



# City of Smyrna

2800 King Street  
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

## Meeting Minutes - Final Committee of the Whole

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Wednesday, March 11, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall

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\*\*\*MEETING CHANGED FROM 3/12/2020 PER MAYOR DEREK NORTON\*\*\*

### Roll Call

**Present** 7 - Councilmember Derek Norton, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Glenn Pickens, Travis Lindley, Tim Gould, and Lewis Wheaton

**Absent** 1 - Austin Wagner

**Also Present** 1 - Jeffrey Tucker

**Staff** 9 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, Landon O'Neal, Penny Mocer, Kevin Moore, Ashley White, Russell Martin, Frank Durrance, and Joey Staubes

### 1. Call to Order

*Mayor Derek Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and began by discussing COVID-19 and some decisions coming across from various other government entities. He also noted the Final Four had canceled their event to fans.*

*Additionally he spoke about his meeting with Fire Chief Roy Acree as the Emergency Mangement Coordinator and was impressed about his preparedness and information he had been gathering. The Mayor noted this is virus is gearing up and getting real and the city would monitor it to make the best decisions for the City in the upcoming weeks.*

*Cobb County Public Health and Georgia Public Health have provided a hotline for people to be reviewed and tested.*

*An electronic briefing will be emailed out to all Mayor and Council and Department Heads on a daily basis.*

### 2. New Business

#### A. Review Current Traffic Calming Policy - Kevin Moore & Ashley White

*City Engineer Kevin Moore and Assistant City Engineer Ashley White presented the changes they'd like Mayor and Council to consider for a new traffic calming policy and reviewed their changes for recommendation.*

*Requests for traffic calming measures are received through the Engineering*

Department as well as through the City Council.

A request can be initiated by either a citizen of Smyrna or the City Engineer. If you feel you have a speeding or traffic problem on your street, report the problem either to the City Engineer at 678-631-5381 or through the City's "E-Gov" reporting system, accessible through the website.

City staff will evaluate the complaint to determine the nature of the problem and to confirm that the location meets the guidelines for installation. Traffic calming measures will be considered for streets classified as local or collector residential streets with a posted speed of 35 MPH or less. Note that some measures, such as speed humps, will only be considered for streets with a posted speed limit of 25 MPH or less. Staff will typically complete traffic calming studies on a "first come, first served" basis. However, determinations made by elected officials, the City Engineer, or the Public Works Director may affect the order in which traffic studies are completed.

If the indicated location/area exceeds the thresholds identified in the previous section, City staff will first suggest possible solutions that do not involve the use of physical controls or impediments on the roadway system.

#### Stage 1 Methods

These are primarily education and enforcement based measures called Stage 1 traffic calming (see Appendix A for visual examples of stage 1 traffic calming methods).

These include:

- **Radar Speed Sign Deployment** - This is a temporary device that is primarily used to educate motorists regarding the fact that they may be significantly exceeding the posted speed limit.
- **Traffic Enforcement Actions** - This is traditional enforcement activity on the part of Public Safety's traffic enforcement officers. The intent is to modify behavior to result in a safer situation for all drivers and neighbors.
- **Traffic Signing and Pavement Markers** - Traffic Engineering staff will review all of the traffic signing and pavement markings in the area. If necessary, staff will install additional signing or striping. When appropriate, changes and additions will be reviewed with interested neighbors.

#### Follow-Up Data Collection:

If one or more of the Stage 1 Traffic Calming measures is implemented, City staff will conduct other speed and/or volume data collection over the following 3 to 6 months. The data will then be analyzed to determine if the Traffic Calming measure was successful. If the measure was successful, and the thresholds identified above are not exceeded, then the traffic calming process will end at this point. If the location continues to exceed the thresholds for speed and/or volume on a residential street, City staff will move on to analyze possible Stage 2 Traffic Calming methods. Based on review of what other Municipalities in our area are doing the following recommendations are made by staff:

#### 1. "Traffic Calming Policy" changed to "Speed Hump Policy"

Allows us to narrow our focus on specific streets that may benefit from speed humps. Current policy is ineffective for system wide improvements.

System wide traffic calming measures will be handled outside of the Speed Hump Policy and will be addressed with an engineering plan and design.

#### 2. Roadway classification criteria changed to Local and/or Residential Roads

Current policy is for local and collector roads.

More advanced traffic calming measures should be considered for collector roads.

#### 3. Speed thresholds will be based on 85th percentile speed instead of 85% of vehicles speeding.

This will loosen the speeding requirement.

15% of vehicles speeding will be required instead of 85% of vehicles speeding.

