mayor Bacon stated that there was not sufficient information for the Council to make a decision. Mr. Garland stated that he only presented this to Council because he wanted them to know about the need for a restroom facility at this site and how they wanted to proceed because there were 3 or 4 options available but he did not feel that this was a decision for staff to make. Mr. Garland also noted that a formal decision had not been made as to whether or not the City wanted to acquire the property although staff has been operating as such. Mayor Bacon advised that there have been discussions but did not believe a final decision had been made.

Mr. Fennel advised that those conversations took place with the original applicant who was no longer in the picture therefore the plans have changed along the way however they have met with the current developer and it was agreed upon that the City would

like to acquire the property and that they would donate the 12 acres; they would take care of planting the flowers and the City would maintain the trail component and that those numbers should be understood by staff. He noted that the restrooms had never been discussed.

Mayor Bacon stated that the original project was nothing like what the expected final product will be. Mr. Fennel stated that he felt the apartments were being placed in the wrong location – initial plans showed that owner units would be placed along the river but now the rental units will be along the river. He asked Mr. Suddreth if he had any new information.

Mr. Suddreth advised that the project had been scaled down; he noted that quite a few townhomes would be placed along the river except it would be during another phase and as that part of the property was sold to another developer.

Mayor Bacon stated that if Council decided to construct the restrooms, he preferred that the water and sewer lines be run by the City since the City had to maintain them.

Councilmember Derek Norton inquired out of the estimated costs, what portion of those funds were to run the lines. Mr. Garland stated that he would get that information from the developer and report back to Council.

Mr. Fennel wanted to be sure that the aesthetics of the facility, no matter who was building it, would all be uniform. Mr. Garland advised that he had a discussion with the site manager and was assured that everything would be uniform.

Mayor Bacon reiterated that he felt the developer should pay for the water and sewer lines and all of the restroom construction because the property would be turned over to the City and the City would be maintaining it forever.

7. FY19 Proposed Budget - Finance Department

Finance Director Kristin Robinson and Budget Officer Jered Sigmon gave an overview of the projected budget for Fiscal Year 2019 and noted key expenses.

Ms. Robinson advised that the Mayor had made note of how large the Budget Book was in the past so they condensed the information for the Council and have made the full version available online, as well as in the Smyrna Library. She noted that the City Clerk had a copy and that they could print Council a copy if they would like; she advised that she also forwarded the full version to Council via email.

Mayor Bacon inquired if the “Internal Service Fund” was a name change from last year. Ms. Robinson advised that it was the “Vehicle Replacement Fund” however the names were changed for accounting purposes and some funds were grouped together.

Ms. Saddler Jones advised that she had Public Works Director Scott Stokes put together a map that showed routes for sanitation/ recycling and will forward to Council.

Councilmember Ron Fennel stated that he wanted a dollar amount for the requested Admin Records Clerk position. Ms. Saddler Jones noted that they were looking into creating a position where the individual would work partly in a different department.

Mayor Bacon inquired if the reclassification amount of \$57,657 was included in the Salary Study. Ms. Robinson advised that it was not.

8. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones advised Council of the HUGE success of this year's Spring Jonquil Jog, there were 760 participants in the race and 42 of those participants were City employees and a few of their spouse. She advised that the Spring Jonquil Festival that followed the race was also a big success with an estimated 35,000 – 40,000 people attending over both days.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews gave the Councilmembers a handout which displayed a brief overview of the City's Accomplishments over the past year.

Ms. Saddler Jones announced that the City would be hosting an Employee Picnic on Friday, June 8th at Tolleson Park with Croy Engineering doing the cooking. She noted that the City would be removing 6 dead trees from the Arboratorium between May 8th and 9th. She advised that Keep Smyrna Beautiful's Assistant Director Virginia Davis would be retiring on June 30, 2018.

9. Review of May 7, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda

Council, City Attorney and Staff discussed item 4B, a public hearing under Land Issues/Zoning/Annexations. Mayor Bacon asked Community Development Director Ken Suddreth to give Council and staff background information on the property. Mr. Suddreth stated that Atlanta Dream Center had already had students living in the facility at one point but they were shut down by the Fire Marshall and had to move the students out. City Staff advised Atlanta Dream Center representatives of the requirements to attempt to convert the church into a dormitory for their students. The Atlanta Dream Center submitted the proper forms and site plans soon thereafter. Mr. Suddreth noted that staff recommended approval of this project. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Staff would invite Pastor Palmer to address the Council at the next City Council meeting.

There were no questions or discussions reference the remaining public hearings.

