

Pre-Council Meeting - Final
August 20, 2018
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Max Bacon Charles "Corkey" Welch Tim Gould
Derek Norton Maryline Blackburn Ron Fennel
Andrea Blustein Susan Wilkinson

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Rusty Martin (Community Development Senior Planner), Frank Martin (Interim Public Works Director), Jennifer Bennett (Community Relations Manager), Ashley Youmans (Management Fellow, Jennie Eldredge (Museum Manager)

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

City Administrator Report:

Ms. Tammi Saddler Jones reported that the Police Department had been evacuated. Someone dropped off military explosives with their truck to the Police Department to be disposed of. Cobb County Bomb Squad was at the Police Department evaluating if any of the explosives were active.

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Marcos was elected to serve as Vice President of area seven (7) for the metro area Fire Departments.

The first round of Public Works Director Interviews was beginning Monday, August 27, 2018. There are five (5) candidates, once they have interviewed the (5) they will decide which candidates to bring back for a second interview. Councilmember Welch has agreed to be the Council representative on the second interview panel.

Employee driver training will take place on August 22, 23, and 28th, 2018. The classroom portion which is one hour will be at the Community Center. A drivers training course will follow. The police department is working on the course for smaller vehicles at Cumberland Community Church. The larger vehicle training course is being worked on by the Fire Department. That location has not been determined at this time. Ms. Saddler Jones asked Mr. Frank Martin, Interim Public Works Director how the large vehicle track was going. He replied that he was meeting with Fire Chief Roy Acree to settle on a place for the driving course.

Ms. Saddler Jones announced that Scott Andrews was absent, he was ill and would not be attending the Pre Council Meeting nor the regular Council Meeting.

Ms. Saddler Jones spoke about a trash issue raised by Mayor Bacon on Spring Road. Mayor Bacon stated that the shelters were not being kept up by Cobb County; there is often trash in

large amounts that was not being picked up. It looked bad around the bus stop shelters. There is trash all the way down Spring Road. At the bus shelter close to Ruby Tuesday's on S. Cobb Drive there are grocery carts laying down and trash all around the areas and down the road. That is why he is reluctant to increase the number of stops in Smyrna. They are not taking care of existing stops and they seem to have trouble keeping the trash cleaned up. Councilmember Ron Fennel asked about the advertising component and the fee that is collected and if that money is applied towards the bus stop area. Mayor Bacon answered that there is an agreement that Smyrna receives some of that money. Advertising is to come to the City Administrator for approval; he was not certain where the money went once collected. The bus stop shelters are to be maintained by the Cobb County Transit and they pay an independent contractor to pick up all the garbage.

Review of the August 20, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda:

Mayor Bacon started the Mayor and Council agenda, the first item was the recognition of the Smyrna Little League 11U Regional Champions. He asked if the team was attending the meeting. Councilmember Ron Fennel stated they would be at the meeting; he had the proclamation to present to the team.

Committee Assignments was the next item, Mayor Bacon stated they would be announced.

Mayor Bacon informed that some consent agenda items had been moved to formal business so they could vote on them separately. He began with the renovation of the Smyrna Museum contract for \$185,000.00. Ms. Saddler Jones informed that the Museum Manager Jennie Eldredge was present to answer any questions. Mr. Fennel asked that she remind them of the timeline. Ms. Eldredge replied Building Four Fabrication estimated seven (7) months to complete the project. Mayor Bacon noted that he thought the original estimate was 2 years. Councilmember Welch commented that the original estimate was for over a year, which Ms. Eldredge confirmed.

Mr. Welch clarified that this did not include any work on the building itself and Ms. Eldredge confirmed that he was correct. She continued to explain that the contract covered, research, writing, graphic design, fabrication and installation. Mr. Fennel inquired as to the number of displays; she replied seven (7) display areas. Mr. Welch asked if everything would be moved out of the upper floor of the building and Ms. Eldredge stated that everything would have to be moved out.

Councilmember Tim Gould asked why they accepted the second lowest bid. Ms. Eldredge stated the lowest bid had a poor presentation and they did not seem to understand the scope of work; they estimated 3 months to complete.

