

# 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

**May 20, 2024  
7:00 PM**

## **I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

### **1. Roll Call**

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

**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Travis Lindley

**Also Present:** 1 – Scott Cochran

**Staff:** 10 – Joe Bennett, Carson Haynie, Jill Head, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Landon O'Neal, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson, Joey Staubes, and Ashley Youmans

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

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the May 20, 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 Matt Koehn, Water Stone Church

### **4. Agenda Changes**

### **5. Mayoral Report**

**A.** Introduction of Honorary "Mayor for the Day", Corynn Morris, kindergarten student at Nickajack Elementary School  
**Citywide**

Mayor Norton introduced Corynn Morris who was the winner of the “Mayor for the Day” experience offered at the Nickajack Elementary School silent auction fundraiser in Fall 2023.

Corynn is 5 years old and in kindergarten at Nickajack Elementary School. At such a young age she has accomplished many things, including holding the title of Miss Smyrna of National American Miss, and she uses her platform to serve both the city of Smyrna and Cobb County.

In addition to participating in the city council meeting, Corynn and her mom (Devona Morris) also enjoyed: tour of the Mayor’s office & City Hall followed by lunch at Zucca’s with the Mayor in the Smyrna Market Village; tours of the Smyrna Police Dept and Smyrna Fire Dept.

Corynn enjoys playing outside, making arts and crafts, and she is about to celebrate her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Norton also announced:

- The Campbell High School Boys’ Soccer team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state.
- Memorial Day service will be at the Veterans Memorial Lawn on Monday, May 27, 2024 from 9:30-10:30 AM.

Mayor Norton invited candidates running for office to come forward and speak briefly:

Teri Anulewicz – Incumbent House Representative District 42 – This district includes all or most of every ward in Smyrna with the exception of Ward 7. She has served since 2017 and has been honored to be working for this community. She is on several committees including Transportation Committee, Appropriations Committee, Creative Arts and Entertainment Committee, and she helped with funding for a S. Cobb Public Health Center. She hopes she earned everyone’s vote for another two years.

Brunessa Drayton – Running for Superior Court Clerk of Cobb County – She is a mom of four boys, a wife, a public servant, a daughter of a veteran, and Afro-Latina. She left the corporate world to dedicate her life to public service. She asked all to vote.

Taniesha Whorton – Running for Cobb County District 2 Commissioner – She worked at Fath Christian Center and engaged with the community and law enforcement. She worked for Cobb County Police Department, and she is committed to collaborate and partner with municipalities.

## 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. **2024-102** Citizen’s Academy Graduation – Carson Haynie / Ashley Youmans

Carson Haynie, Administrative Coordinator, introduced the members of the 2024 Citizens Academy. She stated that participating is a huge time commitment. with tours of the City’s facilities, presentations, etc.

Matthew White, Ward 6, thanked Smyrna for hosting this program. He stated he works in very large government program, and it was good to see how things work on a smaller scale.

The following are the graduates of the 2024 Citizens Academy:

Thomas Blackwood  
Jackie Chatham  
Frank Chauveau  
Brian Culver  
Yvonne Douglas  
Julia Duke (not present)  
Leslie Dunnell  
Brandon Gardner  
Raven Hinson  
Lauren Jacques  
Jeffrey Kasian  
Trevour Kelleher  
Matt Koehn  
LeeAnn Lickteig  
Virginia Manfre (not present)  
Kristen Medeiros  
Melissa Palmer  
Shannon Plaster  
Emily Powell  
Denise Raymond  
Serenity Ruiz  
Denise Settle  
Jennifer Stevens  
Kamille Suarez  
Augustus (Gus) Trahan  
Matthew White

**B. PRC2024-011 Proclamation in Recognition of Memorial Day Poppy Distribution  
*Citywide***

Mayor Derek Norton read the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION  
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA  
In Recognition of Memorial Day Poppy Distribution May 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 May in 2024, the 4th, 18th, 24th, and 27th as MEMORIAL 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.