Item 6A Under Formal Business was discussed which was to amend the City Code of Ordinances which regulated the carry out and carry of alcoholic beverages within the City's Restaurant District. Assistant City Administrator Scott Andrews advised that the Restaurant District will now include the Porch Light Restaurant. Mayor Bacon stated that he wanted to be sure that the way the ordinance is written, it will prohibit anyone from taking an alcohol beverage from one location to another. Mr. Andrews advised that the ordinance stated that "it's at the owner's discretion". Mayor Bacon advised that was not what he wanted because he was concerned that it would create issues for the owners that did not want to participate so everyone should have to follow the same law and not be allowed to carry alcoholic beverages from one establishment to another. City Attorney Scott Cochran stated that the ordinance would have to be amended to include that language but it could be done. Councilmembers Blustein and Wilkinson noted that they agreed with the Mayor.

Mayor Bacon spoke briefly about the Daniell Cemetery being deeded to the City. He noted that the dedication would allow for the City to maintain the grounds and confirmed that once the property was acquired, if there was anything in there that was offensive, it could be removed. Mr. Andrews confirmed the Mayor's statement. The Mayor then asked the City Attorney if altering the deed was allowed. Mr. Cochran

stated that if Council voted in favor of acquiring this property he could write up a dedication that the Council would approve of. The Mayor asked if the City would then be in the business of selling plot land. Mr. Cochran advised that he did not believe that was possible. Mayor Bacon then stated that he wanted to be sure that if they accepted the dedication that there was language in the deed that stated that no one else would be buried there. Mr. Cochran agreed. Ms. Wilkinson inquired how one would go about being buried there. Mayor Bacon noted that there have been a few burials at the property in recent years and asked about the possibility of someone owning plots. Mr. Cochran advised that if someone owned rights to any plots that they would have the right to be buried there however the City would not be issuing any plots. Mr. Andrews advised that the matter was addressed in order to include it in the FY19 budget in the similar way that the Smyrna Memorial Cemetery was. Ms. Wilkinson inquired if there were already estimates of what it would cost the City to acquire this property. Mr. Andrews advised that there were and noted that it would be far less cheaper than what it costs to maintain the Smyrna Memorial Cemetery. Ms. Wilkinson asked that Council be given those numbers. City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones asked City Attorney Scott Cochran if this would be the right time to determine if people are allowed to place items in the cemeteries such as the confederate flags that had been posted on the graves. Mr. Cochran advised that if the matter was approved by Council, a set of rules should be established for all of the cemeteries the City maintains. Mayor Bacon stated that he believed the flags were put up by someone who knew there were confederate soldiers that were buried there that died during the civil war and noted that the flags were gone within a couple of days of being placed at the graves. Mr. Cochran noted that there was State law that addressed this particular issue.

Mayor Bacon asked Library Director Mary Moore to come forward and speak about the RFID Conversion Project at the Smyrna Library. Ms. Moore stated that this was part 2 of the RFID project and that they installed the self-check units the prior year. She gave an overview of the project and noted that Evisonware, Inc. was the only bidder which worked out well since that is who they worked with last year.

Councilmember Derek Norton inquired if it was possible for Council to vote at the Committee of the Whole meeting since they were public meetings instead of voting on items retroactively. Mr. Cochran advised that it could be done because they were in fact public meetings but that it was unnecessary for items on the Consent Agenda that really don't take up any time.

Mayor Bacon briefly read over the remaining items; no discussions were held.

10. Other Business

Mayor Bacon made comment that the Jonquil Festival was great and believed it more of a success than in prior years. He noted that in the future there should be a meeting held the very next week following the festival in order to address the things that may have been done incorrectly and to note the things that were done right.

Mr. Norton noted that he'd received complaints from some of the seniors in his ward about the conditions at the Wolf Center. He stated that the complaints included mold in the showers and a dirty pool. He made note that the Governor signed the hands-free legislation and it would go into effect on July 1st, 2018.

Ms. Blackburn noted that she was excited about the upcoming Arthur Bacon Golf Tournament and the fact that a portion of the proceeds were going to the Smyrna Arts Council. She stated that she would like to inquire if a study could be done in order to

construct a performing arts center in Smyrna. She advised that she had been asked by several people about the possibility of a performing arts center in Smyrna, that there was a nationally recognized ballet school in the City, and that \$4,500 was raised at her Divas with a Cause event that could have been used here in the City. She also made note that actress Kim Fields (whom is a Smyrna resident) stated that the City needs one as well. Ms. Wilkinson advised Ms. Blackburn she had heard that Campbell High School would be putting in performing arts center and noted that it would be nice to possibly partner with them.

Mayor Bacon stated that he was very pleased that approximately 76 golfers registered for the tournament.

Ms. Wilkinson stated that she was contacted by one of her constituents because they wanted to close off streets in order to host a block party; she wanted to know if that had to be voted on or not. She was advised that it would have to be brought to Council for a vote.

City Clerk Terri Graham reminded everyone about the upcoming special election. Mayor Bacon advised that he felt that early voting should be offered at the Community Center for future elections.

11. Adjournment

Mayor A. Max Bacon declared the meeting adjourned at 9:54pm.