



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, October 12, 2017

6:00 PM

City Hall

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton , Councilmember Andrea Blustein, Councilmember Charles (Corkey) Welch, Councilmember Doug Stoner and Councilmember Susan Wilkinson

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Scott Andrews (Assistant City Administrator), Christy Ullman (Executive Assistant to Mayor and Council), Scott Cochran (City Attorney), Terri Graham (City Clerk), Ashley Youmans (Government Management Fellow), Maxwell Ruppensburg (Special Projects Coordinator), Ken Suddreth (Community Development Director), Scott Stokes (Public Works Director), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Kay Bolick (Human Resources Director), Rusty Martin (Planner II)

Guests: Larry Terry (Croy Engineering), Guy Morrison (Marsh & McLennan Agency), Meghan McMullen (Jacobs), Neil Cohen (Screen USA)

Absent: Mayor A. Max Bacon, Councilmember Ron Fennel

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Health Insurance Renewal Final Decisions - Marsh & McLennan Agency

A. Marsh & McLennan Agency - Health Insurance Presentation

Guy Morrison from Marsh & McLennan Agency presented the health insurance renewal final decisions at the meeting. Mr. Morrison explained that at the last meeting, the plan was to move from an 87%/81% contribution structure to an 86%/80% structure and to look at various options. Mr. Morrison explained that the only contribution bucket that changes is the "employee only" portion because the City has already reached 80% contribution for dependents. Councilmember Corkey Welch mentioned he spoke with Councilmember Ron Fennel before the meeting and said he was happy with the changes. Human Resources Director Kay Bolick said that the changes were staff's recommendations as well and asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked if this program was a better deal. Ms. Bolick mentioned that this structure provides more incentive to look at a health savings account plan, which had not been incentivized in previous years.

3. Corn Road Parking Concerns - Andrea Blustein

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton said that he wanted to address this topic first before the City Administrator Report was given. Councilmember Andrea Blustein explained that on October 10th, Police Chief David Lee met with Rick Cohen of Screen USA to discuss parking issues on Corn Road near the business. His brother Neil Cohen was in attendance at the meeting since Rick Cohen was out of town. Ms. Blustein said that a few months ago, the brothers experienced cars parking on the opposite side of the road, blocking mailboxes and making it difficult for trucks to turn into the business. She stated that Rick was worried the trucks would accidentally hit a car. Mr. Norton asked how long this has been happening and Mr. Cohen replied for months and it is getting worse each day. Mr. Norton then asked if he has had conversations with residents at the nearby town homes or talked to the homeowners association to learn of their parking policy. Mr. Cohen replied that he has not had conversations with residents and believed his brother has reached out to the homeowners association. Public Works Director Scott Stokes believed that there are not any 'no parking' signs located on the road. Mr. Norton stated that before putting this item on a city council meeting agenda, they should speak with the nearby homeowners and the homeowners association about their policy and see if there is an alternative method of solving the issue.

4. City Administrator Report

A. City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones began the report by mentioning the meeting dates for 2018 and wanted to get a consensus from council. Ms. Saddler Jones then displayed information for the Staff and Council Retreat on October 18th and 19th and allowed councilmembers to review the agenda.

Councilmember Doug Stoner entered the meeting at 6:19 pm.

Special Projects Coordinator Maxwell Ruppensburg discussed the recent educational events that have occurred. He said that on the previous Friday, Cobb County School District had a tour of its pilot early literacy program at Belmont Hills Elementary and had Cobb County School District Staff, Wave of Excellence, Smyrna Education Foundation, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, and city staff in attendance. Mr. Ruppensburg explained that students started the program 7 weeks prior to beginning kindergarten in 3 cohorts, and that the program has seen positive results. He said there was also a presentation on what a similar program could look like in Smyrna. Ms. Saddler Jones mentioned the two models from Decatur City Schools and Crisp County Schools. Mr. Ruppensburg then stated that the program addresses the specific needs of each student and has students engaged in different tasks depending in their levels of preparedness. Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton said he has spoken with Susan Thayer of the Cobb County School District Board of Education about a preschool model used by municipalities and has asked Government Management Fellow Ashley Youmans to research the topic.