#### 4. Both volume and speed thresholds must be met.

*Current policy is warranted based on volume or speed.*

*5. Include road geometry requirements*

*Minimum roadway length of 1,000 feet*

*Maximum roadway grade of 8%*

*Horizontal curves with minimum radius of 300 ft*

*6. Consider changing the community approval requirements*

*Current policy difficult to meet: At least 60% of the impacted residents and 100% of the residents within 100 feet of the proposed device shall support the installation.*

*Councilmember Corkey Welch wanted to discuss number six percentages and wants to strike 100% of the residents within 100 feet. Leave the 60% of impacted residents.*

*Concilmember Susan Wilkinson had a question about the posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.*

*Major Frank Durrance remarked about soem of the specific areas of concern.*

*Mr. Moore would also like to include the Fire Marshall in discussions to insure areas will not be slowed down for emergency reponse.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Gould would like a list to review of current traffic calming measures that work.*

## **B. Code Enforcement Operation Presentation - Rusty Martin**

*Councilmember Lewis Wheaton left the meeting at 6:45PM.*

*Community Development Director Rusty Martin gave the Code Enforcement presentation to explain to the Council the day to day operations of the Code Enforcement Department.*

*There are four Code enforcement officials who are split between all the Wards. The previous Lead Code Enforcement Marshal has recently resigned and moved to New Orleans housing authority in Louisiana. That position will need to be filled.*

*Wards 1, 2 are 6 is handled by Simon Cardenas. Tim Freeman handles Wards 3, 4 and 7. Herman Hunter is Ward 5 and a portion of his position is funded through CDBG block grant.*

*Works in conjunction with Environmental Court to address violations twice a month.*

*Our penalty system is up to 1000 or imprisonment up to 6 months. Violations are misdemeanors.*

*The goal is voluntary compliance. If a citation has been issued, the Marshal has spent a lot of time trying to get the resident into compliance.*

*Mr. Martin included copies of all the offenses, door hangers, letters of notification etc.*

*Mayor Norton asked what the time frame period is for an average complaint from start to citation. Mr. Martin responded it is approximately 24 hours to 45 days depending on the issue needing compliance.*

*Attorney Jeffrey Tucker responded that Code Enforcement gives an appropriate amount of time to assist with compliance.*

*Notices are delivered personally, certified mail and first class mail.*

*In order to make the case to the Judge, witnesses, neighbors, pictures, documentation are all used to sustain the reason for the citation.*

*Currently the department is on a reactionary basis and there is a tremendous amount of time being spent on administrative duties of the department.*

*A Ward 5 citizen by the name of Patrick, who lives in one of the townhome communities, was present and wanted to make comment about the presentation.*

*Community Development recommends the citizens report code violations via the City website link and allows complaintants to remain anonymous. If an email is submitted through a Councilmember the email becomes open records and public in Court.*

*It allows for better tracking of complaints by the department.*

*Councilmember Wilkinson had several questions. She wanted to know why when it is taken to Court and it becomes open records because of the email submitted. She*

*stated many of her neighbors are fearful of retaliation from other neighbors. Mr. Martin reiterated that the anonymous form works for allowing the information of the complainant to remain anonymous.*

*Mayor Norton wants to see this department utilize an Admin staff member to alleviate the processing hang up. He does not want to see the the department be reactive and wants to take a more proactive approach to Code Enforcement.*

### **3. Review of the March 16, 2020 Mayor and Council Agenda**

*Finance Director Kristin Robinson spoke about her consent agenda budget amendment item related to staff. \$80,000 will go back into Contingency.*

*There were two police cruisers totalled in not at fault accidents and PD will be utilizing the insurance proceeds to purchase two replacement vehicles.*

*Planner 1 Joey Staubes reveiwed the rezoning from last year for a Senior Living Facility that is moving forward.*

*he reviewed the differences from the previous plan.*

*Councilmember Wheaton asked about an acceleration lane and it was reviewed by the County and they rejected the request.*

*Councilmember Wilkinson asked about a drive under canopy for the residents for covered drop off and pick up. Community Development Director Rusty Martin noted this is not an assisted living facility and these are senior independent living residents who are mobile.*

*There was further discussion regarding the items on the Agenda and Mayor Norton added that events and Neighborhood meetings could be postponed due to the COVID-19.*

*He also spoke about a lunch he had with Mr. Scamihorn regarding the Cobb County School District and he hopes to have some of that ironed out with an additional meeting in the near future.*

### **4. Other Business (as needed)**

*Councilmember Welch did not have a Ward report but he was wished a Happy Birthday by all in attendance.*

*Councilmember Pickens noted that his appointee for the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board had resigned and he would be appointing a new member in the next few weeks.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Gould spoke about walk around meeting with Kevin Moore and Ashley White as well as with a state traffic consultant who took a look at Campbell Middle School to evaluate safe routes to school.*

*Councilmember Wilkinson had a question regarding the name change of an apartment complex in her Ward. She also wants to have a neighborhood meeting with Travis Lindley and Mayor Norton asked for her to pick a date to schedule for the immediate future.*

*She will also reach out to the residents to speak to them one on one about the concerns for the school construction.*

*Councilmember Travis Lindley gave ashout out to the PD for a change in behavior in Williams Park with traffic and noted that the Cemetary project was coming along.*

*City Clerk Heather Peacon-Corn gave an update on the upcoming elections to be held at the Community Center large gym in May and November. Additionally she gave*

*applause to Landon O'Neal for his Citizens Academy Class and mock Council Meeting.*

*City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones introduced Penny Mocerri as the Special Projects Manager and Regional Liason.*

*Assistant City Attorney Jeffrey Tucker remarked that he would be in attendance at the Monday Council Meeting.*

## **5. Executive Session (as needed)**

## **6. Adjournment**

*Mayor Norton adjourned the March 11, 2020 meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 7:51PM.*