

City Council Meeting Action Summary - 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

**January 29, 2024
7:00 PM**

I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

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 – Jeffrey Tucker

Staff: 4 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Dat Luu, and Heather Peacon-Corn

2. Call to Order

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

A. Dr. Jeff Pennington, Smyrna First Baptist Church (1275 Church St)

4. Agenda Changes

5. Mayoral Report

A. Smyrna Education Foundation Report and Check Presentation from JRM Management

Bill Watson, JRM Management, thanked the City for being a partner. He also thanked Kevin Drawe at Atkins Park for being a part of this. Last year, they were able to raise \$11,000.00. This year, they were able to raise \$15,000.00. Mr. Drawe thanked Barb Allen and said they are very proud to be a part of this group.

Barb Allen, Smyrna Education Foundation, stated this is the 14th year that this foundation has been in existence. The success has been in part because of the

partnership with the City, JRM, and now Atkins Park. They offer mini grants in the fall, education grants in the spring, scholars essay contest in the spring.

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. **PRC2024-002 Proclamation in Recognition of Resiliency Week, February 5-9, 2024 Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines**

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines read and presented the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA
In Recognition of Resiliency Week
February 5-9, 2024

Whereas: every person is born with the capacity to become resilient, yet we must all strengthen our knowledge, skills, and capacity to process and overcome challenges; and

Whereas: many individuals in Cobb County are exposed to various forms of trauma, stresses, physical and emotional burdens and challenges, which can vary based on context and the different circumstances faced by individuals across our county; and

Whereas: understanding our feelings, developing coping skills, and interacting with others in a healthy way are opportunities for growth; and

Whereas resilience is the quality that carries us forward to adapt and recover from adversity and from the impacts of stress and trauma; and

Whereas: Cobb Collaborative engages with partners and works across our community to provide education, resources and tools to help individuals cope with challenges, manage stress and make healthy choices to build their resilience; and

Whereas: the City of Smyrna recognizes the importance of resilience and that the key to a stronger, healthier and more connected future for the residents of our city lies in promoting supportive relationships and resilience; Now

Therefore: I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia do hereby proclaim February 5-9, 2024 as Resiliency Week in Smyrna, Georgia, and call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of resiliency and promoting supportive relationships.

Irene Barton, Cobb Collaborative, came forward and introduced three of the board members: Jesus Martinez (President, Peach Tree Capital), Alison Curtis (Cobb & Douglas Public Health), and Barry Smith (Executive Pastor, First Christian Church of Mableton). She also introduced two of her colleagues: Kaitlyn Ball (Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships) and Lesleigh Knotts (Mental Health Program Coordinator). They will host a Resiliency Retreat at the Reed House on February 9, 2024.

7. **Community Development Items**

8. **Privilege License and Show Cause Hearing**

9. Formal Business

- A. AGR2024-003** 2024 Renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

In times of disasters a municipality's personnel and resources can quickly become overwhelmed. In these situations, cities and counties rely on their neighboring jurisdictions or other state municipalities to assist. The Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement serves as formal consent to offer assistance to other Georgia cities or counties in time of disaster, if able. It should be noted that this agreement in no way requires the City of Smyrna to provide personnel or resources to municipalities in times of disaster. This agreement is filed with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and is on a four-year renewal cycle. Smyrna Fire Department recommends approval.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item AGR2024-003; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Recuse: 0 – None

- B. ATH2024-025** Approval to amend the FY 2024 adopted budgets of the General Fund CIP (Fund 370) to increase Miscellaneous Revenue for the reimbursement payment from Smyrna Little League and establish a new GF CIP project for the Chuck Camp Batting Cages in the amount of \$85,000 and the American Rescue Plan Fund (ARPA) to allocate additional funding in the amount of \$332,000 for project overruns in the Brinkley Park Improvements (\$141,000), Lattanzi Field Improvements project (\$130,000), and the Chuck Camp Storage Building project (\$61,000).
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City plans to contract with Smyrna Little League for reimbursement for the reconstruction of the batting cages at Chuck Camp Park. The batting cages were removed for the construction of the new storage building at Chuck Camp. The City will handle the project, and Smyrna Little League will reimburse the City. Estimated cost of this project is \$85,000.

We have several ARPA fund projects that have already or will exceed the budget established during the budget process. Parks and Recreation has provided estimates for the amount needed to complete these projects. We need to add \$141,000 to Brinkley Park Improvements, \$130,000 to Lattanzi Field Improvements, and \$61,000 to the Chuck Camp Storage Building projects.

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item ATH2024-025; seconded by Councilmember Susan Wilkinson.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Recuse: 0 – None

10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Travis Lindley 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: 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 0 – None
Recuse: 0 – None

- A. **MIN2024-011** Approval of the January 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Citywide

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- B. **MIN2024-012** Approval of the January 16, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
Citywide

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- C. **MIN2024-013** Approval of the January 16, 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
Citywide

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D. **2024-026** Approval of the use of Council Chambers for the Creatwood at Vinings HOA meeting on February 18, 2024 from 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **2024-027** Approval of the use of Council Chambers for Concord Lake Village HOA meeting, February 11, 2024, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- F. **ATH2024-014** Approval for Atkins Park and Zucca through Redbird Events to hold the 21st Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration(s) - two days of St. Patrick's Day themed festival - in the Market Village taking place in 2024 on Saturday, March 16 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (outdoor music ending at 10:00 p.m.), and Sunday, March 17 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (outdoor music ending at 10:00 p.m. - with setup beginning on the afternoon of Friday, March 15 and all event/festival items removed or out of sight by midnight, Sunday, March 17 for pickup on Monday, March 18, 2024 along with approval for Atkins Park and Zucca to operate alcohol sales in the festival area, beyond their respective business premises.

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- G. **ATH2024-016** Authorization of street closures of the Upper Market Village (around the fountain area), as well as the use of the street and center landscape section along W. Spring Street from Atlanta Road to King Street for the 2024 Annual Pride Festival by Smyrna is Fabulous, on Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- H. **ATH2024-018** Approval of the Smyrna Little League Opening Day Parade on Saturday, March 16, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. with rolling road closures and police presence from Campbell Middle School to Brinkley Park following the attached route map.

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- I. **ATH2024-022** Authorization of street closures, including portions of the Market Village, for the Atlanta Track Club Members 10k on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- J. **BCA2024-005** Approval of the Appointment of Ward 3 resident, Mr. Matt Anderson, to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board. This is a two-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley

This it was approved on the Consent Agenda.

11. Ward and Staff Reports

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines reminded all about the Black History Month dinner on February 23, 2024.

Councilmember Travis Lindley stated it was a privilege to represent the city and the Mayor at the debt retirement celebration at the Highpoint Christian Tabernacle.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. wished Smyrna Little League participants and those playing softball a successful spring season. And he also extended his well wishes to those part of track club who will be starting their season as well.

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**

Jermaine Owens (1285 S Lea Ct, Ward 6) discussed concerns about not feeling his council member has reached out to his community. He also expressed concern that there has not been a lot of recognition or activities for Black History Month, and that tonight was the first time he heard about the celebration dinner. He also expressed concern about accessibility to playgrounds and their equipment because he has a disabled child.

Councilmember Wilkinson stated that both Tolleson and Cobb Parks have accessible equipment.

Councilmember Hines stated that the library is a great place to find out about activities in the city.

13. **Adjournment**

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the January 29, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting at 7:24 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