



City of Smyrna

2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, May 4, 2020

7:00 PM

TELECONFERENCED - GoToMeeting

JOIN THE MEETING: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/295304405>
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Roll Call

Present: 8 - Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Austin Wagner, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Tim Gould and Councilmember Lewis Wheaton

Also Present: 1 - Scott Cochran

Staff: 15 - Tammi Saddler Jones, Heather Peacon-Corn, Joe Bennett, Jennifer Bennett, Russell Martin, Frank Martin, Penny Mocer, Christy Ullman, Landon O'Neal, Tina Monaghan, Richard Garland, Tom Boland, Roy Acree, Robert Harvey and Carol Sicard

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the May 4, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Invocation and Pledge:

Pastor Richard L. Bush, Mt. Zion Baptist Church (1789 Hawthorne) delivered the Invocation and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Changes:

There were no agenda changes.

3. Mayoral Report:

Mayor Norton thanked everyone who assisted with the Funeral for Officer Ewing.

The Mayor provided an update of various regulations in place due to COVID 19. He is a firm believer that this is not over and therefore the city is going to be very cautious in how to proceed. The safety of all citizens and city staff is key. Buildings will remain closed for now and staff will begin to stagger back in once there has been 14 straight days of decline in cases which we has not been reached. The city is currently looking into ways to safely begin opening facilities such as the tennis courts and notice will be posted to the website once this occurs. The goal is to have the next Mayor and Council meeting in the large gym with temperatures being taken and proper distancing in place. The Department of Public Health has asked that those out in public please wear a cloth mask especially in areas such as grocery stores and areas where

distancing is difficult, so please wear masks.

The Support Smyrna effort has eclipsed over \$100,000. The hot meals program with 4 restaurants now preparing meals has expanded yet again. Both the Smyrna Police Department and Fire Department are participating in a program to deliver groceries and prescriptions to at risk people in the city.

Mayor Norton concluded his report by saying how proud he is to be a part of such an awesome city willing to do whatever it takes to help those in need.

4. Land Issues/Zonings/Annexations:

A. [2020-158](#)

Approval of the Building Permit Fee Waiver Request for UCB Pharmaceuticals

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones provided the background information. UCB is a global pharmaceutical company based in Belgium and is the largest pharmaceutical company in the State of Georgia. The U.S. Headquarters has been based in Smyrna for the last 16 years. The corporate campus is situated on 47 acres located on Lake Drive. It currently has 110,000 square feet of workspace and is home to over 400 employees, making it one of Smyrna's largest employers.

The Fee Waiver Request (see the attached Fee Waiver Request letter) is being made under the City Incentive Program outlined in Chapter 79 - Planning and Development; Economic Development Program; Article II Section 79-28 (b.8) of the City Code. The request for waiver of Building Permit Fees and related Recording Fees is authorized under the aforementioned ordinance. Building Permit Fees are assessed at \$7/\$1000 of estimated construction cost. Recording fees are calculated based on 10% of estimated Building Permit cost.

Community Development Director Rusty Martin reviewed a Powerpoint presentation of information pertaining to the agenda item. Some members of UCB were in attendance to answer any questions. UCB is a Belgium based company and has been headquartered in Smyrna for approximately 20 years. Their campus is currently home to about 400 employees. They are proposing a three phase improvement for the campus. This will be the first phase which is to repurpose an existing building already on campus into quality workspace. This building will become the first Well certified and Lead certified building in the state of Georgia. This improvement will also include adding 100 new employees with an average annual salary of \$100,000. The first phase will take approximately 18 months to complete and they are in the process of the plan review. Phases 2 and 3 will bring in another 23 million in improvements once complete. Staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Wagner stated that this is a great opportunity to expand a business and add additional jobs as well.

Councilmember Austin Wagner made a motion to approve of the Building Permit Fee Waiver Request for UCB Pharmaceuticals. Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch seconded the motion.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

5. Privilege Licenses:

There were no privilege licenses.

