

City Council Meeting 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
Council Chambers
2800 King Street
Smyrna, GA 30080

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

**June 03, 2024
7:00 PM**

I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

1. Roll Call

Present: 5 – Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Absent: 3 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson

Also Present: 1 – Jeffrey Tucker

Staff: 7 – Olivia Anderson, Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Dat Luu, Landon O'Neal, Heather Peacon-Corn, and Kristin Robinson

2. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould called to order the June 3, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

A. Pastor Christian Salzillo, Life Church Assembly of God (4100 King Springs Rd)

4. Agenda Changes

Mayor Pro Tem Gould explained that PRC2024-015 (Proclamation in Recognition of Juneteenth) will be moved to the Ward and Staff Reports section to allow time for the recipient to arrive at the meeting.

5. Mayoral Report

II. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

Public comment during this portion of the Agenda must be limited to matters on the Agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, please sign up with the City Clerk, come to the podium when called by the Mayor, state your name and address for the record and make your remarks. The time allotted for each speaker is as follows: **Public Hearing - Five (5) Minutes**

6. Proclamations and Presentations

A. PRC2024-014 Proclamation in recognition of LGBTQ Pride Month, June 2024 **Citywide**

Cait Howerton, new Director of Communications and Public Relations for Smyrna is Fabulous, came forward and announced their 3rd Annual Pride Festival on June 22, 2024 from 12-6 PM. The 2nd annual Drag Show kickoff event will be on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Wine Market. All events are family-friendly, and aside from the Drag Show event, all events are free. This event is able to take place because of generous sponsorship by local businesses and community members. Also, Smyrna is Fabulous was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the Pride Across the Peach State grant. Please go to www.smyrnaisfabulous.org for any information.

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA
In Recognition of LGBTQ Pride Month June 2024

Whereas, for more than 50 years, June has been celebrated as LGBTQ Pride Month nationwide in honor of the LGBTQ citizens that rose up and fought discriminatory laws at Stonewall; and

Whereas, the historical riot at Stonewall in New York City on June 28, 1969, is considered a turning point for LGBTQ liberation in the United States; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom; and

Whereas, all are welcome in the City of Smyrna to live, work and play, and every family, in any shape, deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna denounces prejudice and unfair discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna appreciates the cultural, civic, and economic contributions of the LGBTQ community; and

Whereas, it is imperative that young people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and community leaders; NOW

Therefore, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, do hereby proclaim and recognize June 2023 as LGBTQ Pride month in the City of Smyrna, Georgia and urge residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ community and actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

7. Community Development Items

8. Privilege License and Show Cause Hearing

A. LIC2024-010 Privilege License New License Request – Beer, Wine & Liquor (Pouring and Sunday Sales) – 1061 Concord Rd SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 - Demeter USA, Inc., dba Zoya Mediterranean Kitchen with Ryan Limbrick as agent.

Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

Application was made for privilege license New License for Demeter USA, Inc.dba Zoya Mediterranean Kitchen for the sale of Beer, Wine & Liquor (Pouring and Sunday Sales) Ryan Limbrick is the agent applicant.

Ryan Limbrick will be the registered agent responsible for the sale of alcohol at 1061 Concord Rd SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 . The applicant has been given a copy of the Alcoholic Beverage ordinances and attended the mandatory alcohol awareness workshop.

A background investigation conducted by the Smyrna Police Department failed to reveal information that would preclude issuance of this license. Mr. Limbrick has agreed to abide by the guidelines set forth by the City of Smyrna ordinance governing the sale of alcohol.

Councilmember Lindley thanked them for doing business in Smyrna and asked them to describe the new restaurant. Terry Bailey of T.S. Bailey Law Firm representing the applicant, Ryan Limbrick, came forward. He explained that the restaurant will be Mediterranean, and it will have a retractable roof that opens the top and side. It will be open every day with slightly varying hours. He stated they are familiar with the ordinances and laws regarding liquor, beer, and wine.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item LIC2024-101; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 4 – Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Councilmember Pickens and Councilmember Wilkinson

9. Formal Business

- A. 2024-103 Approval of re-appointment of Charles "Corkey" Welch to the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) to serve a one-year term beginning August 15, 2024.
Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City of Smyrna has an appointment to the CCMWA to be selected by the governing authority of the City of Smyrna. The member of the authority appointed by Smyrna shall serve for terms of one year and until their successors are appointed and shall assume office on August 15 following the expiration of the prior members' term.