**C.     PRC2024-012 Proclamation in Recognition of the 147th Anniversary of Mt. Zion Baptist Church**  
***Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines***

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines read the following proclamation aloud:

A PROCLAMATION  
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA  
In Recognition of 147 Years  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

**Whereas**, Mt. Zion Baptist Church is celebrating 147 years of faith, community and service in Smyrna, Georgia; and

**Whereas**, among the predominantly African American church congregations of Cobb County, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church is one of the oldest, and the oldest in Smyrna; and

**Whereas**, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church was organized to serve the growing African American community of Davenport Town, a small community situated on the eastern edge of Smyrna across from the only African American cemetery at the time, the historic Mt. Zion Cemetery; and

**Whereas**, in 1877, the Rev. George Lloyd and others organized the church. The first pastor of Mt. Zion was the Rev. Harper Hines, followed by Reverends Lloyd, Drew, Allen and Bugg. Reverend Henry D. Davenport served as pastor for fifty (50) years from 1909-1959, followed by Reverend L.C. Malone from 1959-1983. Reverend John C. Hearst served several years as pastor starting in 1984, followed by Pastor Richard L. Bush. The current Pastor Tyler C. Cook began his service with Mt. Zion in March 2023; and

**Whereas**, in 1949, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation began moving to its present location at the corner of Hawthorne and Davenport Street, and in 1951, the Cobb County Commission authorized the construction of a new Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and

**Whereas**, since its inception 147 years ago, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been a steadfast pillar in the Smyrna community, fostering spiritual growth, fellowship, and service; NOW,

**Therefore**, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2024, as a day of recognition for Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and urge all citizens to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion.

Reverend Tyler Cook – Thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging the church's 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is the oldest African American church in Smyrna, and one cannot talk about Smyrna without talking about Mt. Zion and vice versa.

## 7. Community Development Items

- A. **Z24-007** Public Hearing - Zoning Request - Z24-007 - Allow rezoning from R-15 to TD-Conditional for the development of six single-family attached units at a density of 6.3 units per acre - Land Lot 700 - 0.95 acres - 3410 Atlanta Rd - Butler Development Group, LLC  
***Ward 6 Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember - Tim Gould***

Russell Martin, Community Development Director, provided the following background:

**Proposed Use:** The applicant is requesting a rezoning from R-15 to TD-Conditional for the development of six (6) single-family attached units at a density of 6.3 units per acre. A land use change from Medium Density Residential to Medium-High Density Residential is required for this rezoning. Each townhome will have rear entry garages from a private access drive off Atlanta Road. There will be five guest parking spaces with a mail kiosk and a pad for garbage bins in the rear. There will also be a 20-foot landscape buffer in the rear with stormwater detention. There are no variances requested. The request was heard and approved at the April 15, 2024 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

**Staff Recommendation:** Approval of the rezoning from R-15 to TD Conditional for six (6) new single-family attached units.

Community Development recommends approval of the rezoning from R-15 to TD-Conditional for the development of six single-family units at a density of 6.3 units per acre with the following conditions:

**Standard Conditions Requirements # 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 17 from Section 1201 of the Zoning Code are not applicable. The following requirements remain applicable.**

1. The composition of the homes in a residential subdivision shall include a mixture of elements including; but not limited to: brick, stone, shake, hardy plank and stucco. No elevation shall be comprised of 100% hardy plank siding. The residences whose lots abut external roadways shall not be permitted to utilize hardy plank for any elevation facing these roads.
2. All utilities within the development shall be underground.
3. The developer shall be responsible for any traffic improvements (including additional right-of-way dedications) deemed necessary by either the City or the County during construction plan review. Sidewalks shall be provided by the developer inside the subdivision and outside the subdivision adjacent to any public right-of-way consistent with city's requirements for the extent of the development. A grass buffer with a minimum width of two feet shall be provided between the back of curb and sidewalk.
4. No debris may be buried on any lot or common area.
5. The developer will comply with the City's current tree ordinance. All required tree protection measures shall be adhered to by the developer during construction.
6. All landscape plans must be prepared, stamped, and signed by a Georgia Registered Landscape Architect for any common areas or entrances.
7. All yards and common areas are to be sodded, and landscaped. Irrigate as appropriate.
8. All single-family and/or duplex residential lots shall provide the following at the time of certificate of occupancy: either four 3" caliper trees or three 4" caliper trees. The

following species of trees may be used: Nuttall Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Allee Elm, and Village Green Zelkova. Other species may be used if approved by the City.

