

Committee of the Whole 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
Human Resources Training Room
2800 King Street SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

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

**February 08, 2024
6:30 PM**

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, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 11 – Tyler Addison, Joe Bennett, Mark Binicewicz, Richard Garland, Russell Martin, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson, Joey Staubes, Steven Watts, and Ashley Youmans

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould called to order the February 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the HR Training Room at 6:30 PM.

Mayor Derek Norton recused himself from the Cambridge Mobile Telematics presentation because of a professional conflict of interest.

2. Staff M&C Agenda Items to Review

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. COW2024-003 Cambridge Mobile Telematics – Get Home Safe Program

Ben Hendricks – Cambridge Mobile Telematics – presented the following:

Making Georgia's roads safer with Get Home Safe

U.S. traffic fatalities are higher than ever – 42,795 traffic fatalities in U.S in 2022: +18% since 2019

Georgia faces a similar trend – 1,844 traffic fatalities in Georgia in 2022: +46% since 2019

Safe driving programs make cities safer
Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Antonio
30-50% reduction in risky behaviors ----> 8-12% reduction in crashes

CMT powers safe driving programs around the world
30M drivers
110 Global programs
83% coverage of US vehicles

Public Sector & Non-Profit

- City of Los Angeles
- City of Boston
- City of Seattle
- City of San Antonio
- AARP
- Oklahoma Challenge
- The Kiefer Foundation

Auto Insurance

- State Farm
- Progressive
- Geico
- USAA
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Farmers Insurance
- Nationwide
- Travelers
- American Family Insurance

Transportation & Safety

- Hyundai
- Volvo
- Verizon
- Uber
- Doordash
- ADT

Your city & the Atlanta Braves can help Georgians Get Home Safe

- Educate drivers on risky driving
- Provide driving feedback
- Win prizes for safe driving

How we'll get Georgians Home Safe

- Scoring
- Awareness
- Rewards
- Engagement

How your city benefits from Get Home Safe

- Marketing & PR
- Safer Community
- Unlock Safety Analytics

- Constituent Engagement

Driving data proves road safety success

"According to Cambridge Mobile Telematics...the time that people were on the phone has gone down in the last six months." – Mike DeWine, Ohio Governor

The safe driving team

GDOT – Funding and budget, project managers, staff

Braves – Prize allocation, promotion, brand recognition

Community Engagement and promotion – Schools, events, publications

This would cost approximately \$47K annually. This fee would allow Smyrna to access the data pulled about driver habits/behavior in the city as well as statewide and identify hot spots and concerns around the city. Concerns were expressed about its usefulness because primarily responsible drivers would be downloading the app, not those who are speeding or violating traffic laws. Further discussion will take place at a future time.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

Mayor Norton resumed as chair of the meeting.

A. COW2024-008 Review of the February 12, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Notice and Agenda

- Joey Staubes, Planner II, provided the background for item Z24-001. Councilmember Lindley recused himself from this item because he sits on the executive board of the church:

STNL Development LLC is requesting a rezoning from R-15 (Residential) to LC-Conditional (Limited Commercial) for the ability to construct a 7,000 sq. ft. veterinary clinic and 10,000 sq. ft. day care facility. The subject property is zoned R-15 and has been used for an institutional purpose as a church. The existing building will be demolished for the construction of a new veterinary clinic and day care facility on two separate parcels. The veterinary clinic parcel is 1.1 acres and the day care facility parcel is 1.8 acres. The buildings will be two stories with a maximum height of 26 feet. The project consists of a 10 ft. landscape buffer along the sides of the property adjacent to residential.

The veterinary clinic building will require two variances with respect to residential setbacks. Veterinary clinics require a setback of 100 feet from any residentially zoned property, and any non-residential building requires a setback of 50 feet from any residentially zoned property. The veterinary clinic requires a reduction of those setbacks to 40 feet. However, no outdoor kennels are proposed for the clinic, and the closest adjacent use is a church. Therefore, Community Development believes there should be no negative impact if the reduction is approved.

The proposed building will utilize stone, EIFS, and metal and cement paneling for the front façades. The applicant has provided architectural renderings with the zoning application for reference.

The applicant is providing 81 parking spaces, which is greater than the minimum parking requirement of 68 spaces.

The City Engineer has reviewed the proposed rezoning with respect to transportation, stormwater management and stream buffer issues. There are no stream buffers affecting the property. The development will utilize a detention pond for stormwater management. The main entrance will be right-in and right-out for access to Concord Road. The City Engineer does recommend obtaining an inter-parcel access agreement with the adjacent church to connect the property with Brown Road to reduce U-turn movements on Concord Road and improve access to S Cobb Drive.

- Discussion took place about the waterline replacement items and the contractor being used. Councilmember Welch stated that he has had a positive experience with the contractor, Smith Pipeline Inc.

- Paul Osburn, Assistant Public Works Director, discussed the GA Power Green energy initiatives:

As part of the GA Power green energy initiative as well replacing old end-of-life equipment throughout the city this request is to be able to have a consistent and uniform HVAC and lighting program. This will help in the future for ongoing maintenance, replacement, and budgeting schedules.

Payment Schedule:

5-Year Monthly Power Bill Fee = \$210,853 per month

7-Year Monthly Power Bill Fee = \$161,081 per month

ECM1 HVAC Systems Upgrades	\$ 4,403,290.00
ECM2 Duct Cleaning, Commissioning and Final TAB	\$ 735,960.00
ECM3 Interior Lighting LED Upgrades	\$ 696,359.00
ECM4 Switchgear, Transformers, Generators, ATS	\$ 2,583,337.00
ECM5 LED Sports Lighting for all Parks Fields	\$ 2,316,297.00

Total Investment	\$ 10,735,243.00
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This would be a two-and-a-half-year project. Mayor Norton asked that this be postponed so that they can discuss this more and look at the budget further.

- Scott Cochran, City Attorney, spoke about item ATH2024-036. The City previously approved a downtown concept plan that includes a parking deck on the site of the current records center building on Atlanta Road, approved the plan for the deck, awarded a construction Manager at Risk to Winder Construction Company for the build of the deck and allocated SPLOST funds for construction of the deck on that location. Based on subsequent circumstances, and other redevelopment planned within the downtown area, the City believes that the deck should not be built on this parcel.

- Ashley Youmans, Special Project Manager, discussed the challenges the Fanny Williams Legacy Project is facing when finding contractors. Three contractors responded. They are consulting with the one they would like to go with to make sure their numbers will stay firm so as to ensure that there will be no change orders – their submission was a little confusing so they would like to clear some things up. They would like to bring in the contractor to clarify their submission and have the runner-up contractor on standby just in case the original contractor does not work out. Mayor Pro Tem Gould will speak with Mr. Osburn and Ms. Youmans tomorrow before moving forward.

- Deputy Chief Mark Binicewicz discussed the need to replace four totaled police vehicles. The Police Department needs to replace three (3) pursuit utility vehicles that were previously wrecked. The Police department has reusable equipment (cages and radio consoles) that can be fitted on new 2023 vehicles. The option to reuse our existing equipment will save time and money as the turnaround time for new equipment is 4 to 5 months. Police and Purchasing contacted Wade Ford, Allan Vigil Ford, and Phil Brannen Ford for availability of vehicles. Wade Ford has 2024 pursuit vehicles on order that could be delivered sometime in March, but the models are not compatible with the reusable equipment. Allan Vigil Ford did not provide information. Phil Brannen Ford has three (3) 2023 models available that are compatible with our reusable equipment and can be delivered as soon as possible. Phil Brannen Ford 2023 Ford Pursuit Utility - \$43,471.00 per vehicle \$130,413.00 Wade Ford 2024 Ford Pursuit Utility - \$42,902.00 per vehicle \$128,706.00.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, updated the Maor and Council on the following:

- John R. Carmichael, Sr. of Carmichael Funeral Homes passed away.
- Upstairs library restroom toilet was flushed too hard with the foot. It leaked for several minutes. It has been repaired.
- Richard Garland met with Winter Const. to look at the Downtown Park and how the water issue can be repaired.
- A potential assassination attempt on Chief Zgonc was made. An individual brought in some documents to headquarters who asked to speak to Chief Zgonc. Two officers escorted him from the front to the back of the police department. There was a substance on the documents that caused the officers to feel sick, almost pass out, have chest pain, heavy sweats, etc. The FBI is still investigating to determine what the substance may have been. The individual has been arrested. The two officers are recovering well.

Councilmember Oglesby attended the well-attended open house for the beltline extension. There will be a town hall in March.

Councilmember Pickens said that many residents upset about the train noise may attend the council meeting to ask the city to do more about the noise. Mayor Norton expressed frustration that there is nothing more the city can do because it is out of Smyrna's jurisdiction legally.

Councilmember Welch stated that Fire Station #2 needs to have the dirt removed from the front of the building. He also stated that he will not be present at the next COW meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould reminded all of the Smyrna Public Safety Gala on Saturday.

Councilmember Hines reminded all that February 23, 2024 is the Black History Month Celebration. She also stated that Smyrna's Parks & Rec is better than anyone else's Parks & Rec with all of their great activities.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion Enter into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion Enter into Executive Session carried with the following vote:

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

Councilmember Charles Welch made a motion Return to Regular Session; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion Return to Regular Session carried with the following vote:

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

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the February 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:09 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