



# City of Smyrna

2800 King Street  
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

## Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

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Thursday, April 16, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall

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**JOIN THE MEETING: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/699165405>**  
**or call in United States: +1 (646) 749-3112 / Access Code: 699-165-405**

### Roll Call

**Present** 9 - Derek Norton, Glenn Pickens, Austin Wagner, Travis Lindley, Charles Welch, Susan Wilkinson, Tim Gould, Lewis Wheaton, and Richard Garland

**Also Present** 1 - Scott Cochran

**Staff** 20 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, Tina Monaghan, Roy Acree, Chris Addicks, Mary Arvin, Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Tom Boland, Frank Martin, Russell Martin, Penny Mocer, Mary Moore, Landon O'Neal, Bo Jones, Kristin Robinson, Jered Sigmon, Joey Staubes, Christy Ullman, and Carol Sicard

### 1. Call to Order

*Mayor Derek Norton called the April 16, 2020 meeting of the Committee of the Whole to Order at 6:00PM on GoToMeeting Teleconference.*

### 2. New Business

#### A. Annexation Study Update – Peter Bluestone, UGA/Carl Vinson Institute

*Peter Bluestone with Georgia State gave a power point presentation regarding the recent annexation study.*

*The study consists of the following:*

- Geography and Demographics*
- Revenues: Major Sources and estimation methods*
- Expenditures: Major Sources and estimation methods*
- Areas of Uncertainty*
- Summary*
- Questions*

*Annexations were divided into four large groups based on geography. A map was shown to define. Demographics: Shares relative to Smyrna was discussed and showed population, land areas, road length, per capita income, median house values and number of businesses.*

*Revenues showed property tax, insurance premium, franchise fees, intergovernmental revenues, municipal court and other.*

*Real property tax revenue was reviewed based on four groups (North, South, East, West).*

*Other revenues was shown and discussed: Insurance Revenues, Franchise Fees, Intergovernmental Revenue and Municipal Court.*

*Expenditures reviewed Public Safety, General Government, Public Works, Community*

Services and Governance. General Government Expenditures, allocation method, reviewed Building and Plant, Information Technologies, Administration manager and Other. Public Works Expenditures included Personnel, Equipment and Facility. Public Safety Expenditures included All Vehicles and Equipment, All Personnel and Station. Areas of Uncertainty include Revenue, particularly Zoning and Property Tax Data. Expenditure uncertainties include, Police, Fire and Public Works. Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould had questions about revenue and reviewed the previous slide in the presentation regarding Summary of Revenues and Expenditures by Area. Councilmember Lewis Wheaton had a question about the granularity of this and asked about areas that look like zones where expenditures would be higher or revenue would be higher? Mr. Bluestone replied that higher property values add to higher revenue. Councilmember Austin Wagner noted that this looks at current status of these properties and no future land use.

### B. Proposed Non Discrimination Ordinance – Mayor Derek Norton and Scott Cochran

Mayor Norton and City Attorney Scott Cochran presented the Non-Discrimination Ordinance and discussed the information presented. The Council as a whole decided to receive additional information and revisit this item after receipt and further discussion.

It was unanimous that an ordinance is what should be presented as opposed to a resolution.

Mr. Cochran stated this is the first of several phases to complete this ordinance. It will also require a Charter Amendment that will require us to be out this pandemic current situation.

Phase 1 is a strong statement of policy and a declaration that discrimination is not tolerated in Smyrna. Phase 2 is where it is turned into a sentence enhancement of Smyrna Code. (i.e. Hate Crime). To be able to try these in our court we need a Charter Amendment. This would also allow for an enhanced punishment.

This City deems inclusivity to be an important attribute to the City and outlaws discrimination of any kind.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton stated this is a needed conversation and important to bundle these together and make a clear and thoughtful statement all at once.

Councilmember Corkey Welch concurs, as does Councilmember Austin Wagner.

Councilmember Travis Lindley also agrees to have it completed all together.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould wants to review completely and have a complete review by judges whose profession is to make judgments. It is great leadership to be the first in Cobb County to set the bar for the rest of the County.

Councilmember Welch asked about where the state stands on this issue.

Councilmember Susan Wilkenson looks forward to continuing the discussion as does Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

## 3. Review of the April 20, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

The Mayor and Council meeting on April 20, 2020 was reviewed and Tammi Saddler-Jones asked Mary Arvin to review the CDBG item to review for Council. Due to technical difficulties she was unable to participate so Tammi Saddler-Jones gave the update for her and explained that it was the agreement to renew the sub recipient agreement as well as the Cooperation Agreement. Parks and Rec, Public Works and Ward 5 Code Enforcement Officer are funded through this program. Part of Mary's salary is also paid through the CDBG program. Three projects in Parks and Rec have been identified as part of the upcoming list for completion using the funds. Police Chief Joe Bennett spoke about the purchase of the two Ford Edge vehicles that will be paid for using insurance monies from previous no-fault accidents and the

*Emergency Vehicle Replacement Fund. Purchasing Ford Edges over Ford Explorers will be a savings to the City as well.*

*The reappointment to the Downtown Development Authority was reviewed.*

*Property Insurance Annual review has a 3.3% annual increase due to appraisal finals.*

#### **4. Other Business (as needed)**

*Mayor Norton discussed the #SupportSmyrna cause and noted over 1000 signs have been ordered and just about \$75,000 has been raised. Mayor Norton has spoken to each recipient of the grocery gift cards and the consensus is sincere gratefulness. Several restaurants are participating in feeding the community as well each week.*

*Councilmember Glenn Pickens spoke to Russell MARTin at Community Development about publicizing the passed tree ordinance and several residents are removing trees so Jennifer Bennett will work on putting that information out to residents. We may try to put a notice in with water bills to notify residents. Trees will have to be replaced without additional penalty of trees removed.*

*City's in Florida and Georgia are calling and asking Chief Bennett regarding delivering groceries to the elderly.*

*Councilmember Travis Lindley thanked City staff for the stellar job they are doing to keep the City moving forward. The Roswell Street roundabout is open and working well. He spoke with several people about fine tuning the traffic calming policy and looks forward to finalizing and implementing. Several people have asked how to donate to #SupportSmyrna and reviewed the website to find the information. He asked Jennifer for a separate link for easy access.*

*Councilmember Corkey Welch spoke about the trash issue the previous week and he commended Public Works for resolving the issue and adding an additional pick up. He also remarked about the schedule stickers on the cans for ease of reference for residents.*

*Councilmember Susan Wilkinson spoke about the stop signs however she hears more about people running signs. She has constituents asking for speed humps as well. She also referenced the closed businesses being used as parking lots for other businesses such as Amazon. There were some questions about #SupportSmyrna and how the funds are collected and distributed.*

*Jennifer Bennett, Community Relations Director set up a separate button on the main page for the Support Smyrna Programs.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould spoke about the finance meeting held earlier today to review revenue and the FY2021 expectations with the budget. Timothy Miller signing God Bless America at our Public Safety locations was a tremendous honor and event.*

*Police Chief Joe Bennett spoke about the super speeders on East West Connector and the plan for traffic enforcement.*

*Councilmember Lewis Wheaton mentioned receiving a call regarding super speeders. He also spoke about a potential opportunity with the Georgia Smarts Initiative Program through Georgia Tech that facilitates technological needs for municipalities. Transit and traffic needs in particular. He spoke with Derek and Tammi regarding the same and reviewed some of the details.*

*Tammi Saddler-Jones has issued the land disturbance permits, the building permits for interior renovations, performing arts building and classroom buildings.*

*The discussion continue on regarding the parking concerns and lack of communication from the School Board, as well as lack of communication to the neighboring residents. The City has made several attempts to reach out and have discussion and have received little or no response. Notifications to parents whose kids go to the school is not sufficient as many neighboring residents do not have knowledge of the upcoming construction. Although the City has offered several opportunities for communication and have submitted a letter detailing the concerns. Mayor Norton has been extremely disappointed by the lack of response from the School Board regarding not only the Campbell High School construction, parking concerns and the Red Speed traffic enforcement system.*

*Councilmember Wilkinson expressed her continued concerns for her constituents and the neighborhoods.*

*Meetings have been requested with the Chairman of the School Board and were told to deal with the superintendent. Several staff and Councilmembers have reached out and are getting no response and a lack of communication. The school Board needs to step up and be transparent. They have taken no public comment regarding this issue.*

*City Clerk, Heather Corn has been working with Granicus to live stream our meetings through Legistar. We are also adding a free EComment module where items can be commented on prior to each meeting. Court services is back to a part time schedule and processing incoming tickets and payments on a daily business.*

*Christy Ullman mentioned delivering #SupportSmyrna signs to neighborhoods.*

## **5. Adjournment**

*Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 7:51PM.*