

Committee of the Whole Minutes - Final MAYOR AND COUNCIL



Derek Norton, Mayor
Tim Gould, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 6)
Glenn Pickens (Ward 1)
Latonia P. Hines (Ward 2)
Travis Lindley (Ward 3)
Charles "Corkey" Welch (Ward 4)
Susan Wilkinson (Ward 5)
Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. (Ward 7)

A. Max Bacon City Hall
Human Resources Training Room
2800 King Street SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

**October 17, 2024
6:30 PM**

1. Roll Call

Present: 6 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines (arrived: 7:02 PM), Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould

Absent: 2 – Councilmember Travis Lindley and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 9 – Olivia Anderson, Joe Bennett, Dustin Davey, Dat Luu, Brian Marcos, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson, Carol Sicard, Joey Staubes

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the HR Training Room at 6:30 PM.

2. Staff M&C Agenda Items to Review

Z24-011: Joey Staubes, Planner II, explained for address 2471 Reed Street, the applicant is requesting a rezoning from R-20 to R-10- Conditional for the development of two (2) single-family detached units at a density of 3.08 units per acre. A land use change from Moderate Density Residential is not required for this rezoning. Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 6-0 at the September 9, 2024, meeting. Community Development considers the proposed density of 3.08 units per acre to be below the 4.5 unit per acre threshold of Moderate Density Residential land use. Staff is supportive of the rezoning for the proposed development and the requested variance.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. **COW2024-073** Fire Department Equipment Discussion – Chief Brian Marcos

Chief Brian Marcos presented the following information:

- There are many challenges various fire departments across the metro Atlanta area and across the country are facing
- Historically, after ordering a replacement ladder truck, it would take 15 months
- Now, it take 40-43 months to receive after ordering
- This results in 3-4 cost increases per year

3098 – 2014 Pierce Impel 75' Aerial (Truck 1)

- \$1,300,000 budgeted in FY26 for replacement
- Pierce Enforcer 107' Aerial (Truck 4 w/o platform) | 40-43 month build time
- Recommendation:
 - 50/50 - \$789,058 FY25
 - \$789,058 + cost to outfit budgeted in FY29
- Saves \$128,265 on cost of truck and avoids future price increases.
- Next increase scheduled for 11/1/24 (1% - \$15,781.16)
- Increases evaluated quarterly. This amount can fluctuate based on conditions.
- It's not uncommon to see 2.5-3% (last quarter was 2%)
- Still leaves us 3.5-4 years behind schedule

Kristin Robinson, Deputy City Administrator, stated that the \$789K would have to be amended, and it would have to be funded in the current year. She stated it could be funded from the SDS money.

Mayor Norton stated he would like to wait until the retreat for more specificity and clarification. He wants to make sure it fits in with the big picture.

Chief Marcos presented additional information about the following:

3366 – 2016 Ford F-450 (Rescue 4)

- \$400,000 budgeted in FY27 as an upgrade during FY25 planning cycle
- Ford F-550 4x4 Braun Chief XL Transport Capable Rescue | 12-month lead time
- Recommendation:
 - \$441,210.00 to purchase now – payment due at time of delivery (FY26) + budget \$30,000 for equipment in FY26
- This would end up arriving one year ahead of schedule but allows us to increase capability almost immediately
- By equipping one of our rescue units with transport capabilities, we will be able to transport critically ill or injured patients in emergencies when the response times of contracted transport providers are longer than expected.

They will reach out to Cobb County to find out about liability and potential cost increases.

B. COW2024-071 Discussion regarding the 2025 City Holidays and Mayor and Council meeting date calendars

Carol Sicard, Human Resources Director, presented the 2025 holiday schedule with a floating holiday for employees.

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, updated the Mayor and Council on early voting with over 2,500 voters voting today. They are getting voters through quickly and easily. She also presented the proposed 2025 Smyrna Public Meeting Calendar:

- Mayor and Council meetings will go back to the first and third Mondays of each month except for September to accommodate Labor Day

- The Committee of the Whole meetings will meet at 6:00 PM instead of 6:30 PM
- Because so many travel during the summer months, both June and July will have only one Mayor and Council meeting per month
- Planning and Zoning Commission meetings will go back to the second Monday of each month except for September because of the Labor Day holiday

C. COW2024-075 2025 Healthcare Benefits Presentation

John Knop, Oakbridge Insurance, presented the following:

- Recommended: Renew with Pareto Captive (ICM) + Allied TPA
- VeracityRx (ProCare) – continue all existing programs
- Guardian Ancillary Lines – Renew with Guardian
- Continue Dependent Care & Health Flexible Spending Accounts with WEX
- Continue Teladoc benefit

Executive Summary:

The Pareto Captive provides the following:

- No new lasers
 - Stop Loss Renewal Rate cap of 30%
- No more than \$50,000 additional laser liability as long as you remain in the captive.

- The current captive loss ratio for 2024 is 194%.
- 2 members have breached the \$220k spec breach as of 09/2024 with a combined total of \$905k over spec.

Executive Summary:

Year To Date, the Allied Advocate program has saved the plan \$785,329.

Employee Contributions:

Recommended: No change to Employee Rates set at current Wellness Credit Rate

Dental

0% Increase:

- 73% loss ratio over the past 12 months.

Vision

0% Increase:

- 52% loss ratio over past 12 months.

Basic Life/ADD Voluntary Life

33% Increase:

- As of 08/24 – claims totaling \$494,300
- 249% loss ratio in 2023 plan year.

STD & LTD

8% Increase STD

- 65% loss ratio over past 12 months.
- 18 paid claims with 3 open claims as of 08/24. 0% Increase

LTD:

- 2 active on-going claims

Voluntary Benefits

Voluntary Life, Critical Illness, and Accident will remain flat with 0% Increase.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. COW2024-069 Review of the October 21, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

ATH2024-161: Dat Luu, IT Director, stated that two years ago, the Smyrna IT Department applied for the 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant to create a high overview five-year cybersecurity plan for the city. That plan would include a cybersecurity assessment, a roadmap of new cybersecurity improvements, incident response plan, table talk exercises, and cybersecurity training for staff. This grant is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and will be managed by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS). GEMA/HS is awarding the city with \$69,650 with a required 10% cost share match in the amount of \$6,965.00.

AGR2024-047, AGR2024-049, AGR2024-051: Zach Strickland from Croy Engineering stated that Council approved at the June 7, 2021 Council meeting an agreement for Croy Engineering to provide program management for the City of Smyrna 2022 SPLOST. Croy Engineering is asking to replace and amend Appendix B with new standard billing rates.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, stated that City Attorney Scott Cochran's performance through the trial with Dirt Cheep Music was commendable. He updated the Mayor and Council on the following:

- Bulk Trash Amnesty Day is Saturday, October 19
- Construction is underway at the surface lot – it will be complete in 30-60 days
- The walls and fence are going up to separate the local lanes from the express lanes
- Boat launch, amphitheater, and bathroom at Riverview had extensive damage from the recent storm – damage to bathroom is probably \$40K – none of that area is insurable because it is a federal flood plain

Mayor Norton discussed the meeting he had with Cobb County representatives about the sidewalk on King Springs from S Cobb to Cooper Lake. The meeting went well, and the agreement takes care of the gaps in the sidewalk. 90% of it would be shouldered by the county, and Smyrna will handle 10%.

City Attorney Scott Cochran updated the council on the Dirt Cheep Music trial:

- The jury found that the property is unique (blue roof), but they awarded \$0
- The blue roof was allowed through a contentious variance process
- Had gone through mediation over a month ago and opposing did not counter
- Greg Teague, Croy Engineering, was available and a great witness for the City
- The end result and judgment was very favorable for the City

Kristin Robinson, Deputy City Administrator/CFO, stated that she has been working with Tom Owens on the bond related to the church property. They are aiming for the week before Thanksgiving to move forward. Ms. Robinson also explained the homestead measure on the ballot. It does not affect Cobb County or the City of Smyrna because the freeze is already in place.

Councilmember Hines expressed what a wonderful weekend it was at the birthday celebration.

Councilmember Welch would like to see a test of Smyrna's notification system.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:50 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of persons with disabilities.

**THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN O.C.G.A. 50-14-3:
The City of Smyrna website – www.smyrnaga.gov
City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards**