



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, September 3, 2020

6:00 PM

BRAWNER HALL - BANQUET HALL

**Due to a Construction Emergency at the Community Center, the COW Meeting will now
be held at**

BRAWNER HALL - BANQUET HALL

3180 ATLANTA ROAD, SMYRNA, GA

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 11 - Heather Peacon-Corn, Roy Acree, Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Richard
Garland, Bo Jones, Russell Martin, Terry McCormick, Penny Mocer, Kevin
Moore, and Kristin Robinson

1. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. New Business

A. Transit Study - Tindale Oliver

*Tom Boland gave the background regarding the Transit Analysis and Feasibility Study,
Final Draft Plan. Tindale Oliver gave a short presentation the reviewed the following:*

- Study Objectives*
- Study Progress*
- Public Engagement*
- Understanding the Needs*
- Investment Scenarios*
- Coordination and Plan of Action*
- Next Steps*

Study Objects:

- Develop consensus-driven transit vision*
- Reinforce City's objectives:*
 - Sustainability*

- Economic development
- Growth management
- Traffic mitigation
- Livable communities & corridors
 - Connected & walkable communities
- Communicate transit vision to Cobb County & the ATL

Study Process:

Establish needs by looking at the Community Needs and Vision, Guiding Community feedback, Transit Opportunities Assessment and City Council and Regional Policy Direction.

Strategies need to be separated into Short Term (2021-2023), Mid Term (2023-2029) and Long Term (2030-2040)

Factors to Apply to the Process are the Local needs and Regional Obligations, Livability and Equity, Economic Development and Technological and Environmental Innovation.

Public Involvement:

A total of 8,200+ people were engaged in the process and responded as follows:

- Stakeholders: 41 contacted, 26 interviewed
- Surveys: There were 2 public input surveys and 1, 233 people responded
- Public Workshops: 3 public workshops held with 2, 284 people engaged
- Discussion Groups: 4 Discussion Groups with 65 people involved
- Advisory o4 technical advisory committee meetings with 18 people involved
- Media: 4569+ people reached via social media, website and email

The transit priorities from the public were identified as follows:

Provide rail transit, connections to jobs/entertainment centers, Regional express / commuter service, buses that circulate within the city, more frequent bus service, ridesharing, weekend service,dedicated lanes for buses and expansion to new areas.

Market Gap Analysis:

The Traditional Rider Markets were discussed as were , Choice Rider Markets, Commuter Travel Markets and Transit Service Gaps.

Some Short Term Strategies for 2021 - 2022 were implementing microtransit, Increase Route 25 frequency to 30 minutes, Launch Transit Marketing Campaign and Evaluate transit infrastructure.

Mid Term Strategies for 2023-2030 are 3 City Circulators, Change microtransit to first / last mile.

Smyrna ConnEx Downtown Smyrna - Atlanta, CobbLinc Airport Express (Route AX) and Downtown transfer Station.

Long Term Strategies discussed for 2030 - 2040 are S. Cobb Drive BRT, Extend I-285 Top End BRT to S. Cobb drive, Connect Cobb BRT, CobbLinc Express Route 285, 15 minutes frequency on Circulators and South Smyrna Transfer Station.

The costs with the feasibility study were reviewed and the S. Cobb BRT, extension of the I-285 Top End BRT and the Connect Cobb BRT were discussed with further detail.

The following went into the Evaluation Criteria:

- 25% Regional Connectivity
- 15% Financial Feasibility

- 30% Public Input
- 30% Ridership Potential

The following Coordination and Plan of Action was discussed:

1. *Coordinate with Cobb County / CobbLinc and the ATL on project priorities*
2. *Designate City Transit Coordinator*
3. *Establish a Smyrna Transit Citizens Advisory Committee*
4. *Secure Funding for Priority Feasibility Studies*
5. *Coordinate with partners on potential project funding*
6. *Implement Smyrna Connects*

So Next Steps are:

- *City Council Direction*
- *Finalize Plan*
- *Initiate Action Plan*
 - *regional coordination*
 - *collaborate on key feasibility studies*
 - *Downtown Smyrna Hub*
 - *S. Cobb Dr BRT*
- *continue public awareness and education*

-

B. Racial Trust Building

Derek Norton requested moving forward with the Racial Trust Building Initiative and asked Council to allow the \$4000 - \$5,000 cost associated. Council agreed to move forward with this request.

C. Recycling Center - Julie Barwig and Kathy Chapman

Julie Barwig and Kathy Chapman with the Smyrna Recycling Center gave the following presentation:

Pre-Covid19 Operations:

- *Open 5 days a week – Tuesday – Saturday.*
- *No restrictions.*
- *2.5 Staff – 2 full-time and 1 part-time.*
- *Approved in FY19 budget to change part-time to full-time in April 2020. (unable to hire due to shutdown with virus)*

During Covid19 Operations:

- *Opened to Public on May 29.*
- *Friday and Saturday only.*
- *9:00am – 3:00pm by appointment (following other centers – Sandy Springs and CHaRM).*
- *Limited materials taken.*
- *Masks required of both customers and staff per City guidelines.*
- *The guidance from the CDC regarding actions with hard surfaces and materials is to*

frequently (several times a day) wipe down those surfaces areas and wash material that may be susceptible.

-Staff is unable to wipe down or clean all the materials coming into the Center as they come in.

-Staff using Tuesdays and Wednesdays to handle/process materials.

-Added Thursdays on June 18.

-All other policies remained the same.

-Staffing – only 2 full-time staff.

-Due to budget constraints unable to hire previously approved full-time position until January 2021.

Staff Recommendations Moving Forward:

-Appointments were eliminated beginning Thursday, August 27.

-Move to 4 days a week beginning the week of September 14. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

-Hours remain 9:00am to 3:00pm.

-Masks required per City for both staff and customers. Staff is also looking at face shields.

-CDC guidelines remain the same regarding the virus on hard/material surfaces.

-Staff will use Tuesdays to process as much material as possible. They will, out of necessity, have to process some materials early Wed, Thurs, and Fri before opening. Saturday will be too busy.

-Staff understands moving towards 5 days a week but have concerns about doing so with only 2 Full-time people.

-Request to post, and fill, the FY19 approved full-time position.

-The goal would be to open 5 days right after Thanksgiving, if possible.

Mayor Norton mentioned that as of September 14, 2020 the Recycling Center would be pretty much back to normal.

D. Water Meter Replacement / Backflow Device - Bo Jones

Assistant Public Works Director Bo Jones gave a presentation regarding back flow and thermal tanks and brought a water meter with a back flow for the Council to see in person.

Mayor Norton remarked that Council had been receiving emails asking why we were doing these replacements currently and Public Works noted this is an ongoing project that has been ongoing for 2.5. years.

E. CARES Act

Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief Roy Acree gave the presentation regarding the Draw 3 - Smyrna CARES Expenditures.

The following areas would be addresses with these funds:

- Public Works and Engineering - Mobile WiFi units

- Multiple Depts. - Technology equipment and software

- Community Relations - PSA Video

- I.T. - Smart UPS and Related Equipment

- I.T. - Environmental Monitors

- I.T. - Security Cameras

- Finance - Small Business Grant - \$750,000

Mayor Norton asked about the marketing and application process for the Small Business Grant. Economic Development would lead the marketing process with Community Development assisting in the application process since these are businesses within the City. The application has been modeled after the City of Acworth's process.

F. Proposed Naming Policy

Parks and Rec Director Richard Garland gave the presentation regarding the Naming Policy.

The information is as follows as to the DRAFT wording:

DONOR AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION POLICY:

It is the policy of the City of Smyrna Parks and Recreation Department to provide suitable acknowledgment of donors' contributions. In order to protect park resources, values, and the visitor experience, recognition and utilization of contributions shall fully respect the dignity, needs, Master Plans, priorities, and focus of the various parks. Such recognition and utilization of contributions shall not detract from the visitor's experience or expectation, impair the visual properties of the park environment, be perceived as advertising or commercializing the character of the park setting, or create a feeling or perception of proprietary interest.

Guidelines

The following guidelines have been approved by the City of Smyrna. The intent is to ensure that philanthropic traditions are fostered, that donors are treated equitably and appropriately, and that contributions are recognized in ways that do not decrease park resources and values. The Director of Parks and Recreation will chair a committee of staff appointed by Mayor and Administrator with the chair of the Tree Board serving as a citizen member. The Committee will have the responsibility for implementing these guidelines and policies to guarantee equitable treatment of sponsors and the appropriate utilization of contributions.

Memorials must have one of the following purposes:

- Honor Smyrna citizens that have been deceased for at least one year*
- Enhance the aesthetics of the park / area as determined in the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Director*
- Memorial benches must match existing benches located within the parks. No concrete, granite or stone benches allowed for a park memorial. Parks and Recreation staff will provide options for appropriate benches.*

Memorials must not:

- Memorialize a nonresident of Smyrna or a person who has not been deceased for at least one year*
- Advertise or be a commercial promotion*
- Fundraise or request charitable contributions*
- Contain political, religious, violent, defamatory, or sexually explicit language or pictures*
- Discriminate against people based on age, color, disability, gender, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation*

Donations will be accepted in the following categories:

- Living Legacy tree donations: Living memorial donations will be accepted in the form of tree plantings in city parks.*
- The price of trees varies due to species, size, and time of purchase. All trees are professionally planted by an approved arborist. The cost to purchase and plant a tree along with any inscription, plaque or marker shall be the responsibility of the donor. Living Legacy Tree donations begin at \$750.00.*
- Stewardship bench donations: Memorial bench donations will be considered within the city park system.*

- The bench stewardship donation includes the bench, plaque, installation and maintenance for the life of the bench, after which time the stewardship may be renewed upon receipt of an additional donation. The life of the bench will depend up on location, exposure and level of use resulting in an average bench life of 15 years. Donations begin at \$1700.00.
- General donations: Donations for general park and recreation purposes are accepted and encouraged.
- Statues, Fountains, Plazas, Pavilions, Gardens, etc.: Memorial Donations which are large in scale will be reviewed by Committee and must be approved by City Council. To the extent that projects of this nature are consistent with park planning processes they may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Donors may contact the department to discuss their idea.
- Buildings, Fields, Parks: Naming & Dedication: The Mayor and City Council reserve this right and may entertain citizen recommendations.

The final policy will be reviewed by staff and presented to the Council.

3. Review of the September 8, 2020 Mayor and Council Agenda

Finance Director Kristin Robinson asked to discuss the current hold on late fees for utility billing and noted that over 50% of current customers are more than 90 days past due. She would like Council's verbal consent to renew the late fees for citizens, keeping in mind that they need to still work with citizens to allow for flexibility. The Mayor and Council agrees that the process needs to be reestablished.

The September 8, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda was reviewed as follows:

Mayor Norton spoke about the Proclamation regarding Suicide Prevention and Recognition Month.

Community Development Director Rusty Martin spoke about the 10 Single Family Town Homes. This item will be tabled due to the late arrival of documents from the applicant. This item is in Ward 6.

Privilege License has one item for a Sports Bar in Ward 1.

Ward 2 relocation of voting location to Smyrna Baptist Church in Ward 3. Austin Wagner spoke about this move and verified the types of communication that would be provided to notify voters.

Annexation request on Oakdale Road in Ward 7. This is a straight annexation.