### Special Conditions

9. The development shall maintain the following setbacks:

Front – 25'

Side – 25'

Rear – 30'

10. The minimum lot size shall be 41,382 sq. ft.

11. Driveway – 21' minimum length from garage face to private access drive.

12. Approval of the subject property for the RTD-Conditional zoning district shall be conditioned upon the development of the property in substantial compliance with the site plan submitted 4/8/2024 and created by Roger. S Lee & Associates, Inc. and all zoning stipulations above.

13. Approval of the subject property shall be conditioned upon substantial compliance with the elevations submitted on 3/15/2024.

Kevin Moore, attorney for applicant, stated The property is just under an acre and the surrounding community has expressed that they are looking for this property to be residential. There will be six townhomes in one building with the front facing Atlanta Rd. They will leave as much room as possible in the rear to give room to the neighbors in the rear and provide the landscape buffer.

A public hearing was called, and no one came forward in favor of or in opposition to this item.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould made a motion to approve item Z24-007; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

## 8. Privilege License and Show Cause Hearing

## 9. Formal Business

### A. 2024-103 Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget Citywide

#### FY 2025 Budget Presentation

- Overview
- General Fund
- E-911 Fund
- Hotel/Motel Fund
- Water/Sewer Fund
- Personnel Recommendations
- Fee Changes

- Debt Obligations
- Capital Projects

#### Revenues vs. Expenditures

Fund	Revenues	Expenditures	Transfer To/(From) Cash Reserves
General Fund	65,835,675	65,835,675	-
Special Revenue Funds	8,385,178	9,069,178	(684,000)
Capital Project Funds	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
Internal Service Funds	1,710,000	1,065,000	645,000
Enterprise Funds	28,727,850	28,727,850	-
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>105,658,703</b>	<b>105,697,703</b>	<b>(39,000)</b>

#### FY 2025 Total Proposed Budget

Fund	FY24 Revised	FY25 Proposed	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
General Fund	66,983,300	65,835,675	(1,147,625)	(1.7%)
Special Revenue Funds	10,115,047	9,069,178	(1,045,869)	(10.3%)
Capital Project Funds	23,616,471	1,000,000	(22,616,471)	(95.8%)
Internal Service Funds	1,717,198	1,065,000	(652,198)	(38.0%)
Enterprise Funds	26,469,281	28,727,850	2,258,569	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,901,297</b>	<b>105,697,703</b>	<b>(23,203,594)</b>	<b>(18.0%)</b>

#### General Fund Revenues

Property Taxes	42,711,000
Charges for Services	9,143,300
Other Taxes	6,476,000
Interfund Transfer	2,961,725
License & Permits	2,811,250
Intergovernmental	-
Finer & Forfeitures	1,317,500
Miscellaneous	414,900

#### General Fund Expenditures

Public Safety	19,366,887
General Government	15,788,545
Public Works	11,072,281
Insurance & Other Benefits	11,387,100
Debt	5,671,862
CIP & Vehicle Replacement	2,549,000

- Insurance & Benefits (90% absorbed by GF)
  - 880K increase overall (8%)
  - Health insurance unchanged
  - 68K decrease (11%) to prescriptions
  - 329K increase (33%) to other insurance (liability, cyber, etc.)
  - 791K increase to retirement contribution (34%)
- 1.04M contingency



- 390K merit raises
- 538K COLA
- 121K unallocated
- 200K for downtown master plan update
- 245K for signage replacement
- 22K for “Blanket Concert” event series
- 260K for traffic improvement/roadway maintenance

#### E-911 Fund

Revenues	Amount
E-911 Fees from Phone Companies	1,450,000
Transfer from General Fund	796,890
Intergovernmental Revenue	90,000
Miscellaneous	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,339,890</b>

Expenditures	Amount
Salaries & Benefits	1,911,010
Other Operating	428,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,339,890</b>

#### Hotel/Motel Fund

Revenues	Amount
Hotel/Motel Taxes	1,711,000
Use of Hotel/Motel Reserves	494,115
Transfer from Auto Rental	205,000
Miscellaneous	30,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,441,065</b>

Expenditures	Amount
Payments to Cobb Galleria	647,280
Transfer to General Fund	641,625
Other Operating Costs	871,229
Salaries & Benefits	280,931
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,441,065</b>

#### Water/Sewer Fund

Revenues	Amount
Water/Sewer Base Rate & Usage	22,027,000
Miscellaneous	524,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,551,850</b>

Expenses	Amount
Wholesale Purchase of Water	12,116,000
Transfer to Water/Sewer CIP	4,578,000
Salaries & Benefits	2,269,238
Transfer to General Fund	2,144,100
Other Operating Costs	1,444,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,551,850</b>

#### Proposed Fee Changes



Departments proposing fee changes:

- Environmental Services
- Finance
- Library
- Parks & Recreation
- Sanitation
- Water/Sewer Utility
- Storm Water Utility

New Personnel Requests Recommended

Department	Title	Number	Requested Impact
Fire Response	Firefighter Uncertified	3	111,333
Recycling	Crew Worker	2	53,805
Recycling	Truck Driver	1	30,063
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>195,201</b>

Reclassification Requests Recommended

Dept	Old Title	Old Grade	New Title	New Grade	Budget Impact
Court	Court Adminstrator	GOVT-14	Court Administrator	MGMT-1	-
Engineering	Asst. City Engineer	GOVT-14	Engineering Plans Reviewer	GOVT-10	(23,020)
Hwys & Streets	Asst. Public Works Director	GOVT-14	Deputy Public Works Director	GOVT-15	-
Parks Ath&Aqu	Athletics & Aquatics Coord.	GOVT-8	Athletics & Aquatics Manager	GOVT-12	-
Police	Police Officer Uncertified	PD-1	Crime Intelligence Analyst	GOVT-9	(1,696)
Water Admin.	Util. Services Customer Rep	GOVT-3	Utility Services Customer Rep III	GOVT-5	2,991
Water Dist	W&S Maint. Worker	GOVT-1	W&S Crew Leader	GOVT-4	3,598
Water Dist	W&S Maint. Worker	GOVT-1	W&S Maintenance Tech II	GOVT-2	7,874
<b>Total</b>					<b>(10,253)</b>

Debt Obligations

- **\$46,891,461** total outstanding bond debt
- **\$8,258,572** scheduled for FY25
- 326,118 from TAD Fund
- 5,569,862 from General Fund
- 100,000 from previously committed funds
- 2,262,592 from SPLOST

General Fund CIP

	FY 2025	FY2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>General Fund CIP</b>	1,684,000	4,452,000	5,041,000	12,617,000	3,152,000

- Decrease of \$431K compared to FY 2024 adopted

- \$684K of FY25 projects by revenues from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- \$1M funded by transfer-in from General Fund

Environmental Services

- Spray Foam Insulation 85,000

IT

- Computer Upgrades 46,000

Parks & Recreation

- Gym Scoreboard Replacement 40,000

Public Works

- Green Energy Projects 1,000,000
- Miscellaneous Flooring Replacement 20,000
- Backflow Testing and Replacement 25,000
- Traffic Street Markings 50,000
- Traffic Signal Improvements 193,000
- Bridge Repairs and Maintenance 100,000
- Replace Underground Sanitation Cart 25,000
- Sanitation Carts 100,000

Water/Sewer CIP

Water/Sewer CIP	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Infrastructure	3,014,000	3,221,000	3,471,000	3,714,000	3,975,000
Meters & Dials	387,000				
Drainage	276,000	296,000	316,000	338,000	362,000
Lead & Copper Inventory	500,000	500,000	200,000	200,000	
Submersible Pump	58,000				
Excavation Trailer	127,000				
Asset Management	216,000				
<b>Total W/S CIP</b>	<b>4,578,000</b>	<b>4,017,000</b>	<b>3,987,000</b>	<b>4,252,000</b>	<b>4,337,000</b>

- FY25 funded by transfer-in from Water/Sewer Fund

Storm Water CIP

Storm Water CIP	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Misc. Projects	1,522,000	1,552,000	1,583,000	1,615,000	1,647,000

- Funded by monthly storm water fee
- Includes \$0.07 increase effective in January

Vehicle Replacements and Additions

Department	Number	Budget
Community Development	1	35,000
Highways & Streets	2	255,000
Police/Jail	11	590,000
Sanitation	1	35,000
Water	1	150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,065,000</b>

2022 SPLOST

2022 SPLOST	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Downtown Redevelopment	3,522,107	695,912	813,188
Aquatics/Gymnastic Facility	2,917,877	8,030,237	-
Resurfacing	1,463,859	1,444,699	1,444,699
Traffic Calming	444,451	300,000	300,000
Sidewalks, Trails, Greenways	1,837,800	918,900	918,900
Other Projects	13,960,557	9,084,273	4,845,471
<b>Total 2022 SPLOST</b>	<b>25,146,651</b>	<b>20,474,021</b>	<b>8,322,258</b>

- 1% sales tax collection began in January 2022

Budget Adoption Schedule

- May 20 Budget presentation and public hearing at Council meeting
- May 30 Discuss any changes at work session
- June 3 Formal budget adoption at Council meeting

- B. ATH2024-077** Authorization to approve Standby Engineering Professional Services to the selected 7 firms based on the evaluation teams recommendations of the 23 companies that submitted proposals. 3 Broad Spectrum – Croy Engineering, LLC, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., Lowe Engineers, LLC, 1 Traffic – Metro Traffix, LLC, 1 Facilities – ECS South East, LLC, 1 Construction – Nova Engineering & Environmental, 1 Stormwater firm – W.K. Dickson & Co. Inc.

**Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City of Smyrna requested qualification proposals for Standby Engineering Professional Services to assist the City with specific tasks related to infrastructure improvements and various engineering design efforts. Twenty-three (23) proposals were received on Monday, February 12, 2024, and evaluated by staff from Public Works, Engineering and Parks & Recreation. Based on the initial evaluations, discussion and specific qualifications, the team selected seven (7) firms for award.

**Broad Spectrum**

Croy Engineering, LLC  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.  
Lowe Engineers, LLC

**Traffic**

Metro Traffix LLC

**Facilities**

ECS Southeast, LLC

**Construction**

Nova Engineering and Environmental

**Stormwater**

W.K. Dickson & Co. Inc.

The evaluation team and Purchasing recommend award to the firms referenced above. The remaining firms will be pre-qualified for additional projects as needed. This request is to have a list of standby engineering firms that have the capabilities to assist city staff on day-to-day projects that vary in scope.

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item ATH2024-077; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby Jr.  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

- C. ATH2024-083** Approval of RFP24-031 for the installation of a Pool Pak Dehumidifier System in the amount of \$164,625.00 for the Aline Wolfe Adult Recreation Center to be installed by Stephens & McCrae Mechanical LLC (25 Juniper Court, Suite E, Covington, GA, 30016) to be funded by General Fund fund balance, authorization to amend the FY 2024 General Fund CIP budget to increase both the Pool Pak System Project expenditure budget and Transfers in from General Fund revenue budget, and also amend the FY 2024 General Fund Budget to increase the Transfers out to GF CIP expenditure budget by the same amount, and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

***Citywide***

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City of Smyrna requested proposals from qualified contractors to install a city provided Pool Pak dehumidification system for the indoor pool at the Aline Wolfe Adult Recreation Center. Two (2) proposals were received on Friday, May 10, 2024. The proposals were evaluated by Parks & Recreation and Purchasing.

Based on the proposal response and evaluation criteria of technical expertise/experience, cost, timeline, and warranty/support the recommended firm is Stephens & McCrae Mechanical LLC.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould made a motion to approve item ATH2024-083; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby Jr.  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

- D. **RES2024-009** Approval of Resolution RES2024-008 for the second level grant application process for the Chattahoochee Riverlands Recreational Trail in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the Recreational Trails Program and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

***Ward 7 Councilmember - Rickey N. Oglesby Jr.***

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The Trust for Public Land and Smyrna are working to raise funds to upgrade the sub-standard gravel trail through Smyrna's Riverview Park, as a part of the Chattahoochee Riverlands Recreational Trail, and the Recreational Trails Program is a federal grant program funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered at the state level by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

In November 2023, the City of Smyrna submitted a pre-application for the Georgia Recreational Trails Program to connect the kayak launch and trailhead at the City's Riverview Park with a durable, universally accessible concrete trail.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources announced that the City of Smyrna is invited to the second-level grant application process for the Chattahoochee Riverlands Recreational Trail, and the City is requesting a \$200,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program to connect the kayak launch and trailhead at the City's Riverview Park with a durable, universally accessible concrete trail.

As a part of this application, the City of Smyrna acknowledges the following:

- This is a reimbursement grant; and
- The grant term cannot exceed 24 months; and
- The City expressly commits to the \$200,000 match proposed in the pre-application. The Trust for Public Land is providing the funds for the local match.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby Jr. made a motion to approve item RES2024-009; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby Jr.  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

- E. **ATH2024-085** Approval of Cobb Framework Agreement ("CFA") between Cobb County Georgia and The City of Smyrna, Georgia for 2022 Cobb SPLOST Renewal and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.  
***Citywide***

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The citizens of Cobb County, including its six cities, approved the 2022 SPLOST Renewal Program that, amongst the list of projects, includes \$18,000,000.00 in Joint City Projects for the six Cobb County cities.

Each City will receive \$3,000,000.00 over the life of the 2022 SPLOST renewal program. Smyrna is ready to move forward with the three identified Joint City Projects, Conversion of Sports Lighting to LED, East West Connector road safety improvements, and Windy Hill Parkway Improvements, with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000.00 each. The City shall provide for and manage all aspects of the project.

As per the agreement, ½ of the \$3,000,000.00 will be dispersed to Smyrna's 2022 SPLOST allocation within 60 days from the execution of this Agreement. The balance will be paid to Smyrna through the monthly SPLOST 2022 disbursement when bid documents for each of the three individual projects have been let to construction.

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item ATH2024-085; seconded by Councilmember Susan Wilkinson.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby Jr.  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

## 10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Glenn Pickens 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:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby Jr.  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Lindley

**A. MIN2024-060 Approval of the May 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. MIN2024-061 Approval of the May 6, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes  
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. MIN2024-062 Approval of the May 6, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes  
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D. **BCA2024-013** Approval of the re-appointment of Ward 6 resident, Laura Searcy, to the Smyrna Hospital Authority. This is a four-year term that expires May 2029.

**Ward 6 Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember - Tim Gould**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **ATH2024-079** Authorize Atkins Park Tavern Restaurant & Bar to operate a beer, wine, and liquor trailer/station with sales at the 2024 Annual Pride Festival by Smyrna is Fabulous on Saturday, June 22, 2024 from 12:00PM - 6:00PM and authorize vendor to seek required Special Event Permit through the Community Development office and the Alcohol Sales approval through the State of Georgia.

**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- F. **ATH2024-081** Approval to use Council Chambers for Ward 2 Meeting, June 26, 2024, 6p-7p.

**Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines**

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**

Alex Backry – 3459 Shawnee Trail – Stated that he feels the First Baptist Church transaction was done backwards. No one knows what will happen in the next two years with inflation, etc. Leadership should not speculate with taxpayers' money. This is like putting the cart before the horse. He also stated that the bond debt is \$46M, and taxpayers paid \$2M in interest. There are no details on the aquatic center for \$11M. There has been no referendums on any of these. Open government should have referendums. He also asked that the July 7 Ward meeting for three wards include all seven wards and their council members. He did state that he likes the way Public Works places signs throughout the City for sanitation schedule changes.

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

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines had her first "Getting Ready for Summer" event at Tolleson Park. She thanked those who participated. May great community organizations assisted providing books and resources. She congratulated Mt. Zion Baptist Church on their 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And she recommended all visit the Smyrna Museum which premiered a new exhibit for Mental Health Awareness Month.



Councilmember Charles Welch invited all to the Memorial Day Ceremony a week from today from 9:30-10:30 AM. next to the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson congratulated all graduating seniors this May. She attended Osborne High Schools graduation ceremonies, and it was a wonderful event.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould celebrated his son's Campbell High School IB Medal Ceremony, and he announced that Campbell High School will be graduating around 800 students next Saturday. He reminded all to vote tomorrow.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. congratulated the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Nickajack Elementary of which his son is one of those students. He also thanked the Optimist Club for inviting him to their breakfast and for having such an engaging talk.

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, announced that tomorrow is election day. For polling information, check the My Voter Page on the Secretary of State's website. There are links on the Smyrna website as well.

### **13. Adjournment**

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the May 20, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting at 8:52 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