Councilmember Charles "Corkey" Welch is the current appointee from the City of Smyrna, and his term expires on August 14, 2024. The governing authority of the City

of Smyrna recommends the reappointment of Mr. Welch to the CCMWA to serve another one-year term from August 15, 2024 – August 14, 2025.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item 2024-103; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 4 – Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Councilmember Pickens and Councilmember Wilkinson

- B. AGR2024-019 Authorization for the 2024 annual renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement between Smyrna Fire Department (SFD) and Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services (CCFES) and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.**

Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

Mutual Aid Agreements between neighboring fire departments ensures that emergency situations are addressed with an adequate number of personnel and apparatus during times of high call volume. Mutual Aid is also used during specific, complex situations requiring specialized responses (large structure fires, technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, etc). Both SFD and CCFES seek to renew the agreement for the mutual benefit of the citizens within both jurisdictions.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines made a motion to approve item AGR2024-019; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 4 – Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Councilmember Pickens and Councilmember Wilkinson

- C. ATH2024-089 Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget**
Citywide

The required public hearing for the FY 2025 proposed budget was held on May 20, 2024.

The total budget, as proposed, is \$105,697,703.00.
The General Fund budget is \$65,835,675.00
Special Revenue Funds are \$9,069,178.00
Capital Project Funds are \$1,000,000.00
Internal Service Fund is \$1,065,000.00
Enterprise Funds are \$28,727,850.00

For comparative purposes, the total revised FY 2024 budget, to date, is \$128,901,297.00.
The General Fund budget is \$66,983,300.00 Special Revenue Funds are \$10,115,047.00
Capital Project Funds are \$23,616,471.00
Internal Service Fund is \$1,717,198.00
Enterprise Funds are \$26,469,281.00

Staff recommends the adoption of the Fiscal Years 2025 Budget as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould recognized Kristin Robinson, Deputy City Administrator/CFO, and Landon O'Neal, Budget Officer, for their hard work on the budget.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve ATH2024-089; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 4 – Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Councilmember Pickens and Councilmember Wilkinson

10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 4 – Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Councilmember Pickens and Councilmember Wilkinson

**A. MIN2024-065 Approval of the May 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. MIN2024-067 Approval of the May 20, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. MIN2024-069 Approval of the May 20, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D. **ATH2024-087** Authorization for the submittal of the Local Administered Project (LAP) certification application to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and authorize the Mayor to sign the “Confirmation of Understanding” letter, the “GDOT LAP Certification Application.”
Citywide

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

11. Ward and Staff Reports

- A. **PRC2024-016** Proclamation in recognition of Juneteenth, June 19, 2024
Ward 2 Councilmember – Latonia P. Hines
Ward 7 Councilmember – Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Jeriene Bonner-Willis, President of the Cobb County NAACP, came forward to announce the countywide celebrations taking place in honor of Juneteenth. She was present to accept the proclamation.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. read and presented the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA
In Recognition of Juneteenth
June 19, 2024

Whereas, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is celebrated each year on June 19th in the United States to commemorate the end of slavery; and

Whereas, though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves; and

Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law, which established Juneteenth as an official federal holiday; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna approved the observance of Juneteenth as an official city holiday in 2022. In recognizing the holiday of Juneteenth in the City of Smyrna, we acknowledge the challenges, successes, tribulations, and perseverance of all those who lived during these periods in our history; Now

Therefore, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth in the City of Smyrna and encourage the community to join the commitment for anti-racism, racial and social justice, by encouraging a day of reflection, recognition, acknowledgement, and healing.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines stated her pride for this City and all of the wonderful events. The Rose Garden Spring Festival will be this Saturday from 12-5 at Rose Garden Park. She also announced she will be hosting a Ward 2 meeting on June 26 in Council Chambers. Ms. Hines thanked the Cobb County Board of Commissioners for recognizing the 147th anniversary of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Councilmember Travis Lindley mentioned that the first of the summer concert series kicks off this weekend. He also announced the Smyrna is Fabulous Pride Festival on June 22. He also encouraged people to visit the museum to see the new exhibit.

Councilmember Charles Welch encouraged all to come out to the concerts this weekend.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. mentioned that they had the first meeting of the public art committee. They will be working with Design Local. He also stated that he has been working on the Ward 7 zip code issue. He contacted Senator Ossoff's office, and they have now assigned a U.S. Postal Service Investigator. He also announced that in commemoration of Juneteenth, the City will host a festive event for 2025. The details are to be announced.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould thanked the Zhiss family for their contribution to the Forest Hills Preservation efforts.

III. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

*Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the City Council. No subject may be acted upon by the City Council unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, please sign up with the City Clerk, come to the podium when called by the Mayor, state your name and address for the record and make your remarks. The time allotted for each speaker is as follows: **Public Comment - Three (3) Minutes***

12. **Public Comment**

Pat Burns (10 Concord Road) of Friends of the Concord Road Covered Bridge Historic District, spoke about the Toni Morrison Society benches that have been installed at "revered and significant" locations. The Friends of the Concord Road Covered Bridge Historic Bridge were awarded a Toni Morrison Bench in honor of Matilda Ruff, a former slave, and her family to be placed at the entrance of the Silver Comet Trail on Concord Rd. The area will be known as Matilda's Garden. The dedication of the bench will be held on June 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

13. **Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould adjourned the June 3, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting at 7:36 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**