Mayor Bacon inquired if Building Four Fabrication had done work at the Atlanta History Center. Ms. Eldredge replied that they had completed work at the History Center. They were hired to work on an exhibit and then they have been rehired to work on the Cyclorama Exhibit.

Land Issues Zonings and Annexations Covenant Christian School is requesting a special land use permit or a mobile class room. This request was discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting to continue the land use permit for another two (2) years.

Mayor Bacon moved on to the Community Center Roof replacement item on the agenda. He stated that the cost for the roof replacement was \$1,077,812.00 and asked if the bid went to the lowest bidder. Interim Public Works Director Frank Martin responded that the award was not to the lowest bid. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson noticed that three (3) bids were submitted the accepted bid was the highest bidder. Mr. Martin explained they were the only company that met all the criteria for the project. The lowest bid did not get close to the required criteria. The second lowest bid did not want to put the correct information into bid and refused to put the correct information into the contract. They also did not have a safety officer and wanted to add \$10,000 to bid for that officer.

Mr. Welch inquired about the color of the roof. Mr. Martin stated that the color is to be chosen by the council. The new roof will be the same type of material and design. It was determined that the roof is 27 years old.

The next item on the agenda was for a total of 8 vehicles for the police Department in the amount of \$322,993.00 this would be funded from vehicle replacement and was a CIP project. Ms. Wilkinson asked about the vehicles being replaced. Ms. Saddler Jones replied that one of the admin vehicles was going to be refurbished to be used in another area and she would find out about the other vehicles being replaced.

Nothing had changed for the Consent agenda. Community Relations Jennifer Bennett advised that she added the discussed increase for Food Trucks into October and removed 2 dates in July as requested.

Susan Wilkinson stated that she was curious about the Mayor's Committee Assignments and if there were any adjustments made since the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Bacon said no there were no adjustments, the committee assignments stood as they were handed out. Ms. Wilkinson stated that she was on two (2) committees and since she has been on council she was always on three (3) committees. She would like to be on three (3) committees, there are council members that are on four (4) committees. Mayor Bacon stated that the committees don't actual meet on a regular basis, he understood that the Finance committee met regularly due to the budget process and informing the council about the financial status of the city.

Mr. Gould mentioned that he had been contacted regarding concerns about the Sea Hawks Football Team using the Campbell Middle School City fields. He inquired if the fields were owned by the city. Mayor Bacon replied that the city gave the fields back to Cobb County Schools so Mr. Gould assumed that the concern was not a city issue it would be Cobb County School issue. Mayor Bacon thought the football team acquired the permit through Cobb County, Ms. Saddler Jones agreed.

Mr. Fennel noted that a constituent requested a waiver of the \$5.00 monthly fee at the Smyrna Community Center for senior citizens. He is 62 years old, lives in the City of Smyrna, pays

taxes and has been exempt from paying a monthly fee of \$5.00 to use sports equipment. He lives at Createwood Trails and is not in ward 7, but Mr. Fennel wanted to bring it forward to council. His name is Mr. Ghaffari. Mayor Bacon asked if we have been charging the fee for a long time. Mr. Fennel continued that he would like to go to the regular Community Center and receive the same discounts he would receive at the Wolfe Center.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn addressed Ms. Blustein's solar lighting issue for the linear park she suggested the use of LED lights for the trail lighting as a city savings. She said the city could possibly save between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 per street light unit. Mr. Fennel inquired about the rest of the light inventory in the city, what the cost savings could be. Mr. Fennel said that it was worth investigating. Ms. Blustein wanted to be cautious with the light voltage especially for the houses that back up to the trail.

Ms. Blackburn also spoke on the committee assignments and she suggested that Ms. Wilkinson be placed on the Vision Committee. Mayor Bacon stated that he selected the committees and they were standing as they were handed out. Ms. Blackburn acknowledged that she understood what the Mayor was saying and she had also requested to be on the Finance Committee.

Ms. Wilkinson stated that she would like to be on more committees.

Ms. Wilkinson explained that she drove to the trail that Ms. Blustein was requesting lighting. She felt the sidewalk and the trail were both dark because the existing lights are on the other side of the street. She saw multiple people walking on that trail.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the Pre Council Meeting at 6:35 PM.