



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall

1. Roll Call

Present 6 - Glenn Pickens, Austin Wagner, Travis Lindley, Susan Wilkinson, Tim Gould, and Lewis Wheaton

Absent 1 - Charles Welch

Also Present 10 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, Scott Cochran, Landon O'Neal, Joe Bennett, Robert Harvey, Kay Bolick, Kristin Robinson, Richard Garland, and Russell Martin

Staff 0

2. Call to Order

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

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

Mayor Derek Norton moved the Mayor and Council Agenda review to the top to allow for staff with sick children to be able to give their reports and leave.

Mayoral Report was reviewed briefly and the Mayor spoke about the Committee appointments he has chosen:

Special Committee on Appeals: Chair Councilmember Travis Lindley
Councilmember Austin Wagner
Councilmember Glenn Pickens

Special Committee on Education: Chair Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould
Councilmember Lewis Wheaton
Councilmember Susan Wilkinson

Special Committee on Budget: Chair Councilmember Charles Welch
Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould
Councilmember Travis Lindley

The Mayor reserves the right to create other Committees should the need arise in the future.

Land Issues / Zonings / Annexations:

Item 4A: 2019-363 This zoning request is being withdrawn at the applicants request.

Item 4B: 2019-437 This zoning request is for use as a chiropractor office. This request

will change zoning to Limited Commercial. Councilmember Wilkinson asked about the current zoning of Future Commercial which is still a residential zoning condition, however, this space has been used as office space for a very long time. Community Development Director Russell Martin stated this office is required to come in a request this new zoning.

Item 4C: 2019-437 Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould stated this zoning request is going to be tabled to allow for neighborhood concerns and questions to be addressed. He asked Russell Martin to give a brief explanation. He showed a copy of the survey where the property was equally divided into two lots originally. They are zoned R20 and the current owners are asking to tear down the existing home that is on both lots and go back to the originally two lot configuration with two homes. Planning and Zoning originally denied this item as R15 and Community Development gave the recommendation of R20 Conditional. The neighbors are opposed to the lot split. City Attorney Scott Cochran spoke about them being existing lots as on the original plat and not a lot split.

Item 4D: 2020-37 This item for approval of a subdivision plat will be moved to Formal Business without a Public Hearing. This is an administrative procedure and does not require public comment.

No items for Privilege Licenses

Formal Business:

Item 6A: 2020-13 Deputy Chief Joe Bennett spoke about the Redspeed Speed Detection Camera System the Police Department will install at three local schools (Campbell Middle, King Springs Elementary and Argyle Elementary). These cameras are begin installed to change driver behavior in these areas and protect the students and families from the speeding that is a constant in these school zones. The cameras will be active for three hours total a day; one hour and a half at the beginning of the school day and one hour and a half at the end of the school day. This will be for a one year contract with option to renew.

Redspeed performed a study prior to submitting their proposal and there were found to be over 600 violations in over three hours at these three local schools. Deputy Chief Bennett showed a power point that was added to the Mayor and Council agenda item as an attachment.

Scott Cochran reiterated this is a civil matter and the Court has been spoken to about how these cases will be handled.

Item 6B: 2020-48 Finance Director Kristin Robinson spoke about the mid year budget amendment to reallocate CIP funding. The original CIP had renovation for Fire Station #4, however Fire Station #3 has become more of a priority as it needs immediate roof replacement. Additionally, a parking lot paving project for the Police Department will also include adding fencing around a portion of the PD / Jail parking lot to allow for more security of City vehicles as well as staff. There will also be some tree removal to accommodate the new fencing and remove diseased trees.

Commercial Building Permits:

Item 7A: 2020-36 Community Development Director Rusty Martin reported on the new build for Regions Bank on the outparcel in the Kroger Shopping Center at the corner of South Cobb Drive and Concord Road.

Consent Agenda: 2020-47 Approval of the 1-2-2020 COW Minutes

2020-53 Approval of the 1-6-2020 Pre-Council Minutes

2020-52 Approval of the Mayor and Council Minutes

2020-46 Approval of the purchase of a 2019 Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van using asset forfeiture funds to replace the current Ford Explorer and allow the van to be properly equipped for Crime Scene Investigation use.

Deputy Chief Robert Harvey spoke about the need for this in the City as well as how forfeiture funds are collected and spent.

2020-29 Approval to amend the current Barrow Enterprises tow service agreement with the Smyrna Police Department. This will reflect a recent law change and update fee adjustments as a result of this new legislation.

2020-45 Approval for Councilman Travis Lindley to use the Council Chambers for a Ward 3 Neighborhood meeting on Sunday March 15, 2020 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

4. Harry Schnabel - Dog Park

Harry Schnabel - Dog Park

Mr. Schnabel and his father gave a presentation related to a concept for a dog park with alcohol service (beer and wine). They have taken the idea from a current park in Neptune Beach, Florida. They do not have a current location in mind and feel they need at least an acre for this concept. They passed out pamphlets and information that showed pictures of the current park they want to mimic here in Smyrna. Mayor Norton offered to have staff look at available property as well.

