

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

**January 11, 2024
6:30 PM**

1. Roll Call

Present: 8 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Also Present: 1 – Jeffrey Tucker

Staff: 15 – Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Richard Garland, Jill Head, Bo Jones, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, Eric Randall, Kristin Robinson, Enoch Serna, Joey Staubes, Steven Watts, and Andrea Worthy

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the January 11, 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

Russell Martin, Community Development Director, explained for item Z23-010, the applicant was unable to complete the necessary changes to convert the space for commercial use, so they are rezoning to revert back to R-10. For item Z23-028, Joey Staubes, Planner II, explained it is just a subdivision, no rezoning required.

Andrea Worthy, Economic Development Director, explained for item ATH2024-009, 29 proposals were submitted which were narrowed down to five. The five very qualified applicants were interviewed, and it is recommended that they move forward with Chandlerthinks. Chandlerthinks will be conducting community self-perception surveys, community input sessions, they will review existing marketing, create a new logo, brand story, action plan, and a budget for all of it. It will take approximately eight months.

Jennifer Bennett, Community Relations Director, spoke about the Atkins Park Oysterfest on February 2, 2024. It will be a 2.5 day festival. They are asking to close the circle for pedestrian safety. They will set up their tents the day before.

Bo Jones, Utility Services Director, stated that for ATH2024-002, the project will be funded from both the CIP FY2024 and ARPA funds. The project has already started.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. COW2024-001 Review the procedure for Mayor and Council voting in PrimeGov.

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, reviewed with Mayor and Council how to access HTML agendas through the City website in order to review attachments. She then went on to explain how the Mayor and Council will utilize the touchscreen laptops in Council Chambers to make a motion and to vote. Mayor Norton asked if the buttons for Abstain and Recuse can be removed from the council members' screens. Ms. Peacon-Corn stated that it will be researched. Ms. Corn showed examples of what the screens will look like to council members and to the mayor. She gave examples of different votes so it can be seen what the end result will look like for mayor and council as well as what the public sees.

B. COW2024-004 Review of the ADA Transition Plan – Mark Wolff

Eric Randall, Public Works Director, explained that Mr. Wolff was called away for a family emergency, so he was present to discuss this item. To qualify for federal funding, the City adopted an ADA transition plan that should be periodically updated. GDOT asks for the updated plan every 5 years. They reviewed the October 15, 2018 plan and provided updates: added facilities that were not included in the inventory – confirming that they meet ADA access or have a plan in place that they will meet ADA access. This is a prerequisite to receive any federal funds.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. COW2024-002 Review of the January 16, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Notice and Agenda.

Mayor Norton reviewed the remainder of the Mayor and Council meeting agenda.

Item AGR2024-002, Croy Engineering will manage the Windy Hill Blvd. Project which will likely be completed before the end of 2024. If so, the amount will be prorated.

No further discussion.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, updated the Mayor and Council on the following:

- Batting cages at Brinkley Park – Realized there is no easy way to cover the cages that are currently there. It will be much cheaper to go across the parking lot to place new covered batting cages. This will double the capacity of batting cages. Would like to place this on a future agenda and use ARPA funds to complete this project.

- Lattanzi Field batting cages – After covering these batting cages, they have been made public accessible. There have been extensive parking and stormwater issues. Over budget about \$100K which will be taken from ARPA. The cover is up, waiting on netting and the turf, and other ADA improvements.
- Downtown Park water feature – POND designed the water feature to be a visual water feature. It is treated but not to the extent necessary and required by the Health Department for children to play in it. To treat the water, more costs will be incurred. If not done, public cannot go in the water, and it will have to be fenced off. Councilmember Welch expressed concern that this body should consider not placing a water feature at the aquatic center. Mayor Norton mentioned that the aquatic center would have a proper and well-treated outdoor play area which would offset the cost of the center. Mayor Norton further stated he was disappointed in POND because of this water feature issue they have had, they left out ADA rails at the park, and they failed to install drains in the mulch at the new park. All of these issues have been problematic. He suggested that they look elsewhere for future projects. All agreed that the downtown water feature should not be fenced off and should be made accessible.
- RFPs for engineering and other design services will go out tomorrow. Different projects will require different specialties, so the City needs a list of different engineers, vendors, etc.
- Fanny Williams Legacy Project site work – There is no budget for the actual site work – concrete, pavers, and lights – to complete the site work. Estimates are around \$70K. It was discussed that any movement of the digital sign should wait until after the rebranding efforts are complete.
- Records Storage building – Site was tested, environmental work has been done. It is safe to use that piece of property. It is ready to be demolished. There are approved concepts and contractor for the parking deck. Greg Teague, Croy Engineering, stated that the City can reject all bids. Brief discussion took place on the legal definitions and movement of funds.

Mayor Norton made a list of the actionable items that came out of the retreat, and Christy Ullman sent an email to all for review. The church contract has a due diligence period of an extra 90 days. It will likely be the end of March before that is executed. He would like the committee put together by the time that is ready.

Jeffrey Tucker, Assistant City Attorney, updated Mayor and Council on City Attorney Scott Cochran's progress.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the January 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:26 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for 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