

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

**July 25, 2024
6:30 PM**

1. Roll Call

Present: 7 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Absent: 1 – Councilmember Travis Lindley

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 10 – Tyler Addison, Joe Bennett, Dustin Davey, Richard Garland (virtual), Latonda Harris, Bo Jones, Russell Martin, Eric Mohrmann, Heather Peacon-Corn, and Keith Zgonc

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the July 25, 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

ATH2024-101: Bo Jones, Utilities Director, stated that the current City-owned sewerage pump station serves 100 homes in the area to pump its sewerage from low point on Belmont Ave to gravity-fed line that feeds to Cobb County treatment facility. Pump station pump one experienced failure a few weeks ago posing emergency operation plan to be put in place until new pump one is installed. At this time water/sewer is relying on one pump to operate every hour on the hour putting unnecessary strain on the existing pump.

RFP24-033: Dustin Davey, Deputy Fire Chief, stated that the Smyrna Fire Department requested FY2022 SPLOST funds for facility improvements. Within facility improvements, the Fire Department has planned for the replacement of six (6) existing roll-up sectional bay doors with six (6) four-fold doors in the front and rear of Smyrna Fire Station 1 located at 2620 Atlanta Road, Smyrna, GA 30080. After review of the proposals by Smyrna Fire and Purchasing staff, we recommend the award of the Fire Station 1 Bay Door Replacement to the low bidder, Metro Garage Doors (Douglasville, GA).

REC25-003: Dustin Davey, Deputy Fire Chief, stated that the Smyrna Fire Department requested FY2022 SPLOST funds for facility improvements. This project focuses on two high-traffic areas within Fire Station 1. The first area involves a comprehensive renovation of the fire response, administrative staff, and public restroom facilities, which are original to the building and require rehabilitation. Planned upgrades include replacing wall and floor tiles, plumbing fixtures, counter tops, electrical fixtures, and repainting the walls. The restroom finishes will mirror those used in the construction of Fire Station 2.

The second area of focus is the apparatus bay, where the project entails stripping and resealing the existing epoxy floor covering, along with repainting the vertical wall surfaces.

We requested a proposal from Osprey Management LLC using Gordian ezIQC contract (Sourcewell # GA-ST08-040820-OML / State of Georgia). Gordian is a Job Order Contracting (JOC) platform that allows us to perform construction projects quickly and easily and reduces engineering and design time by awarding contracts for renovation, repair, and construction projects. We recommend that the award of the Fire Station 1 Bathroom and Bay Renovations to Osprey Management LLC.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. **COW2024-039** Kash Trivedi presentation and review of lobbying efforts.

KT Strategies, LLC.
Kash Trivedi, Consultant for the City of Smyrna

2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2024 legislative session adjourned on March 28, 2024. This was the second year in the two-year biennial thus any legislation that did not pass is ineligible for consideration when the legislature convenes in January 2025. Governor Brian Kemp signed many bills, but listed here are the most relevant to the City.

SMYRNA SPECIFIC:

HB 1241 (Stoner-D)

- Revises the compensation of the mayor and council members

APPROPRIATIONS:

- \$7.3 million for local maintenance and improvement grants to reflect ten percent of projected motor fuel revenues.
- \$3.4 million for emergency medical service (EMS) transport reimbursements
- \$2.5 million addition for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement.
- \$250,000 to continue the implementation of the Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot Program through the Department of Agriculture.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS:

- HB 1407 (LaHood- R)** makes procedural changes to Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) negotiations and allows counties to utilize additional unincorporated revenues to fund unincorporated services.
- HB 1073 (Washburn-R) Zoning: Halfway Houses and Drug Rehabilitation Centers and other provisions:

- Prohibits local governments from imposing additional procedures for zoning decisions involving the location of halfway houses and drug rehabilitation centers.
 - Prohibits local governments from requiring the placement of video surveillance equipment at gas stations.
 - Senate floor amendment that permits municipalities to allow for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in Underground Atlanta on Saturdays from late evening until early morning and on Sundays from late morning until midnight.
- SB 171 (Burns-R) limits the length of time a director of a development authority can hold office after their term expires and mandates that directors or members of the governing board of a development authority undergo yearly continuing education of at least eight hours of training on development and redevelopment programs within the first 12 months of their appointment. After July 1, 2025, directors would be required to complete at least two hours of training annually.
- HB 1105 (Petrea-R) Immigration Bill:
 - Establishes penalties for local governments, local officials, local employees, and jailers who enact or adopt sanctuary policies or practices.
 - Requires the Georgia Department of Corrections to maintain a database with immigration status, offenses, and home countries of state prisoners who are not United States citizens.
 - Requires county and city jailers to notify the U.S. Department of Corrections if they detain an illegal foreign national.
 - Requires jailers to produce a quarterly report that will be posted on the city or county website, as well as the Department of Audits and Accounts Website
 - Does not penalize the county if the sheriff does not comply.
- HB 516 (McCollum-R) Georgia Department of Transportation Housekeeping Bill:
 - Changes the date for when the Department of Agriculture will begin regulating and taxing the use of electric vehicle charging stations to January 1, 2026.
 - Defines "commercial motor vehicle restricted highway" and prohibits vehicles with more than six wheels from operating on such highways and sets penalties for violations.
- HB 456 (Gunter-R) increases the term for municipal court judges from one year to two years.
- HB 461 (Thomas-R) prohibits local governments from calculating building inspection fees based on the cost of the project. It also requires that the proceeds from permitting fees be used to fund the permitting administrative process and not the local government's general operations.
- HB 206 (Sainz-R) authorizes the creation of a financing mechanism called Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy. This concept allows local development authorities and downtown development authorities to finance energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resilience improvements on private commercial property.

STUDY COMMITTEES:

The following resolutions to create study committees passed. Members must be appointed to the committees by the Speaker or Lieutenant Governor. Senate committee chairs may also elect to hold committee hearings on issues relevant to their committee jurisdiction throughout the summer and fall.

- HR 1498 creates a study committee that studies the operations of private water systems around the state.
- HR 1554 creates a study committee to evaluate navigable streams and the issues surrounding their ownership, private and public rights of use, and other related matters.
- HR 1505 creates a study committee that evaluates the development of solar facilities.
- HR 1418 creates a study committee on the Use of Local Fees to Support Affordable Housing.
- HR 1432 creates a study committee to evaluate disaster mitigation and resilience.

Since the Legislative Session has concluded, all attention has been refocused to our elections. Every legislative seat will be up for reelection this year. As we've seen, the Primary Elections have passed, and we will have new representation in Smyrna in the 2025-2026 Sessions. Incumbent Representative Teri Anulewicz lost her reelection bid, and Representative Stoner did not seek reelection. State Senator Horacena Tate has retired from the legislature after many years of service, and her successor will be decided in November.

**B. ATH2024-103 Discussion – F150 Vehicle Purchase for Police Department
*Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley***

Chief Zgonc explained the purchase of an F-150 vehicle purchase. There are currently no special purpose F-150's in the fleet. Pricing is almost the same as an Explorer at only \$348 more. This vehicle would be used by the SWAT Commander.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. COW2024-041 Approval of the July 29, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

LIC2024-014: Russell Martin, Community Development Director, explained that this was brought to their attention. They directed them to apply for a proper license as determined by city ordinance.

AGR2024-037: Major Latonda Harris stated the Smyrna Jail has encountered challenges maintaining full time and/or part time staff for the food services provided to inmates. As a result, the recommendation is to contract with Trinity Services Group to provide consistent cooking needs as indicated in the Food Services Agreement attached. It will overall be more cost-effective. Many other jurisdictions implement this type of service.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

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

- Tolleson Pool – Croy Engineering proposal for initial work – \$113,765.00 to be paid out of SPLOST 2022 – Will provide plans for an \$8M, \$10M, and \$12M renovation.
- August 14, 2024 is the date that mediation results will be revealed.
- Concept for downtown splashpad and the restrooms coming soon – The goal is to place a pump station inside of the restroom building.
- Lightning hit one of the pumps for the downtown fountain. It is being fixed.
- Had an appeal hearing today for the sanitation worker.

- Have started the self-initiated zoning for the church and the older houses on the Atlanta Rd property – asbestos was found in the older homes which needs to be remediated before demolition.

Councilmember Oglesby – had his first standing room only town hall for ward 7 this past Sunday. Rusty and other staff were so helpful. He also hosted a cookout at North Cooper Lake Pavilion. He really loved that venue.

Councilmember Pickens – announced he and his wife are expecting a baby in November.

Councilmember Hines – working on Rose Garden meeting to get historic district designation. On August 13, 2024, Smyrna is hosting the CMA meeting at Atkins meeting.

Mayor Norton – mentioned that the UDC meeting had the renderings of Stillfire Brewing. Everyone preferred the new renderings from the size reduction to landscaping.

Councilmember Welch – asked about the bond for the church purchase. Mayor Norton stated that the DDA had a meeting earlier this week. Cannot close until the buildings on Atlanta Rd are demolished. August 12, 2024, the Council will vote of the bond.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould – stated he and Ashley Youmans had a good conversation with David Wilson for the Fannie Williams Project. Installation is still scheduled for September of this year depending on availability of supplies. He got a request the night before that since in the Jewish tradition they will be fasting the day of the birthday celebration concerts, they have asked if Goldberg's could be one of the food trucks at the birthday celebration.

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk – stated she did a walkthrough with PD, FD, and Parks & Recreation staff to determine the best way to handle election traffic at the Community Center.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the July 25, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:27 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