

**Pre-Council Meeting Minutes – FINAL**  
**Admin. Conference Room @ A. Max Bacon City Hall**  
**October 4, 2021**  
**6:30 PM**

*Present:       Derek Norton           Glenn Pickens           Austin Wagner*  
*Travis Lindley       Charles “Corkey” Welch*  
*Susan Wilkinson     Tim Gould           Lewis Wheaton*

*Also, Present: Scott Cochran (City Attorney)*

*Staff:           Joe Bennett (City Administrator), Frank Martin (Public Works Director), Heather*  
*K. Peacon-Corn (City Clerk), Jill Head (Deputy City Clerk), and Dat Luu*  
*(Assistant Director of IT)*

**Mayor Derek Norton called the October 4, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting to Order at 6:30 PM.**

**Review of the Agenda for the October 4, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting**

Mayor Norton opened the discussion by reading through the Mayor and Council agenda for that evening.

Item 6A.

There was no discussion.

Items 8A, B & C.

There was no discussion.

Item 8D & E.

Councilmember Welch asked about the agreements on the agenda regarding Argo Road and Rose Garden Hills. City Administrator Joe Bennett stated that the previous agreements had expired, and these approvals will renew the agreements for an additional five (5) years.

Item 8F & G.

There was no discussion.

**Off-Agenda Discussion:**

1. City Administrator Joe Bennett discussed with the Mayor and Council an issue regarding the drop-down screen in Council Chambers. It stopped working after the last Council meeting. Since then, attempts have been made to try to bring it down manually, but it will not drop down. On Wednesday, a company is going to try to drop the screen down so it can be left in the down position. The company that installed the screen is no longer in business.

Dat Luu stated he gathered some estimates to replace the drop-down screen for flat-panel television screens: two flat-panel 4K 98-inch screens and two flat-panel 4K 65-inch screens at a cost of approximately \$71,000.00. Mr. Bennett noted that if the City were to move in

that direction with 4K upgrades, they would no longer be able to provide a live feed through Charter. Mayor Norton asked if it was necessary because people can access the meetings through several mediums including the City website, Comcast, social media, and YouTube. Mr. Luu also stated that residents can watch the rebroadcast through Cobb County. He also explained that currently the City broadcasts via analog output, so the images, should the City transition to 4K resolution, will be very blurry. Mr. Bennett explained that it would cost the City an additional \$800.00 per month to upgrade the resolution of the broadcast through Charter.

Mayor Norton stated that the decision does not have to be made tonight. If the screen can be brought down, it can stay down until something can be decided.

Councilmember Wagner asked if it was possible to find out how many people in the City still use Charter and access the free broadcast. City Clerk Heather Corn stated she has already reached out to find out if those numbers can be produced and has not heard back yet.

Mr. Bennett asked the Council if they would like him to move forward with getting three estimates for both flat-panel screens and a new drop-down screen. The Council confirmed that Mr. Bennett move forward with obtaining those estimates.

2. Mayor Norton expressed the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration was a great success. And he stated that today was the first meeting of Support Smyrna. He looks forward to good things from that board.
3. Councilmembers Wilkinson and Welch both stated that they are receiving calls and emails about the \$42.00 light charge on the property tax bill. Mayor Norton stated that it is important to remind people that Smyrna was the only City not charging for lights until now and that recouping those funds can help with offsetting other expenses.
4. Councilmember/Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould stated that he attended the Public Safety Appreciation Breakfast. Two Smyrna officers received awards of merit for saving the life of a suicidal individual. It was an impressive awards ceremony. He also mentioned the Smyrna Youth Council is beginning.
5. Councilmember Lewis Wheaton reminded everyone about the Circulator meeting on Wednesday at noon.

**Mayor Norton adjourned the October 4, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting at 6:44 PM.**