5. Building and Street Name Proposed Change

Building and street name change in honor of Max Bacon Boulevard and A. Max Bacon City Hall. The process is Mayor Norton will go to postal service and staff will go to the residents and businesses. We will add this to a Council Agenda to present. Pictures of what has been proposed were passed to Mayor and Council. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson has concerns about renaming the road. She would like to hear what the residents say about the name change and address change,

6. Discussion on Merit Increase Top Out Pay - Kay Bolick

Human Resources Director Kay Bolick spoke about the Merit Increases for employees that have topped out in their pay grade. She wanted to confirm with Council about continuing with the \$500 bonus or if they wanted to do something different for these employees. Kay handed out a spreadsheet showing the breakdowns and noted the total to be paid out would be approximately \$20,000.00. A lot of these employees have 20+ years of service. Mayor and Council agreed to give these long term employees the difference to bring their increase to its maximum. They will be paid out in quarters over the next calendar year. If someone were to leave they will forfeit the remainder of their bonus payout.

7. Executive Session if needed

Black History Month Celebration Committee, headed by Councilmember Lewis Wheaton had a meeting that Mayor Norton and his wife Laura participated in and there is an additional meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2020 for this upcoming event.

Mayor Norton met with Cobb County Chairman Boyce to discuss SPLOST and regarding the Windy Hill expansion. Cobb has committed to splitting the overage of costs with Smyrna. Bob Ott has also been tremendously helpful. He will also be meeting with Commissioner Cupid.

Mayor Norton and Councilmember Tim Gould spoke with Dr. Walker and Superintendent Ragsdale about the upping the ante for the Education Awards as well as the Campbell Teacher Appreciation luncheon.

Energy and water conservation have been a priority for Mayor Norton. We had an audit by Schneider and staff will meet in the upcoming weeks with City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones.

CIP Committee has met three times with department heads to discuss upcoming projects. There will be a few more meetings in the next couple weeks.

Mayor Norton shared some upcoming news from the Capitol regarding taxes on Amazon purchases as well as a bill introduced regarding the ad valorem tax being raised to 28% for Cities.

Councilmembers Glenn Pickens and Austin Wagner are holding a Town Hall Meeting February 4, 2020 to discuss Campbell Road / Spring Road development. The attorney and the developer will be present as well and it will be held at the Fire Station.

Councilmember Travis Lindley will hold a Town Hall meeting as discussed in the minutes. The owners of the property behind the new property purchased that is between Fire Station 1 and the Police Department has requested that the same type of fencing that was previous in place be replaced so as to give them privacy from Atlanta Road. He will be meeting with City Engineer Kevin Moore and City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones regarding traffic calming measures.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson received an email from the HOA president at Smyrna Grove regarding current businesses sub-leasing their lots to commercial vans and trucks for overnight and long term parking.

Attorney Scott Cochran and Community Development Director Russell Martin have already begun discussion about an ordinance addressing this issue. The currently closed Ruby Tuesdays is being used as a parking lot for Amazon, however, the building does not have a current business license.

She also discussed Ward 5 neighborhoods without HOA's that also need traffic calming.

Councilmember Austin Wagner spoke about the request to put Campaign Financial Disclosures (CCDR's and PFD's) on the City website for public access. He also discussed an email he received about Air B&B properties in the City. Scott Cochran spoke about previous discussions with he Mayor and Council as well.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilman Tim Gould had a good meeting at Campbell Middle school with Councilman Pickens. He also spoke about using utility right a ways as trails and Landon's research on the same. Councilmember Wilkinson is concerned that we still do not have connectivity of current trails.

He also asked City Attorney Scott Cochran about the current sign ordinance and Mr. Cochran commented that it is currently being reviewed by an expert. It has been about 15 years since an entire review of this ordinance was completed.

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton spoke about the upcoming Black History Month Celebration and he passed a copy of the logo for the event. Many participants were named and volunteers are hard at work.

Several emails have been received about the traffic on Oakdale Road and using the middle turn lane as a riding lane. The neighborhood that backs up to Nickajack has complained about the speed on this road and families are walking their children to school and battling this dangerous trend.

City Administrator Tammi Saddler-Jones spoke about the Meet and Greet for Peace on January 29th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Brawner Hall.

The Assistant City Administrator position has been posted and 270 applications have been received but most are not qualified. A search firm is being used to coordinate and manage.

She also spoke about Human Resources Director Kay Bolick retiring April 3, 2020 and the same search firm will be used for her position.

City Attorney Scott Cochran had no report.

Mayor Norton called for Executive Session regarding Personnel. The motion was made by Councilmember Lewis Wheaton and seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould made the motion and Councilmember Travis Linsley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the January 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:32PM.