

Pre-Council Meeting – 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
Administration Conference Room
2800 King Street
Smyrna, GA 30080

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

**November 04, 2024
5:30 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, Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 2 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head

2. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the November 4, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the Administration Conference Room at 6:32 PM.

3. Review of Current M&C Agenda

PRE2024-031 Review of the November 4, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Notice and Agenda

Mayor Derek Norton reviewed the November 4, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting agenda. No discussion took place.

4. Other Business / Staff Comment

Councilmember Oglesby stated there has been great response to the first crosswalk public art project. They have put out a call for more artists for the next projects – the two remaining crosswalks in downtown. They are also engaging local schools to get students involved in public art.

Councilmember Lindley asked if there is a list or inventory of alleys or pieces of alleys that need to be conveyed. Scott Cochran stated that there is nothing to say that those pieces of property belong to the city – there is no deed, but they show up as city property on GIS maps. The city would need to release any interest in those properties.

Councilmember Wilkinson attended the Smyrna Public Safety Foundation gala which was very nice. She also mentioned a new business called Tokyo Valentino – an adult shop – which is across the street from another adult shop.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould attended the NAACP gala which was great. He further updated the council on the Fanny Williams project:

- The final product was not the expected quality nor was it the design the committee approved
- Two possibilities – leave it and make it as good as possible or remove it
- One proposed location to move it to is inside the museum semi-permanently where it can still be in the public eye
- Mayor Norton stated that moving the statue will require council approval
- The space where it was supposed to go outside can turn into an historical landmark area and/or a memorial park
- Want to engage Anna Talarico with Designing Local and utilize her expertise

Discussion took place regarding monetary issues and the perception from the public. There are some in the community and on the committee who have a unique vision, and it was noted that the Fanny Williams statue is the only statue in Smyrna. For it to be a poor product is an affront to Fanny Williams' legacy.

Councilmember Hines added:

- If the statue were to remain in its place, there would be a huge firestorm
- There were moments during this process when the committee could have pivoted sooner
- Reminded all that keeping the cabin would have been a much costlier project because of rehabilitation and continued maintenance
- An art consultant should have been part of the process all along

Further discussion took place with some members of council thinking the statue needs to be unveiled and left where it is and others disagreeing believing the council should move in a new and better direction. They agreed to meet the following day to see the statue in person.

5. Executive Session (As Needed)

6. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the November 4, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting at 7:00 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