



Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, January 2, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor A. Max Bacon (left meeting at 6:08 pm), Derek Norton, Charles "Corkey" Welch, Andrea Blustein, Susan Wilkinson, Lewis Wheaton, Maryline Blackburn (left meeting at 6:23 pm)

Absent: Tim Gould

Staff: Tammi Saddler Jones (City Administrator), Christy Ullman (Ex. Asst. to the M&C), Mary K. Arvin (Admin. Svc. Coord.), Tina M. Monaghan (Deputy City Clerk), Chief David Lee (SPD), Kristin Robinson (Finance Director), Rusty Martin (Director, Community Development), Landon O'Neal (ICMA Management Fellow), Terri Graham (City Clerk, left meeting at 6:08 pm), Scott Cochran (City Attorney)

Guests: Greg Teague (Croy Engineering), Wayne McGary (Croy Engineering), Glenn Pickens (Councilmember Elect), Travis Lindley (Councilmember Elect), Austin Wagner (Councilmember Elect)

2. Call to Order

Mayor Max Bacon called the Thursday, January 2, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mayor Bacon left the meeting at 6:08 pm, and Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton moved forward in conducting the meeting.

3. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Report:

A Georgia Power streetlight outage occurred on Atlanta Road. An MCI communication contractor hit the power line and caused a 10 streetlight outage.

The Community Development Director received written notification from Beazer Homes that they are formally withdrawing, without prejudice, their annexation request and rezoning application on the 12.72-acre parcel located at Buckner and Pebblebrook Roads in Cobb County.

The Public Works Department provided a detailed routing list for garbage and curbside recycling collection for the 2020 calendar year.

Upcoming Events: Monday, January 6, 2020 8-9:30 pm the city will host the "Incoming Mayor & Council 2020 – Welcoming Reception" at Atkins Park restaurant immediately following the City Council Meeting.

Starting Tuesday, January 21, 2020, Pre-Council Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm instead of 6:00 pm in the Administration Conference room.

The City of Smyrna will host a "Meet & Greet for Peace" at a pre-determined date to foster fellowship, peace, & understanding to the diverse spiritual community. The event will be held at the Taylor-Brawner Hall and the expected date to nail down is Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Position posting for the Assistant City Administrator will begin in early January 2020. An executive search firm and the city's HR Director will assist in finding qualified candidates. The expected hire date is early March/April 2020.

4. Review of the January 6, 2020 Mayor and Council Agenda

Old Business:

- A. 2020-12 Approval of the December 16, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting minutes.*
- B. 2020-24 Approval of the December 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes*

Mayoral Report:

On Monday, January 6, 2020 Mayor Max Bacon will call the meeting to order, approve any old business items, and ask the Mayor elect and the Council elect to come forward, and then they'll swap places. The meeting will be turned over to the new Mayor Elect Derek Norton and from there he'll be sworn in along with the other elected and appointed officials and the board appointments will follow.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson inquired to the City Attorney Scott Cochran, whether the Planning & Zoning appointees have to live in the Ward they represent. Mr. Cochran replied that he thinks so, and we've always done it that way. Otherwise, you could have several P&Z representatives from the same ward which would defeat the purpose, and that he hadn't looked at the Charter, but we've always done it this way. The City Attorney also stated that each Councilmember appoints a P&Z member from their ward, and the Mayor appoints somebody at large. Ms. Wilkinson asked the City Attorney to let them know where it's stated in the ordinance that the P&Z appointee had to live within their appointed ward. Mr. Cochran replied that he would, but we've always appointed P&Z members from within their wards. Mr. Cochran said, theoretically if you had all your P&Z representatives who are supposed to make recommendations to the committee based on what they know from one centralized place like the downtown area, and no one out in Ward 7 for example, that defeats the purpose. If we deviate from this position, you would probably not get the augmented appointment vote that you get now if people start recommending people outside of their ward. Appointing people outside your ward would not be considered a "Consent Agenda", in practice it would bring a scrutiny level to one's brother/sister council members; appointees outside of a ward would become based on favoritism. Resolution is if this procedure is not part of the ordinance, and has always been a tradition, it should be added in the city's ordinance.

Discussions followed regarding the appointees being sworn in and the department head employee selections. In the past, the employee hiring went through an application process. The Mayor elect plans to suggest a candidate for consideration to fill the position of City Clerk; this position is not required to be posted. Objection followed with two Councilmembers asking if the position would be posted; they felt this would open

opportunity to get a better range of candidates.

Mayor elect stated the individual under consideration is fully capable and is well known to the city; this candidate previously worked for the city of Smyrna for three years and they are familiar with how our systems work and can hit the ground running. Mayor elect and the City Administrator have full confidence in their selection. The candidate holds a Clerk certification. The Council members were informed that the new City Clerk will report to the City Administrator based on "day-to-day attendance and general oversight". Any objecting parties were informed that they could cast their opposing vote regarding the employee selection process at the Monday, January 6th Council meeting.

The City Attorney Scott Cochran gave a remark regarding employee appointees: We're doing it exactly the way the Charter is written. The Mayor can appoint a new City Clerk, this is a political position and decision.

- A. 2020-01 Introduction of Smyrna City Council 2020-2024 Term*
- B. 2020-02 Swearing in Ceremony for the Mayor and City Council - Superior Court Judge Ann Harris*
- C. 2020-03 Appointment and swearing in of City Attorney – Scott Cochran*
- D. 2020-04 Appointment and swearing in of City Administrator – Tammi Saddler Jones*
- E. 2020-05 Appointment and swearing in of City Clerk – Heather Peacon-Corn*
- F. 2020-06 Appointment and swearing in of Judge for Traffic Court – Phyllis Gingrey Collins*
- G. 2020-07 Appointment and swearing in of Judge for Environmental Court – Joel Pugh*
- H. 2020-08 Appointment and swearing in of Solicitor for Traffic and Environmental Court – Tim Williams*

Formal Business:

- A. 2020-10 Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem – Tim Gould*
- B. 2020-14 Approval of Ward 3 Appointment to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board, Betty Williams. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- C. 2020-15 Approval of Ward 1 Re-appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Nicholas Bergeron. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- D. 2020-16 Approval of Ward 3 Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Leigh Anne Rehkopf. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- E. 2020-17 Approval of Ward 7 Re-appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission, J. Barrett Carter. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- F. 2020-18 Approval of Ward 1 Re-appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board, Tom Bartlett. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- G. 2020-19 Approval of Ward 3 Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board, Keith Bentley. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- H. 2020-20 Approval of Ward 7 Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board, Henriette Ostrzega. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*
- I. 2020-21 Approval of Ward 7 Appointment to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board, Tripti Gadgade. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.*

J. 2020-25 Approval of Ward 2 Re-appointment to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board, Lisa Castleberry. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.

K. 2020-26 Approval of Ward 2 Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Rebekah Scillian. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.

L. 2020-27 Approval of Ward 2 Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board, Victor Jones. This is a two-year term to expire December 2021.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson mentioned adding Laura Mireles as possibly her P&Z appointee.

Consent Agenda:

A. 2020-11 Approval to accept and continue enactment of all current contracts for enforcement by the 2020-2024 elected and appointed officials.

B. 2020-30 Approval of an increase of the monthly stormwater charge from \$2.95 to \$3.45 as was adopted in accordance with the FY 2020 budget. Kristin Robinson (Finance Director) stated that the 2020 Budget had been adopted, and in the fee schedule it stated the budget anticipated an increase of about \$.50 to stormwater effective January 1, 2020. In case calls are received, there is going to be a water rate increase of 2%; this is a pass through charge. Several years ago, an ordinance was permanently amended so the pass through charge can go through automatically. These increases will be on the February 2020 bills; bills will go out Wednesday. We did a sewer increase in the year 2019.

C. 2020-22 Approval to use Council Chambers for Concord Lake Village HOA Meeting, Sunday February 23, 2020 from 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

5. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Norton adjourned the Thursday, January 2, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:39 pm.