6. Formal Business:**A. [2020-151](#)**

Approval to award RFQ 20-021 City of Smyrna Whitfield Drainage improvements to the lowest and responsive bidder Excellere Construction located at 3442 Orange Wood Court Marietta, Georgia 30062 in the amount of \$303,900.00 to be funded out of FY2020 Storm Water fund and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents

Pertinent information on this agenda item was presented by Ms. Saddler Jones. Public Works requested Bids for Whitfield Drainage improvements Eleven (11) bids were received. The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is Excellere Construction 3442 Orange Wood Court Marietta, Georgia 30062 in the amount of \$303,900.00. Project was budgeted FY2020 Storm Water fund. Public Works, Purchasing and Croy Engineering have reviewed the bids and recommend this project be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder Excellere Construction in the amount \$303,900.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute all related documents

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve and award RFQ 20-021 City of Smyrna Whitfield Drainage improvements to the lowest and responsive bidder Excellere Construction located at 3442 Orange Wood Court Marietta, Georgia 30062 in the amount of \$303,900.00 to be funded out of FY2020 Storm Water fund and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson seconded the motion.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

B. [RES2020-02](#)

Approval of Resolution 2020-02 to continue being a subrecipient of the Cobb County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for Cobb County Georgia and the City of Smyrna, Program Years 2021 through 2023.

Ms. Saddler Jones provided an overview of the agenda item for Mayor and Council. Over the past several years Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds invested in the city have paid for numerous public improvements; and the City of Smyrna desires to continue being a subrecipient of the Cobb County CDBG program; and the City desires to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for Cobb County Georgia and The City of Smyrna, Program Years 2021 through 2023. Staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Gould spoke of the many benefits of the CDBG program.

Councilmember Tim Gould made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02 to continue being a subrecipient of the Cobb County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for Cobb County Georgia and the

City of Smyrna, Program Years 2021 through 2023. Councilmember Susan Wilkinson seconded the motion.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

7. Commercial Building Permits:

There were no commercial building permits.

8. Consent Agenda:

City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones read aloud the consent agenda.

Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch made a motion to approve the consent agenda as read aloud by City Administrator Tammi Saddler Jones. Councilmember Travis Lindley seconded the motion.

The motion to approve was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Gould and Councilmember Wheaton

- A. [2020-152](#) Approval of the April 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.
- B. [2020-153](#) Approval of the April 20, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes.
- C. [2020-166](#) Approval of Excess Cyber Security coverage renewal with Towers Watson/Chubb Insurance for \$7,430 and authorize the Mayor to grant authority to bind coverage and execute related documents
- D. [2020-155](#) Approval of the Ward 1 Appointment to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board, Mr. Shawn Garcia, to fulfill term to expire December 31, 2020.

9. Ward / Committee Reports:

Councilmember Lewis Wheaton spoke about the awesomeness of the community. Even though it has been a rough time, people have really lifted one another up. He asked that everyone continue to be safe and do the things that have gotten us this far. We are not out of the woods yet so please social distance and wear masks whenever possible.

Councilmember Tim Gould spoke about the Education Committee meeting that took place last week. Good discussions took place to open better communications on projects such as Campbell High School. Stay safe and take care of everyone that you can. Maintain good, safe and healthy habits.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson reiterated the information about being safe while enjoying the nice weather. We have a wonderful community that has stepped up and

helped one another out during this very difficult time.

Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch reminded everyone to use common sense and stay healthy and safe.

Councilmember Travis Lindley said it was good to see everyone. He echoed the fact that the funeral was a proud send off. He would be talking to people in the upcoming days about feeding children in Rose Garden area once school is out. He has been speaking with a lot of people who are still trying to understand the Campbell High School project.

Councilmember Austin Wagner reiterated for everyone to stay safe and stay healthy.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens thanked Mr. Shawn Garcia for volunteering to serve on the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board.

10. Show Cause Hearings:

There were no show cause hearings.

11. Citizen Input:

No one participated in citizen input.

12. Adjournment:

Mayor Norton adjourned the May 4, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting at 7:32 PM.