Mr. Ruppensburg discussed the Great Promise Partnership meeting that occurred earlier in the week. The event was hosted at the Smyrna Community Center and used as an opportunity for Great Promise Partnership representatives, Smyrna business owners, city staff, and Campbell High School to discuss information about the program. He said that Campbell High School discussed the importance of their work-based learning programs and has had positive results from expanded resources for students. He then said that the meeting was a start towards placing students with

jobs in the community and that Smyrna is the first city in Cobb County to implement the Great Promise Partnership Program.

Mr. Ruppensburg mentioned the Jonquil City Historical Trail Launch event on Sunday, October 15th. He explained that site markers along the trail were being painted in 20 sites by Smyrna Arts and Cultural Council volunteers and that the event includes a lecture and a tour of the trail.

Ms. Saddler Jones mentioned that Smyrna hosted the Georgia City/County Management Association District Luncheon at Brawner Hall and encouraged all staff to host meetings in Smyrna facilities.

Ms. Saddler Jones highlighted IT Director Chris Addicks for receiving the National Certified Government Chief Information Officer certification and Economic Development Coordinator William Smith for receiving the Economic Development Finance Professional certification. She also announced that Accounting Technician, Sr. Valarie Hickenbottom has put in her paperwork to retire at the end of October. Human Resources Director Kay Bolick proposed title changes for the Accounting Technician and Accounting Technician, Sr. positions to better reflect what the duties of the positions entail. She suggested that the job descriptions were accurate but wanted to change the titles to Utility Services Clerk and Utility Services Clerk, Sr. to help advertise those positions. Ms. Saddler Jones asked the council if they were alright with those changes, and council agreed.

Ms. Youmans announced that she would be submitting Smyrna's nomination for the 2018 Live, Work, Play Cities Award. She stated that the award is given to 9 cities every year through the Georgia Municipal Association and contains a nomination form, a narrative portion, and a multimedia portion.

5. Review of the October 16, 2017 Mayor and Council Agenda

Under the Mayoral Report was a Proclamation in Recognition of "Respect for Firefighters." Also under the Mayoral Report was the recognition of the Campbell High School Varsity Softball Team for making the State Playoffs for the first time in the program's history.

Under Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations, Community Development Director Ken Suddreth discussed the approval of a resolution authorizing the adoption of the City of Smyrna 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Suddreth noted that the department has spent a year updating the comprehensive plan, and after receiving feedback and sending the plan to the Atlanta Regional Commission, it has been approved. Mr. Suddreth said that the council would need to adopt the plan so that the City of Smyrna can keep its qualified local government status.

Under Formal Business was the approval of Harrison Aiken to replace Tom Bartlett on the Smyrna Tree Board. Tom Bartlett was recently appointed to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Under the Consent Agenda was the awarding of the South Cobb Drive Sewer Replacement to the lowest bidder KM Davis Contracting Co. Councilmember Corkey Welch asked if this was a SPLOST or a city project, to which the Public Works Director Scott Stokes answered it was a city project. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked if Mr. Stokes was comfortable with the decision, and Mr. Stokes replied that staff recommended approval. Ms. Wilkinson then asked if there were any acquisitions

and Mr. Stokes replied that yes, there are temporary acquisitions.

Also under the Consent Agenda was awarding the Full Service Janitorial Contract to RL Commercial Systems. Ms. Wilkinson asked where the company was located. Mr. Stokes replied that the company is located in Suwannee, Georgia.

A. Comprehensive Plan 2040 Presentation

Meghan McMullen, Urban Planner from Jacobs, presented a PowerPoint on the comprehensive plan updates. Ms. McMullen began by explaining that the structure of the document includes the main report that includes the needs and priorities for the next five years, the vision statement, and the 2018-2022 community work program, as well as a technical addendum. Ms. McMullen described that the plan has received approval from the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She stated that the all comments received from Council have been incorporated and there were only a few minor document edits. Ms. McMullen noted that the final steps will include posting the new version on the Guide Smyrna website and that if the plan gets approval, it will be sent to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

6. Other Business

City Clerk Terri Graham announced that there will be five candidates for the Ward 3 city council seat on the November 7th, 2017 election. Ms. Graham mentioned she will be giving out information at the council meeting about polling stations and that the Community Center has already been reserved for the run-off election. Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton mentioned that the election will be both for the state senate and the city council seat. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson asked if there is a scheduled debate for the city council position, to which Councilmember Corkey Welch answered no.

Councilmember Doug Stoner mentioned to the group that he would be absent on Monday, October 16th. Mr. Stoner said he would be out of town on business and will return on October 18th.

7. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.