

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

**March 25, 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: 7 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Russell Martin, Eddie Matano, Heather Peacon-Corn, Joey Staubes, and Mark Wolff

2. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the March 25, 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. Recognition of 2024 Georgia Kids and Girls State Championships for Folk Style Wrestling
Citywide

Coach Salvador Delarosa presented the following:

2024 Georgia Kids and Girls State Championships for Folk Style Wrestling

- Open and Novice (1st year) Tournaments with numerous weight classes in age groups from 6U to 14U. Close to 1,000 wrestlers competed over the two-day event. Wrestlers in the Open tournament had to qualify to compete and be a placer (1-4) in one of the 4 State Qualifier Tournaments held the week prior around the state.
- Location: Perry, GA at the Georgia National Fairgrounds (Reaves Arena)
- When: Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd.

The Campbell Spartans Wrestling Club had 5 wrestlers participate in the tournament with the following results:

- Ilias Delarosa – 12U – 100 lbs – 1st Place State Champion (Open Division)
- Tetsu Anderson – 8U – 51 lbs – 4th Place (Open Division)
- Jackson Grantham – 12U - 95 lbs – 1st Place (Novice Division – 1st year wrestler)
- Hinna Anderson – Middle School Girls – 140 lbs – 4th Place (Girls State Championship)
- Hinna Anderson – 12U – 130/140 lbs – 4th Place (Novice Division – Coed – 1st year wrestler)
- Connor Martin – 10U – 58 lbs – Did not place (Open Division)

Additional Recognition – Ilias Delarosa was the Hammer Award winner for both 12U and 14U divisions at the 100 lbs weight class. The Hammer Award is given to the wrestler that amasses the most points for placing in 6 different Hammer Series tournaments throughout the 2024 wrestling season.

The Campbell Spartans Wrestling Club (K-8th) is a feeder program for the Campbell High School Wrestling team. The Spartans Wrestling Club provides both competitive and recreational opportunities for kids interested in the sport of wrestling. Kids can either participate in the Cobb Youth League (recreational matches with other Cobb County High School Club programs) or compete in tournaments (competitive) run by Team Georgia Wrestling. The Spartans Wrestling Club had 39 wrestlers ranging from 5 to 14 years old this year and continues to grow year over year.

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. **RES2024-05** Authorization and Presentation of RES2024-05 for the Dedication of the Flagpole at the Aline Wolfe Recreation Center as the “Joseph M. Bland, Sr. Flagpole” **Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

Councilmember Travis Lindley read and presented the following resolution to Janet Bland, wife of Joseph M. Bland, Sr.:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE FLAGPOLE AT ALINE WOLFE ADULT RECREATION CENTER AS THE “JOSEPH M. BLAND, SR. FLAGPOLE”

WHEREAS, Joseph M. Bland, Sr. was born in Madison, NC and grew up with a heart for service; and,

WHEREAS, following graduation, Joe enlisted in the US Navy where he served on an AntiSubmarine Patrol Squadron flying on P2-Vs. One of the many notable

accomplishments of Joe's squadron was flying surveillance out of Puerto Rico during the Cuban Crisis; and **WHEREAS**, following his military service, Joe attended college at University of North Carolina-Gastonia graduating with an Applied Science degree in Electronic Engineering and

WHEREAS, Joe relocated to Atlanta when he accepted an offer to work for IBM where he enjoyed a 30-year career before retiring in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Joe and his family moved to Smyrna in 1967 where he began many years of service to the community including serving as president of the Smyrna Jaycees, joining the Smyrna Athletic Association, and serving as the Worshipful Master at the Oakdale Masonic Lodge, and **WHEREAS**, Joe was appointed Lieutenant Colonel,

Aide De Camp, Governor's Staff by Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a member of the American Legion Post 160, the Smyrna Veterans Association, the Scottish Rite and Shrine, and he joined the Jonquil City Kiwanis Club in 2000 where he served as president for two years and was presented the George Hixon Fellowship award in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Joe received the Mr. Smyrna award from the Georgia House of Representatives and the Smyrna-Oakdale Moose Lodge in 2002, Board member of the year from Blind and Low Vision of North Georgia in 2007, and in 2010, he received the Community Leader of the Year award from the Senior Citizen Council of Cobb County; and

WHEREAS, Joe's longest service was as the Mayor's appointee to the Smyrna Housing Authority. He was appointed in 2000, and in 2003 he was elected to serve as Chairman, a position he held until 2021; and

WHEREAS, Joseph M. Bland, Sr. passed away on July 12, 2022 at the age of 82.

Resolution 2024-05 Dedication of Flagpole March 25, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Page 2

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, in honor of Joseph M. Bland, Sr's contributions to the City, hereby dedicates the Flagpole at the Aline Wolfe Adult Recreation Center as "Joseph M. Bland, Sr. Flagpole"

SO RESOLVED in open session lawfully assembled, this the 25th day of March 2024.

Janet Bland spoke of her husband, Joe Bland, and how he was like a concierge to anyone who encountered him. He knew how to get things done, and he loved to help others. She thanked Mayor and Council for the dedication.

7. Community Development Items

- A. **Z24-002** Public Hearing - Zoning Request - Z24-002 - Allow rezoning from GC to OI for a charter school - Land Lot 779 - 6.87 acres - 2200 Lake Park Drive - Amana Academy Inc.

Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following brief background:

Amana Academy Inc. is requesting a rezoning from GC (General Commercial) to OI (OfficeInstitutional) for the ability to utilize the existing 35,460 sq. ft. building as a charter school. The subject property is zoned GC and has been used as a professional office. For use as a school a rezoning to OI is required. The Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval by a vote of 6-0 at the March 4, 2024 meeting.

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

Amana Academy Inc. is requesting a rezoning from GC (General Commercial) to OI (Office/Institutional) for the ability to utilize the existing 35,460 sq. ft. office building as a charter school. The subject property is zoned GC and has been used as a professional office. The GC zoning contains all the uses allowed in the OI zoning; however, the GC zoning does not permit the use for a school. Therefore, a rezoning to OI is required for the applicant's needs. The existing building will be remodeled by the applicant to accommodate the school facility. Three 63 sq. ft by 63 sq. ft. modular classrooms are proposed while the building is being renovated and are expected to be used for up to two years. After the modular classrooms are not required the applicant will store the building at an off-site facility. The applicant proposes to use property along the creek as recreational area and no sports fields are proposed. The school currently has approximately 200 students enrolled with grades K-4.

The school hopes to add one additional grade per year, up to K-8, with a maximum enrollment of approximately 600 students. The applicant is providing 179 parking spaces which meets the minimum parking requirement.

The City Engineer has reviewed the proposed rezoning with respect to transportation, stormwater management and stream buffer issues. The subject property will utilize a full access drive on Lake Park Drive. The applicant will make improvements for internal circulation for AM drop-off and PM pick up by adding an extension in the parking lot that the applicant has demonstrated is feasible. Also, the traffic study provided by the applicant indicates that improvements for the access drive at Lake Park Drive are recommended by the time of full enrollment. The improvements include a second entrance lane, and the ability to turn right or left in the exit lane at the full access driveway on Lake Park Drive. The study also recommends traffic control by a police officer during the peak AM and PM hours. The applicant has demonstrated the improvements are feasible. However, the city may require a deceleration lane at the entrance at the time of land disturbance plan review. The signalized intersections studied in the report will continue to operate at satisfactory level of service at the school AM and PM peak hours at the proposed full enrollment year of 2031.

Community Development recommends approval of the rezoning from GC to OI-Conditional on 6.87 acres for a charter school with the following conditions:

Standard Conditions Requirements # 2, 3, 4, 8, 16 and 17 from Section 1201 of the Zoning Code are not applicable. The following requirements remain applicable.

1. The storm water detention plan shall be designed to create at least a ten percent reduction in a 100-year storm event. The city engineer shall approve all plans.
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 2' 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 install decorative streetlights within the development, subject to approval by the city engineer. Utilization of low intensity, environmental type lighting, the illumination of which shall be confined within the perimeter of the subject property through the use of "full-cutoff lighting".

6. 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.
7. All landscape plans must be prepared, stamped, and signed by a Georgia Registered Landscape Architect for any common areas or entrances.
8. All yards and common areas are to be sodded, and landscaped. Irrigate as appropriate.

Special Conditions

9. The development shall maintain the following minimum building setbacks:
Front – 50'
Side – 15'
Rear – 40'
10. The modular classrooms shall be allowed for a period not to exceed two years. If an extension is required a request shall be made to Mayor & Council for approval.
11. The developer shall meet all fire access requirements deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal during land disturbance plan review.
12. The developer shall be responsible for any water and sewer improvements deemed necessary by the Public Works Director during land disturbance plan review.
13. The developer shall be responsible for any stormwater improvements deemed necessary by the City Engineer.
14. The internal circulation improvement shall be installed prior to issuance of the certificate of occupancy.
15. The school shall require a police officer to direct traffic during the 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM school arrival and 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM school dismissal peak hours.
16. The developer shall be responsible for the installation of the deceleration lane, and lane striping improvements at the Lake Park access drive in substantial compliance with the site plan submitted on March 15, 2024, prior to December 31, 2025.
17. Approval of the subject property for the OI-Conditional zoning district shall be conditioned upon the development of the property in substantial compliance with the circulation plan submitted on February 28, 2024, all zoning stipulations above.
18. The applicant shall be bound to the elevations submitted on January 5, 2024. Approval of any change to the elevations must be obtained from the Director of Community Development.

Councilmember Welch asked if in the first couple years would all the classes be in the modular buildings. Mr. Martin stated that they will transition as they improve the space.

Councilmember Hines asked if it is the recommendation to have a deceleration lane after a traffic analysis was completed. Mr. Martin stated that it is recommended to have a deceleration lane if the school met full enrollment. The threshold is 200 turns in, so they will have to install the deceleration lane by the end of the year 2025. It is a recommendation from staff to have the police officer to operate.

Councilmember Oglesby asked how many school buses they will have. Mr. Martin asked the applicant to answer.

Anre Washington, attorney for Amana Academy, stated that this academy is a public charter school founded in 2005. This school is a k-4 school with students from diverse backgrounds and diverse socioeconomic status. There will be one school bus that will follow the traffic circulation route. He reiterated that the traffic study was a five-year-out goal. Mr. Washington also thanked Russell Martin and Joey Staubes from Community Development for all of their assistance.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould thanked them for coming to Smyrna and asked for a bit more history. Mr. Washington stated that they have an Alpharetta (Amana North) location and another location in Cobb County. Those students (Amana West) will move to this location.

Mayor Norton asked if there were any present who wanted to speak for or against this item. No one came forward.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens made a motion to approve item Z24-002; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould.

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

- A. LIC2024-009** Privilege License Request – Beer, Wine & Liquor (pouring & Sunday sales) – 2590 Spring Rd SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 - B & G trade LLC, dba Biryani-N-Grill with Purushotham Kutati as agent.
Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens

Purushotham Kutati, applicant, stated that this establishment has been in business for five years. They now want to begin serving beer and wine.

Councilmember Pickens asked if all of the requirements have been met. Mr. Kutati stated they have met all of the requirements.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens made a motion to approve item LIC2024-009; 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

9. Formal Business

- A. AGR2024-011** Authorization to enter into an Intragovernmental Agreement between the City of Austell, Georgia and the City of Smyrna, Georgia for the purpose of data entry into the Georgia Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and have the Mayor sign and execute all related documents.
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City of Austell, Georgia has requested that the City of Smyrna begin the data entry functions that occur within the Georgia Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) on behalf of the City of Austell, Georgia. Said entry functions to begin on, March 25, 2024 and continue until January 1, 2026, unless the agreement is terminated by means stated within the Intergovernmental Agreement. The City of Austell, Georgia has agreed to pay the City of Smyrna, Georgia the sum of \$45,000.00 per year for the first two years of the agreement and \$50,000.00 per year thereafter. The Police Department recommends approval.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item AGR2024-011; 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. ATH2024-048** Authorization to approve beautification, Phase I, and Phase II landscape improvements provided by Russell Landscape, LLC to various City owned properties to be funded by 2022 SPLOST Sidewalks/ Trails/ Greenways/ Beautification project in amount not to exceed \$679,677.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

This is a request for authorization to approve the following to be paid out of 2022 SPLOST Sidewalks/ Trails/ Greenways/ Beautification line item.

- The current overage amount of beautification in an amount not to exceed \$60,193.00. After contract execution, we identified additional items that need to be added to our existing Russell Landscape, LLC contract that will add approximately \$60,193.00 to the previously approved contract.
- Requesting to pay \$292,654.00 initial cost of the phase I landscape improvements (completed) for Market Village, City Hall, Library, Community Center, Wolfe Center, Police Department. We had previously amended the contract to add these additional areas into the annual contract and made a budget amendment to the General Fund Facilities departmental budget to

cover these improvements. We are reversing that budget amendment in another agenda item to decrease the departmental budget since we are asking to utilize 2022 SPLOST project funds.

- Requesting to move forward with the Phase II request for Fire Stations 1- 5, Police Department – Side, Road Frontage, Rays Garden, City Hall – Back, and Library – Back areas at a cost not to exceed \$326,830.00.

These are all one-time requests to be paid from 2022 SPLOST. The general ongoing maintenance will be added to Building and Grounds operational budget.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould made a motion to approve item ATH 2024-048; 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. ATH2024-052 Authorization to amend the FY 2024 General Fund budget to reduce the departmental budget for Facilities, Purchased Services-Lawn Care line item budget in the amount of \$292,653.50.
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

On the August 7, 2023 agenda, Council approved a budget amendment to increase the Facilities departmental budget to enhance the landscape in several areas of the City that were 30 +years old. This amendment was to have these landscapes be more in line with upgrades to the other areas around the downtown area and with a well-needed upgrade on beautification. This amendment utilized GF reserve balances to fund the increase to the Facilities budget.

During a Committee of the Whole discussion on March 7, 2024, staff discussed using the 2022 SPLOST line item for Sidewalks/ Trails/ Greenways/ Beautification to address these earlier concerns about landscape and make other needed improvements in the downtown. We need to reverse the previous budget amendment approved by Council and put those funds back into the General Fund reserves.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby Jr. made a motion to approve item ATH2024-052; 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

- D. **ATH2024-053** Authorization to amend and increase the adopted budget in the ARPA fund in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Fleet Shop Awning project due to material cost increases to be funded out of ARPA.

Citywide

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion to approve item ATH2024-053; 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

- E. **ATH2024-050** Authorization for payment to Cobb County Department of Transportation, 1890 County Services Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30008, in support of agreement AGR2023-015 for the County to administer the Preliminary Engineering phase of the South Cobb Improvement Project in the amount of \$1,068,725.00, to be billed monthly as incurred.

Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City entered into a Framework Agreement with Cobb County DOT to administer the plan development process for the South Cobb Improvement project until such time as Smyrna attains its Locally Administered Project certification. In this agreement, Exhibit C specifies the value of the Administrative Oversight (PM) and Concept Phase tasks in the amounts of \$67,250.00 and \$1,001,475.00 respectively. This authorization will enable the city to fund the county for this effort and pay periodic billing statements. The funds are part of the 2022 SPLOST project list.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2024-050; 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

- F. **CON2024-002** Approval to extend the Public Art Agreement for the Fanny Williams Legacy Project with Mr. David Wilson through September 30, 2024 and approve a revised payment schedule as requested by the artist and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all documents.

Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The artist has requested a second amendment to the Public Art Agreement to allow additional time to complete the Fanny Williams Legacy Project and to revise the payment schedule. The requested amended term end date is September 30, 2024 to complete the project. Details of the revised payment schedule along with deliverables required to issue payments are attached to the amendment. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould stated that they have been working hard with David Wilson and his team. They have seen visuals today that show the progress. He thanked Ashley Youmans and Councilmember Hines for their work on this project.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item CON2024-002; 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

- G. ATH2024-060** Approve Agreements for the Sale and Purchase of Real Estate between First Baptist Church of Smyrna, Georgia Inc., the Downtown Smyrna Development Authority and the City of Smyrna, Georgia, and authorize the mayor to sign and execute all related documents.
Citywide

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

The City and Smyrna First Baptist Church have reached an agreement where the City, through its Downtown Development Authority will purchase the existing church campus located on Church Street and the church will purchase property owned by the Development Authority located at 3030, 3040 and 3050 Atlanta Road and relocate there. This allows the City to expand its downtown and allows the church to remain in the city. Although the transaction is between the Downtown Smyrna Development Authority and First Baptist Church of Smyrna, Georgia Inc., the City has certain obligations under the contracts including the obligation to demolish the existing structures on the Atlanta Road sites and install an electrified traffic signal to serve the new church facility on the Atlanta Rd site.

Mayor Norton extended a special thanks to city attorney Scott Cochran for his work. Councilmember Lindley will be leading a team of local business owners. He is excited to see the vision as they move forward with this project.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2024-060; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby
Nay: 1 – Councilmember Wilkinson
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. MIN2024-034 Approval of the March 7, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. MIN2024-035 Approval of the March 11, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. MIN2024-036 Approval of the March 11, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**D. ATH2024-054 Approval to Reclassify Assistant Finance Director (GOVT-13) to Controller (GOVT-13) (no pay grade change)
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**E. ATH2024-056 Approval to remove the Deputy City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer from the classification and pay system
*Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- F. **BCA2024-007** Approval of the Mayor's appointment of Ms. Laura Zhiss to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board to serve the current term through December 2027.
Citywide

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

11. Ward and Staff Reports

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. acknowledged and congratulated Councilmember Hines for a successful Women's History Month Tea. He received a lot of great messages about the event.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould echoed Councilmember Oglesby's comments. His wife attended the event and really enjoyed it. He also announced that Campbell High School's Education Foundation Golf Tournament on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson reiterated the previous comments. She stated it was nice to honor women of Smyrna.

Councilmember Charles Welch congratulated Troop 1 Boy Scouts for celebrating 100 years. He mentioned that 16 years ago, they had only one active scout. They now have over 40 scouts.

Councilmember Travis Lindley also mentioned Troop 1. He, Mayor Pro Tem Gould and Councilmember Welch all attended the 100th anniversary of the troop. He also congratulated Councilmember Hines and her hard work on the Women's History Month Tea. Mr. Lindley announced that there will be a Ward 1, 3 & 6 quarterly ward meeting on April 7, 2024.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines thanked those who said so many positive things about the Women's History Tea event. She also extended thanks to Mayor Norton's wife, Laura Norton, and former council member, Kathy Young, for all of their help. They honored four women of the past (Lorena Pace Pruitt, Sarah Sentell Scott, Hattie Bell King, and Fanny Williams), one woman of the present (Belisa Urbina, *Ser Familia*), and women of the future (Girl Scouts). She thanked the men on the Council who sponsored the tea, and she thanked Councilmember Wilkinson for her participation.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens also announced the April 7, 2024 wards 1, 3 & 6 meeting.

Mayor Derek Norton thanked Councilmember Hines for her hard work organizing the Women's History Tea. He also mentioned that they had a Glow in the Dark Easter Egg hunt this past weekend which was very well attended.

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

Ken Hymes – 151 Ennisbrook Drive – stated that issues brought forth back in December have not been addressed. If they have been addressed, the information is not being communicated to the public. He stated if one were to look on the Next Door or Facebook apps, they would see the discontent. He continued and stated that there has been no clarity on financial positions for certain projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould responded that his main form of communication to the public is not going to be through Next Door or Facebook. All council members are available through phone or email, and all council members will respond accordingly.

Councilmember Travis Lindley expressed agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Gould. He continued and said that attending council meetings and ward meetings more often would provide much of the information that Mr. Hymes is seeking, and that all of the issues raised have been addressed. He also reminded Mr. Hymes that the citizens sent a strong message last November during the last municipal election.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines stated that it is easy to make such comments when one has not served in an elected position. She herself did not know what it took to run a city until being elected to the council. There are many sacrifices made by elected officials and staff that most are not aware of as they serve the community. She further stated that the citizens who voted felt this council was doing a good job, and the work will continue.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. thanked Mr. Hymes for expressing his concerns. He encouraged him to review the minutes because everything he has mentioned has been addressed or is ongoing. This council cares.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the March 25, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting at 8:04 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