



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, September 17, 2020

6:00 PM

Community Center

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 10 - Jennifer Bennett, Penny Mocer, Ken Owens, Roy Acree, Russell Martin, Terry McCormick, Kevin Moore, Landon O'Neal, Carol Sicard, and Janet Liberman

1. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the September 17, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. New Business

Mayor Norton thanked everyone who helped with the WiFi hotspot project for children in need of internet access for school work. Interim Assistant City Administrator Penny Mocer and Councilmember Tim Gould headed up this project.

Mr. Terry McCormick, an employee of the Smyrna Police Department was recognized for 30 years of service to the City.

A. City Wellness Program renewal - C. Sicard

Human Resources Director Carol Sicard spoke of the background relating to the Wellness Program Renewal.

No one had any comments or concerns.

B. Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Amendments - C. Sicard

Ms. Carol Sicard, Human Resources Director reviewed the information on the defined benefit retirement plan amendments with Mayor and Council.

C. Open Positions Review and Discussion - C. Sicard / Joe Bennett

Human Resources Director Carol Sicard reviewed the current list of open positions within the City. The Mayor and Council went through each position and asked for Council's approval to begin the posting process for needed staff.

Interim City Administrator Joe Bennett reviewed the hiring of Penny Mocerri as the Interim Assistant City Administrator position to help handle upcoming Police Department appeal hearings. Additionally, Mayor Norton spoke about the need as well as the initial delay based on financial reasons.

Mr. Bennett went into further detail regarding the upcoming expected appeals to come forward to the Committee as well as the City Administrator's office.

Councilmember Wilkinson questioned the hiring of Ms. Mocerri and expressed her concerns regarding the timing as well as the budget impact.

Councilmember Lindley said this is a lateral move where she is taking on additional work because she will continue to perform her duties as Special Projects Manager.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould spoke about it being the City Administrator's choice of Assistant City Administrator.

The next position is the Economic Development Coordinator position; making it a department head position, which it previously was not, as it previously was located under the City Administrator position. Additionally, they would like to speak to reclassifying the position in order to aggressively hire qualified candidates.

Budget Officer position is vacant with the promotion of Jered Sigmon into the Controller position. This is the busy season and the position needs to be filled sooner rather than later.

IT Manager position was vacated on September 4, 2020 and the position needs to be reclassified to an Assistant Director position and get someone trained to be a replacement in the impending retirement of Chris Addicks. Mayor Norton mentioned a previous employee that should not have been allowed to leave the City, as he was instrumental in building the current systems in place with the City.

The Library has had a recent vacancy and will need to replace this employee.

The Police Department has three positions on hold, with two being on hold through January to remain.

Community Development has a Marshall position open that needs to be filled after Simon Cardenas was promoted to Lead Marshall.

Public Works has a need for an equipment operator. This is a vacancy of a current position.

Recycling Center Attendant position will allow for the recycling center to be open full hours.

Parks and Rec needs admin staff / receptionist staff to fill vacant positions.

Councilmember Welch asked about the impacts from a budget standpoint. Will there be a budget impact? Mayor Norton stated these are all budgeted positions and except for the two reclassifications, there is no additional positions added.

The Council would still like to regroup regarding the tax implications from COVID and moving forward with other discussions regarding budget items.

Reclassifications discussed will go on the next agenda for vote.

D. Council Approval - Fund Request / Housing Needs Asmnt - A. Wagner / P.

Moceri

Councilmember Austin Wagener spoke about the need for a housing assessment as well as a request for funds to pay for the assessment be given by the Housing Authority.

A discussion and request took place with Housing Authority Chair Joe Bland regarding a request for \$75,000.00 from the board. Mr. COchran spoke about each Councilmember reaching out to their various members to discuss as well.

Penny Moceri did an overview regarding firms that can do housing needs assessments and an RFP would be done to get various firms respond to make a choice that would work for the City.

3. Review of the September 21, 2020 Mayor and Council Agenda

Agenda Review:

A. Campbell Road / Spring Road - Tabled

B. Single Family Homes - Tabled

C. Jonquil / Spring Road - Tabled Indefinitely - developer has new idea for this space and making it more of a destination space with no living space.

D., E., F. 2 Single Family detached homes - Annexation and Rezoning request on Mathews Street.

The site plan was shown to the Council and reviewed by Community Development Director Rusty Martin.

Review of Ordinance regarding Automobile Broker was reviewed and it was discussed about the current issues within the City that have been ongoing for months located at Concord Road and King Springs Road.

Mr. Bennett asked if this would have any bearing on the Ward 5 issues of cars parking in various lots on South Cobb Drive.

Additionally, Councilmember Wilkinson spoke about the repetitive parking of delivery vehicles at churches and businesses renting space to Amazon and other companies and asked about business license requirements for these properties.

Mayor Norton asked for Community Development to bring forward a recommendation regarding Ms. Wilkinson's concerns.

Ms. Wilkinson has an appointment to the Smyrna Tree Board as does Councilmember Welch.

The Drift is coming online and is currently under construction out at Riverside.

Change Ordinance to allow us to be compliant with new state law regarding alcohol sales / deliveries. Mr. Cochran gave some additional background information regarding same.

Two commercial building permits being presented. 5th Third bank building a new branch. Caliber Car Wash is the vacant lot at Belmont Place and Windy Hill.

Consent Agenda, no issues with the minutes currently on the agenda. Renewal of HR documents for Defined Benefits as well as Wellness Program.

4. Other Business (as needed)

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould spoke about the Census and Smyrna is currently at 67.5% return of information. We are beating our 2010 census percentages. We have been doing weekly social media campaigns and have put up signs in low response areas, such as Rose Garden. Utility Bills had information in them as well.

The response percentage is strictly for self returned responses and workers are out getting people who haven't completed yet and those numbers will be added to the 67.5%.

Councilmember Welch asked about times for rollout carts and there is an ordinance, written by Scott Cochran, that might need some updating. There needs to be a clear understanding of placement of carts as well as times that they need to be placed out and returned from the street. ORD86.31 is the current ordinance in place with the details.

Councilmember Lindley has a constituent wanting to speak about flag football for City employees children. The Methodist church wants to combine efforts with the Parks and Rec Trunk or Treat event.

Councilmember Wheaton gave a shout out to the PD and Public Works regarding a property needing upkeep.

Councilmember Wilkinson spoke about a big massive truck parking on the sidewalk that was handled.

Councilmember Wagner discussed the Committee on Policies and Procedures Hiring Policy to be discussed at an upcoming Committee meeting, to be finalized and brought to Mayor and Council.

City Clerk Heather Corn made an announcement about elections. Voting Pages on website mimic the information from Cobb Elections website.

An RFP is underway for new software for Community Development and it is expected to have the final come before Council on October 19, 2020.

Fire Chief Roy Acree will send an update on the \$750,000.00 Cares Act draw monies being spent and new temperature monitors will be installed in all public buildings in the next week.

Mr. Bennett spoke about the Recycling Center being reopened back to Pre-Covid

hours for the public.

Mr. Acree spoke also about the business grants the City is offering and Mr. Gould asked for additional information about how businesses will be paid out.

5. Executive Session (as needed)

Mayor Norton asked for motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel item.

A motion was made by Councilmember Travis Lindley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould.

A motion was made to return to the Committee of the Whole meeting by Councilmember Travis Lindley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould.

Mayor Norton adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:23PM.