



Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, August 13, 2020

6:00 PM

Community Center, Magnolia Room

Smyrna Community Center Magnolia Room / 200 Village Green Circle SE
Parking and entrance to meeting on Powder Springs Street Side of Building
MASKS REQUIRED / TEMPERATURE WILL BE CHECKED

Roll Call

Present 14 - Councilmember Derek Norton, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Austin Wagner, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor pro tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Also Present 1 - Scott Cochran

Staff 15 - Roy Acree, Joe Bennett, Heather Peacon-Corn, Tom Boland, Richard Garland, Janet Liberman, Frank Martin, Russell Martin, Joey Staubes, Penny Mocer, Landon O'Neal, Tammi Saddler Jones, Kristin Robinson, Kevin Moore, and Brian Marcos

1. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:00pm in the Magnolia Room at the Smyrna Community Center.

2. New Business

Mayor Norton asked staff with agenda items to present first and then he would work through the New Business items.

Public Works Director Frank Martin presented the following items:

1. Item 2020 -297 - Approval to amend the budget and purchase a 2020 Alamo 6105-SE Mower at a cost of \$122,169.00 using the Alamo State Contract SWC # 99999-SPD-0000102 Flint Equipment Company located at 4500 Wendell Drive SW Atlanta Georgia 30336. This will be funded through the FY21 vehicle replacement fund.

This item will be purchased by trading in two pieces of equipment to fund this purchase.

2. Item 2020-294 - Approval to purchase a 2021 Ford F-550 Chassis with a 11' (eleven foot) contractor bed at a cost of \$62,388.00 funded in the FY21 Vehicle Replacement Fund and to purchase through Wade Ford located at 3860 South Cobb Drive Smyrna, Georgia 30080 using the Georgia State Contract #99999-01-SPD-0000155

3. Item 2020-296 - Approval to purchase a 2021 Kenworth T880 Tandem Axle Dump

Truck at a cost of \$151,587.00 funded in the FY21 Vehicle Replacement fund and purchased through MHC Kenworth Atlanta 5860 Riverview Road Mableton, Georgia 30126 using the Georgia State Contract #SPD0000155 / 081716 - KTC.

A. Presentation on Downtown Master Plan - Pond Consultants

Tom Boland along with representatives from Pond and Company presented the Smyrna B.O.L.D. Downtown Master Plan Update.

A brief history of the city of Smyrna was presented as well as an overview of the specific study area to include the area between Concord and Hill Street and Spring Street and Atlanta Road. King Street serves as the center spine for Smyrna.

The discussion regarding public engagement was discussed as it is an integral part of any community planning process. Although while COVID-19 caused a disruption in traditional outreach efforts - specifically a second community open house. They completed the majority of in person outreach prior to the stay at home order put in place in April 2020. 's.

Downtown Smyrna Today: the original downtown plan was reviewed that was put in place back in the 1980's. The building of the downtown area from the ground up was a tremendous undertaking providing residents and visitors with a destination that provides a healthy mixture of restaurants, retail and residential use.

The master plan update provides an opportunity for the City to meaningfully reconsider the original layout and uses in downtown as well as look at the ways to expand it.

B. Trustbuilding, Inc. - Curtis Brown

Curtis Brown with Level One Trustbuilding was invited to the table to speak about their training.

Mayor Norton and Mr. Brown spoke recently for about an hour regarding the changes this program has made in the City of LaGrange and Mayor Norton was interested in inviting them to speak before Council.

They reviewed their program and spoke about the different ways it could be tapered to the needs of the City of Smyrna..

Trustbuilding Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is the parent organization of the Troup County Racial Trustbuilding Initiative. The program was founded in LaGrange, GA in 2015 by former Troup County Commission chair Ricky Wolfe and former Georgia State Representative Carl Von Epps, Jr.; servant leaders with a vision for inclusive community that would develop from an intentional program of strategic conversations to reduce bias, improve relationships and encourage trust among constituents. The organization serves residents in all of Troup County and our series of trainings and workshops have engaged approximately 350 citizens.

The mission of the organization is to bridge the racial divide in Troup County through dialogue, research, community collaboration and action, in order to remove barriers that prevent full access to opportunities for all.

Trustbuilding, Inc supports this mission by providing classes that train citizens to have intentional dialogue about racial history and reconciliation. In addition to the training sessions, Racial Trustbuilding has hosted programs on specific topics that are intended to bridge the racial divide. they include topics such as implicit bias, cultural competence and mindfulness and expert speakers from institutions including National Museum of African American History and Cultural, the Southern Center for Human Rights, troy University and the University of Georgia. The result of the conversations -

with the intentional focus on the reality of our history and the possibility for a different future is evident in events and recognitions during the last several years.

Classes are designed to provide at least 12 and up to 20 participants with the information and tools needed to facilitate community dialogues about race. Both Level 1 and 2 classes are facilitator led and require commitment of eight hours split between to weekend days. Level 1 sets a foundation for understanding local history. The Level 2 class takes approximately 8-12 weeks later with a mixed cohort of new participants. It focuses on developing the skills to participate in and lead dialogs about race, reconciliation and equity.

Racial Trustbuilding is unique in that most municipal leaders have been hesitant to address racial issues in their communities. Our organization maintains strong relationships with national and statewide agencies focused on inclusion and diversity including: Hope in the Cities, ONE Harris County, and Southern Truth and Reconciliation. While much of our work overlaps, Trustbuilding differs in our ability to bring together institutional leaders with residents so that cross racial relationships can be forged. Racial Trustbuilding is not a "diversity training" but rather an opportunity for learning about oneself and our neighbors. Hopefully, attendees have a network from which they can take action and cultivate solutions with like-minded and similarly trained community members. Several elected officials have attended and endorsed our events.

C. One Million Trees Initiative Presentation - Janet Liberman

Janet Liberman of Keep Smyrna Beautiful in conjunction with the Smyrna Tree Board presented:

The One Million Trees Initiative is an innovative collaboration of 10 Metro Atlanta cities and 10 local nonprofits to plant and save one million trees in the metro area over the next 10 years; and Tree Atlanta will lead the One Million Trees Initiative, the first of its kind in the United States to connect diverse communities and approaches that protect and improve the urban forest in our region. The one million count will include trees planted on city land, for public projects, preserved in forested areas, and installed by individuals on private property, such as residential yards and businesses. Trees Atlanta is not requiring any financial commitments from its partners. Both Keep Smyrna Beautiful and the Smyrna Tree Board are enthusiastic about this project.

City or County partner commitments / responsibilities:

- o Commit to maintaining or increasing annual tree planting activities within its boundaries*
- o Identify parcels for potential conservation*
- o Report planting and preservation activity to Trees Atlanta to be included in the shared database*
- o Promote the program and the public benefits of trees to its constituents and encourage them to plant and preserve trees on their own property.*
- o Be willing to share strategies and approaches to tree planting and protection with other partner cities and counties to assist in their own efforts.*

The request is for approval to enact resolution RES2020-08 for the Trees Atlanta One Million Trees Project with a goal to participate in the overall preservation and planting of 1 million trees throughout Metro Atlanta from February 2020 through February 2030.

D. Discuss CARES Act Funding / Draw #2

Emergency Management Director Roy Acree and Finance Director Kristin Robinson spoke about the incoming CARES Act funding and the staff recommended uses,

*specifically in technology. Additionally, the Mayor and Council will use some of the funding for the community by purchasing and distributing WiFi hotspots for students without this need for the upcoming school year.
A list of specifics was provided to Council and a vote will be taken at the upcoming Council meeting..*

3. Review of the August 17, 2020 Mayor and Council Agenda

Community Development Director Rusty Martin reviewed the following items:

1. Item 2020-440 - Zoning Request - Z19-019 - Rezoning from NRC & OI to MU for the development of 170 unit independent senior living facility and 114 townhomes at a density of 11.85 units per acre - 23.95 Acres - Land Lots 775, 810, & 811 - 2320 Campbell Road - InLine Communities, LLC. THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED TO THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT.

