

**Pre-Council Meeting - Final
September 4, 2018
6:00 PM**

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

Absent: Derek Norton

Also Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Frank Martin (Interim Public Works Director), Roy Acree (Fire Chief), Ashley Youmans (Management Fellow), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Project Coordinator), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council), and Tina Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk)

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

City Administrator Report:

Ms. Tammi Saddler Jones announced that she was invited by Cobb County Manager, Rob Hosack, to serve on their Cobb DOT Director Search Committee. She participated on the interview panel September 4, 2018 and will participate again on September 13th and 14th. She was honored to be asked to serve.

Councilmember Derek Norton in his absence wanted Ms. Jones to remind the Council that the second tour of Cumberland Community Church would be on Wednesday September 6, 2018 at 12:30pm.

She also reminded everyone that there is a 9/11 ceremony for Patriots Day scheduled for 9:15 AM on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. .

City Clerk Terri Graham introduced Tina Monaghan as the new Deputy City Clerk.

Review of the September 4, 2018 Mayor and Council Agenda:

Mayor Bacon started the discussion with formal business items 6 (A, B & C), resolutions for the collection of 911 postpaid, 911 prepaid and a Hazard Mitigation.

The Resolutions were discussed.

Interim Public Works Director, Frank Martin gave the background on the Lake Court Storm Drain Rehabilitation project.

The purchase of the new Fire Truck was discussed. Mayor Bacon asked if the old fire truck would be traded in or sold. Fire Chief Roy Acree said that the fire truck would be sold.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson talked about the agenda item for the Streets Alive event. The streets that were closed had been changed and she was not aware of the new closures until the COW meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2018. She had a person contact her in reference to the event and expressed concern for road closures and the inconvenience that these events have on residents in the affected areas. Her research into such events revealed that normally main roads are closed rather than smaller residential streets and she also wanted to know why the time on the street closures had increased from the initial proposal.

Special Project Coordinator Maxwell Ruppensburg stated that the roads selected for the event were based on suggestions of staff and Public Safety and that the increase in road closure time is to allow for proper set up and tear down of the event.

Mayor Bacon asked Councilmember Wilkinson for more details on the person with whom she spoke about the inconvenience of getting to their homes during events.

Mr. Ruppensburg stated that he hoped to notify residents of the road closures at least a week in advance.

Councilmember Andrea Blustein also inquired as to the reasoning behind the change in street closures. She thought that the event would take place in the downtown area.

Ms. Wilkinson anticipated this event causing some problems with residents who will not be able to easily access their place of residence. She would definitely like to see better communication in the future.

Mayor Bacon said that this is a first for an event such as this. If it does cause problems, then changes can be made for improvements at future events. He thinks that it is good to give it a try and see how it works out.

Mayor Bacon brought up a fire hydrant that has been hit and told Frank Martin where this hydrant is located.

Councilmember Charles (Corkey) Welch said that there are many lights that need to be repaired or replaced. He asked Mr. Martin about this and they are awaiting replacements.

Mayor Bacon said that he has witnessed at least ten lights that are damaged in some way such as missing globes, etc. He stated that they need to be replaced.

Mayor Bacon made mention of the poor timing of the traffic lights. On Atlanta Road, traffic has been backed up in both directions and he feels that with all of the technology, this problem should be fixed.

City Clerk Terri Graham mentioned that she will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday, September 6 and 7, 2018.

Councilmember Maryline Blackburn recently returned from being out of town and upon her return, she had received many phone complaints about the Sports Avenue proposal. There was an article in the Marietta Daily Journal (MDJ) and it was on Facebook as well, but she didn't know anything about it.

Councilmembers Ron Fennel and Andrea Blustein also mentioned that they were caught off guard by the article in the MDJ. Ms. Wilkinson stated that it is something that should have been discussed and the Council should have had time to review.

Ms. Blackburn also spoke of complaints about trash around the City.

Mayor Bacon talked about trash in certain areas around the City and how there are cleanup crews there at least once a week. Some of the bus stops in the City are neater than those outside the city limits, however the bus stop by Ruby Tuesday's on South Cobb has shopping carts turned over on their sides and trash is everywhere. This is one of the reasons he is hesitant to add Cobb Link bus stops in Smyrna.

Councilmember Blustein suggested adding trash receptacles by the bus stops to help with the trash problem. Mayor Bacon noted there are trash receptacles at each bus stop, but they get full and overflow.

Councilmember Tim Gould asked for advice on a dog issue in Forrest Hills. He wanted to know if there is a three strike rule with animal control. If there is, he wanted to know if there are records from Smyrna Police Department on the dog and/or owner that could be part of the process with Cobb Animal Control. The dog remains a problem in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Ron Fennel had three things he wanted to talk about. The first was to thank Interim Public Works Director Frank Martin for staying on top of the paving. Oakdale Road corridor was paved and striping is next. The County had to do their part on the project so it was delayed. Now that the road is in great driving condition, it has turned into a speed and improper lane use issue. It needs to be addressed for safety reasons.

Councilmember Blustein expressed concern about sidewalk work that we being done on Atlanta Road last Friday. She was concerned for the workers as it presented a dangerous situation.

Next item Mr. Fennel wanted to discuss pertained to Ward 2 and Ward 5, which are having issues with commercial trash pickup. There are complaints about the cost of commercial trash pickup by Advance Disposal. The complaint is in reference to the cost of the pickup, not the quality of the pickup. The City of Smyrna has an agreement with Advance Disposal and it is mandatory for commercial businesses to have their trash service through this company. He is going to forward the details of the situation to the Councilmembers that it directly impacts.

Mayor Bacon stated that there are a lot of commercial businesses that want out of the contract but this is not possible. The City has entered into a contract.

Councilmember Wilkinson expressed how having one company service the trash makes it easier to manage and saves on damage to roads and streets.

Third discussion item for Councilmember Fennel was that Finance/HR Committees had met and he was trying to set up a meeting for next Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 5pm. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be at 6pm on Thursday, September 13, 2018. This meeting date did not work for the committee members.

Councilmember Corkey Welch will not be present on Thursday, September 27, 2018 for the Committee of the Whole meeting as it is Cobb County Fall Break.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson mentioned receiving calls about the speed humps that were removed after paving work had been done on the roads. The residents want them replaced and more added.

Mayor Bacon felt that if the speed humps exist before paving, they should be replaced after the project is complete.

Councilmember Wilkinson discussed a situation with a dog and animal control when she was at a neighborhood cleanup event last weekend. The problem seems to be that those who are walking their dogs on a leash and are abiding by the rules, are getting attacked and bit by dogs not on a leash. She would like to know how best to advise those in these situations.

Mayor Bacon adjourned the Pre-Council Meeting at 6:58 PM.