

# 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)

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

A. Max Bacon City Hall  
Council Chambers  
2800 King Street  
Smyrna, GA 30080

**November 04, 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 – Scott Cochran

**Staff:** 3 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, H. Houze

### **2. Call to Order**

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the November 4, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in Council Chambers at 7:03 PM.

### **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**A.** Sherman Bruce, Chaplain, American Legion Post 160

### **4. Agenda Changes**

### **5. Mayoral Report**

Mayor Derek Norton reported the following:

- Next Tuesday, the Smyrna Police Department, in partnership with Kennesaw State University and local community partners, are beginning a youth violence training course.
- The program will teach about mental health, teach parents warning signs, educate the community, etc. to prevent violence in schools and in the community.

## 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. **PRC2024-036** Proclamation in recognition of Veterans Day Poppy Distribution 2024 **Citywide**

Susan Wilkinson read aloud the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

In Recognition of Veterans Day Poppy Distribution November 2024

**WHEREAS**, America is the land of freedom, preserved and protected willingly and freely by citizen soldiers; and

**WHEREAS**, millions who have answered the call to arms have died on the field of battle; and

**WHEREAS**, A nation at peace must be reminded of the price of war and the debt owed to those who have died in war; and

**WHEREAS**, the red poppy has been designated as a symbol of sacrifice of lives in all wars; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Legion Auxiliary has pledged to remind America annually of this debt through the distribution of the memorial flower,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim during the month of November in 2024, the 2nd, 9th, and 11th as VETERANS DAY POPPY DISTRIBUTION DAYS and ask that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy.

#### **Veterans Day Poppy Day Proclamation**

- Volunteers from American Legion Auxiliary Unit 160 in attendance:
  - June Burgess
  - Patty Hook
  - Cheryl Waybright
- Poppy Distribution locations leading up to and including Veterans Day:
  - If you missed them this past weekend (Nov 2), you can find them again this Saturday, Nov 9th at Adventure Outdoors, Kroger South Cobb Drive, and Kroger South Atlanta Rd
  - And on Mon Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at the Smyrna Veterans Day Ceremony, 11am at the Veterans Memorial

Mayor Derek Norton reminded all that Monday, November 11, 2024 at 11:00 AM on the Veterans Memorial there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony. He also thanked Sherman Bruce for all of the American Legion's support for Support Smyrna.

### 7. **Community Development Items**

#### A. **RES2024-012** Authorization for the approval of Resolution 2024-012 for the continuation of a moratorium for sixty (60) consecutive days beginning on November 11, 2024 for the accepting or processing applications seeking the issuance of a sign

permit for free standing signs and authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign and execute all related documents.

**Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

A legal challenge was made regarding the legality of certain provisions of the Sign Ordinance for the City of Smyrna, at Chapter 82 of the Smyrna Code of Ordinances; and the City Council concluded that on July 15, 2024, it is was necessary and desirable to adopt a moratorium for sixty (60) days on accepting or processing applications seeking the issuance of a sign permit for free standing signs while a legal review of the Sign Ordinance is conducted, and Resolution 2024-09 was adopted by the Mayor and City Council. Legal review has not been concluded; therefore, it is necessary to extend the Moratorium an additional 60 days with Resolution 2024-012 to begin November 11, 2024.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item RES2024-012; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

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

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

**9. Formal Business**

- A. ATH2024-173** Approval of agreement with KM Davis (3259 Austell Road S.W., Marietta, Ga. 30008) to perform water main line and service replacement located in Ward 2 on Spring Creek Place to be funded from the FY2025 Water CIP fund in the amount of \$124,272.10. RFQ 22-003  
**Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

As part of the water/sewer initiative to replace all asbestos cement pipes within the city, this project involves replacing approximately 800 linear feet of pipe and service lines in the Spring Creek Place area. Project cost consists of materials and installation of replacing water main and service lines, to include preserving specimen trees, driveway apron replacements, and sod installation to restore landscaping to its original condition.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines made a motion to approve item ATH2024-173; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