Item D will be removed from this agenda and the wording will be removed and worked on for one of the meetings in October. It will need to be advertised in the MDJ for 15 days prior as well as go to Planning and Zoning per Scott Cochran.

Vehicle Replacement Fund for 5 Police Cars: Major Terry McCormick discussed these vehicles and the need to replace the two as previously budgeted. The other three are Command Post Vehicles. These will be black and white vehicles with blue lights for Traffic.

Assistant Public Works Director Bo Jones spoke about Public Works request to use the TIPS cooperative contract #17110501 for CIPP(cured in place piping) for 380 Mockingbird Lane Project in the amount of \$137,082.00. We are selecting Vortex due

to scheduling and performance issue with current provider, IPR Southeast. Vortex services have provided pricing to complete this project in two phases with a total cost of \$137,082.00 these services have already been competitively bid through this contract.

Vortex services Phase 1 380 Mockingbird Lane \$ 58,954.00

Vortex Services 380 Mockingbird Lane phase 2 \$78,128.00

IPR Southeast 380 Mockingbird Lane complete project \$152,425.00

Award RFQ 21-002 City of Smyrna Resurfacing project to the lowest and responsive bidder Bartow Paving Company Inc. 1055 Rowland Springs Road, Cartersville Georgia 30121 funded through LMIG and SPLOST in the amount for \$705,019.03.

Public Works requested bids for street resurfacing. Six vendors submitted as follows

Bartow Paving Company Inc. \$705,019.03

(Cartersville Ga.)

Public Works requested bids for a lump sum contract for the installation of approximately 3,080 linear feet of 12" Ductile Iron water line and 6,060 linear feet of new 8-inch Ductile Iron Water line, valves and fittings for State Route 280 from Benson Poole Road to Concord Road. The City will be providing the water line, valves, pipes, copper fittings, etc. Eight (8) contractors purchased the bid plans and Eight(8) bids were received. The low bidder is K.M. Davis Contracting Company, Inc. (3259 Austell Road, Marietta, Ga 30008) in the amount of \$1,057,007.50

4. Other Business (as needed)

Mayor Norton wanted to add the following items:

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson's asked to add Mr. J.D. Smith to the Planning and Zoning Board in replacement of Jim Davis.

The Public Safety and Appeals Committee will be formally combined which was Mayor Norton's original intention so that the Committee on Appeals / Public Safety Committee will hear all appeals for the staff. Committee Members are Travis Lindley, Austin Wagner and Glenn Pickens.

Mayor Norton remarked that the NDO Conciliator recommendation comes from Judge Phyllis Gingrey. Mr. Luke Lantta's bio is included.

Penny Moceri gave a quick update regarding the WiFi's and the anticipated finalization date for turning them over to the schools.

Tim Gould, Travis Lindley, Glenn Pickens, Corkey Welch and Austin Wagner did not have any items for discussion.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked Penny Moceri to give an update regarding Rebuilding Together Atlanta. A meeting was held virtually and they are in the process of trying to renovate a veterans home. We discussed ways to support them in their efforts.

She also wanted to mention regarding the recent rains, that there were several residents in Ward 5 that experienced flooding. Mayor Norton staffs attentiveness to those calls. She mentioned the Community Rating System that would assist residents in obtaining flood insurance.

Lewis Wheaton had a few meetings with some people regarding the Young Gents program and discussed some of the training provided. They are looking to relocate and would love to be a part of the Smyrna Community. They are offering their services for free and after speaking with Derek and Richard Garland, would like to use some of our facilities to facilitate these programs.

He also remarked about car break in season especially in Ward 7. Police Chief Bennett remarked that there were plans to get more police presence in the area during these vulnerable times.

5. Executive Session (as needed)

Mayor Norton announced an Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to go into executive session and was seconded by Councilmember Corkey Welch. The motion was approved 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley to return to regular session and was seconded by Councilmember Corkey Welch.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the September 3, 2020 meeting of the Mayor and Council at 8:23PM.