2. Item 2020-237 - Zoning Request - Z20-008 - Rezoning from GC & RM-12 to MU for the development of 105 multi-family units 15,100 sq. ft. of retail at a density of 35.8 units per acre - 2.93 acres - Land Lot 594 & 631 - 2930 - 2968 Jonquil Drive, 1650 Spring Road, and 1639 Corn Road, The Woodbery Group, LLC - THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED TO THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT.

3. Item 2020-233 - Zoning Request - Z20-006 - Rezoning from NS & RM-10 - Conditional for the development of 10 single-family attached townhomes at a density of 9.3 units per acre - 1.08 acres - Land Lot 669 - 3302 Atlanta Road - Edgeline, LLC. Mr. Martin discussed his expectation of this item to be tabled until the September 8, 2020 meeting at the request of the applicant.

4. Item 2020-84 - Public Hearing - Plat Approval with Variances - V20-015 - 0.462 Acres - Land Lot 627 - 1730 & 1740 Seneca Court - LaDonna Lewis. Mr. Martin stated this item is very straightforward and the owner, Ladonna Lewis will be present to answer any questions.

Formal Business:

There are 6 appointments to the Smyrna Tree Board to be voted on.

Item RES2020-06The One Million Trees Atlanta item is in the form of a resolution to be voted on.

Item 2020-298 will be the approval to amend the FY21 budget to include the revenues and expenditures related to CARES Act.

Item 2020-312 - Fire Chief Roy Acree and Finance Director Kristin Robinson spoke about the repair needed for Fire Department truck 1. Emergency Funds in the Vehicle Replacement Fund will be used to make the necessary repairs for the unavoidable repair.

Item 2020-306 - Authorization to install speed humps and associated striping between addresses 2729 and 2735 Spring Drive.

This item is in both Ward 1 and Ward 2 and Councilmember Glenn Pickens spoke about the information he had received from residents regarding this request. Staff does not recommend the approval of this item as it goes against the current policy that speed humps are not traffic calming measures.

Councilmember Austin Wagner remarked that he has several concerns about this item, the first being that the residents of his ward had not made comment or requests regarding these speed humps and he felt like this was the first he had really heard of this item. Additionally, he did not like the fact that we have a staff recommendation and were going against it and policy and moving forward he wants to either make changes to the policy or have a stricter following of both policy and recommendation.

There were no questions or concerns regarding the minutes to be voted on.

4. Other Business (as needed)

Mayor Norton went around the room and received the following Ward reports: He discussed the annexation meeting and the Committee on Annexations would be meeting soon to move forward with additional discussions and comments. The Air Quality Committee Meeting will be held tomorrow at 10:00am in the Magnolia Room.

As the NDO goes into effect in a month, we need to consider the person for that position.

Glenn Pickens - None

Travis Lindley - None

Tim Gould - Appreciation for all the work on the WiFi hotspots.

Corkey Welch - has concerns about message received that working from home gave the impression that not available.

Susan Wilkinson - Spoke about the group Rebuilding Together and gave an update regarding a recipient.

Austin Wagner - talked about the Housing Authority approving monies. Scott Cochran asked him to put a proposal together to present to Council and have a formal vote on. He also asked about the posting of meeting notices and them being seen on the bottom right corner of the website page. Mayor Norton asked about the availability for the Clerks Office to email all of Council any upcoming meetings.

Lewis Wheaton - talked about the possibility of using old computers for students that don't have one for school work.

5. Executive Session (as needed)

6. Adjournment

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for August 13, 2020 at 8:52PM.