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. ATH2024-175** Approval of agreement with KM Davis (3259 Austell Road S.W., Marietta, Ga. 30080) to perform water main line and service replacement located in Ward 2 on Beech Valley Drive to be funded from the FY 2025 Water CIP fund in the amount of \$180,402.40. RFQ 22-003  
**Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

This project involves replacing approximately 1360 linear feet of pipe and service lines on Beech Valley Drive. Project cost consists of materials and installation of replacing water main and service lines, to include preserve specimen trees, driveway apron replacements, and sod installation to restore landscaping.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines made a motion to approve item ATH2024-175; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

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

- C. ATH2024-181** Community Services Administrator  
**Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

This is a title change and new position to be added to the pay grades to replace the Assistant City Administrator position. The title of the position is Community Services Administrator. The Parks and Recreation Director, Richard Garland, will be moved into this position.

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item ATH2024-181; seconded by Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

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

- D. **CNV2024-003** Approval to abandon an alleyway behind 1521 Roswell Street and convey up to half the alleyway width to the adjacent property owners.  
**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

There is an alleyway behind several properties that is owned by the city. It was used by sanitation for garbage pickup many years ago, but not used any longer. The property owner has approached the city inquiring if the alleyway can be deeded to them.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item CNV2024-003; 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

## 10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

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. **MIN2024-179** Approval of the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- B. **MIN2024-181** Approval of the October 21, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- C. **MIN2024-183** Approval of the October 21, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D. **ATH2024-179** Approve the closing of the following streets for the Smyrna Parks and Recreation's Home for the Holidays: King Street from Stephens to Village Green Circle; Bank from Village Walk to King and W. Spring St. from Atlanta Rd to King

Street from 2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Ward 3 /  
Councilmember Travis Lindley  
**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **2024-270** Approval to use Council Chambers for the 2025 Quarterly Joint Ward Meetings for Wards 1, 3 and 6: January 5, April 6, July 13 and October 5, 2025, 4:30pm-5:30pm.  
**Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens**  
**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**  
**Ward 6 Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember - Tim Gould**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### 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***

#### 11. **Public Comment**

#### 12. **Ward and Staff Reports**

Councilmember Glenn Pickens – Reminded all that tomorrow is election day.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines – Please exercise the right to vote. Stay safe. A Ward 2 meeting will be at the Community Center on November 5, 2024. The Rose Garden Fall Festival was well attended.

Councilmember Travis Lindley – Thanks to staff for the execution of Crafts & Drafts Festival. Williams Park neighbors had a fall festival with a great showing. He encouraged all to vote.

Councilmember Charles Welch – Thanked all to those who came out to Jazz Under the Gazebo.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson – She had a Ward 5 meeting on Oct. 26 at the Wolfe Center. She thanked all who came, including staff. The information was well received and appreciated. She, too, reminded all that tomorrow is election day.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould – He complimented Cobb County Elections who ran a smooth election at the Community Center. He attended the NAACP gala Saturday night. Forest Hills Preservation had a Fall Festival which was well attended.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. – As the council liaison for the Public Art Committee, he wanted to thank all for the welcoming and warm response to the new public art installation. He recognized the members of the committee: Vanya Foote, Robert Harrison, Charles “Chuck” Rhome, Burke Scott, Tracy Styf, Imani Thomas. Looks forward to more art very soon. In the spirit of Veterans’ Day, he recognized the first veteran in his family, his grandfather Private James McDowell, Company A, US

Colored Infantry who heeded the call of Abraham Lincoln in 1865 and fought for the Union Army in Virginia.

Deputy City Clerk Jill Head – Early voting ended last Friday, November 1, 2024. Approximately 37,000 people voted early at the Smyrna Community Center. Election Day is tomorrow, November 5, 2024, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. If your precinct was the Community Center, it is now Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church at 810 Church Street.

Mayor Derek Norton – Regarding the public art, it is part of the Smyrna ARTery – there are 56 locations between Belmont and Brawner. He thanked Public Safety folks for keep all safe on Halloween night.

### 13. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the November 4, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting at 7:31 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of persons with disabilities.

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**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](http://www.smyrnaga.gov)  
City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards