

# 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 Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

**May 05, 2025  
7:00 PM**

## **I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

### **1. Roll Call**

**Present:** 6 – Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

**Also Present:** 1 – Scott Cochran

**Absent:** 2 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Charles Welch

**Staff:** 4 – Richard Garland, Jill Head, H. Houze, Heather Peacon-Corn

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

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

**A.** Pastor Phil Manginelli, The Square (981 Powder Springs Street)

### **4. Agenda Changes**

### **5. Mayoral Report**

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould mentioned all of the activities in Smyrna from the Jonquil Jog, Little League Baseball playoffs, soccer tournament, flag football, Garden Tour, just to name a few. It was a wonderful weekend of community activities.

## **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. **PRC2025-018** Proclamation in Recognition of Memorial Day Poppy Distribution ***Citywide***

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson read and presented the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

In Recognition of Memorial Day Poppy Distribution May 2025

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 2025, the 10th, 17th, 23rd, and 26th 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.

Lisa Oakes, June Burgess, and Judy Martin from representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary Post 160 received the proclamation. Ms. Oakes stated that through donations, they have been able to provide the following for the year 2024:

- Christmas lunch and gifts to veterans at the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville
- Christmas toys for 255 children from active-duty military families
- Back-to-school supplies for Dobbins Air Force Base families

### B. **PRC2025-019** Proclamation in Recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month ***Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines*** ***Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley***

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

A PROCLAMATION

By the Mayor of the City of Smyrna

In Recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month 2025

Whereas, May was first recognized in 1949 as Mental Health Awareness Month to educate, raise awareness, and recognize the importance of mental and behavioral health; and

Whereas, mental and behavioral health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being; it affects how we think, feel, and act; it also affects how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices; and

Whereas, according to the CDC, one in five Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year. Millions of people will also be affected by mental illness each year, carrying physical, social, and financial impacts; and

Whereas, every person shares the burden of mental and behavioral health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

Whereas, the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental and behavioral health service is a critical responsibility and is fundamental to the future of our community; and

Whereas, Congress passed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 which established 988 as a crisis number where a person in mental health crisis can speak -with a trained counselor for immediate assistance. In 2022, 988 became available in Georgia; and

Whereas, every resident and community can make a difference in helping end the silence and stigma that for too long has surrounded mental illness and discouraged people from getting help; NOW

Therefore: I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Smyrna. As the Mayor, I call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private instih1tions, businesses, law enforcement, and schools to recommit increasing awareness and understanding of mental and behavioral health, steps our residents can, take to protect their mental health, foster resilience, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental and behavioral health conditions.

**7. Community Development Items**

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

**9. Formal Business**

- A. ATH2025-075** Authorization and certification of the Estimated Rollback Rate to establish 8.99 mills as the millage rate to be provided to the Cobb County Tax Assessors Office and the Cobb County Tax Commissioners Office for the 2025 assessment notices.

***Citywide***

Richard Garland, Community Services Administrator, provided the following background:

HB 581, also known as the "Save Our Homes Act" in Georgia, was approved and signed into law during the 2024 Regular Session and is a bill that aimed to provide property tax relief to homeowners by implementing a statewide homestead exemption. The City opted out of new homestead because the City's current floating homestead exemption was more advantageous to the taxpayer. All required hearings were held and the opt out was filed by the deadline. A provision of this bill was that the local governments had to provide an estimated rollback rate to the County Tax Commissioner by March 31 to be placed on tax assessment notices. Finance and Administration, in consultation with legal, provided the anticipated millage rate of 8.99 mills to the County to be included on assessment notices.

During the 2025 Regular Session, HB 92 made several modifications to the previously HB 581 to clarify several key areas. One of those was to require a formal vote by the

governing authority to certify the Estimated Rollback Rate for the tax assessment notices. This item will provide the formal certification as required.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2025-075; seconded by Councilmember Glenn Pickens.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Welch

- B. ATH2025-077** Authorization to approve change order / additional work for the Parkway Drive box culvert replacement project to K.M Davis Contacting Company, Inc. (3259 Austell Road, Marietta, GA 30008) in an amount not to exceed \$111,730.00 to be paid from the 2025 Stormwater fund and to bring the total project cost to a not to exceed amount of \$496,570.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all documents.  
**Ward 5 Councilmember - Susan Wilkinson**

Richard Garland, Community Services Administrator, provided the following background:

This request is based off an already approved stormwater project by mayor and council that was approved on 8.26.24. In an amount not to exceed \$384,840.00. However, due to unforeseen utility issues with Atlanta Gas Light we were required to meet certain depth / coverage requirements by them which required the city to expand our scope slightly to achieve those requirements. In return caused need for a change order in an amount not to exceed \$111,730.00 to be funded from 2025 stormwater.

Public Works recommends approval of a change order / additional work for the Parkway Drive box culvert replacement project to K.M Davis Contacting Company, Inc. (3259 Austell Road, Marietta, GA 30008) in an amount not to exceed \$111,730.00 to be paid from the 2025 Stormwater fund and to bring the total project cost to a not to exceed amount of \$496,570.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all documents.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson made a motion to approve item ATH2025-077; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Welch

- C. ATH2025-079** Authorization requesting a Parks and Recreation job re-classification from part time-receptionist to part-time Social Media / Public Relations Specialist and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.  
**Citywide**

Richard Garland, Community Services Administrator, provided the following background:

The department has a need for dedicated staff to provide promotions and social media. We have used this receptionist position for this need previously and as it is currently open, we would like to reclassify.

Parks and Recreation and HR recommend authorization requesting a Parks and Recreation job re-classification from part time-receptionist to part-time Social Media / Public Relations Specialist and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. made a motion to approve item ATH2025-079; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – None

## 10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Wilkinson, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 1 – Councilmember Welch

**A. MIN2025-086** Approval of the April 17, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. MIN2025-088** Approval of the April 21, 2025 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. MIN2025-090** Approval of the April 21, 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**D. ATH2025-081** Authorization to approve road closure for Still Fire Brewery Powder Springs Street at King Street for the period of 05/19/2025 to 05/23/2025 for the installation of a new 8-inch sanitary sewer service for the brewery site.  
***Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **ATH2025-083** Authorization for the approval for the 2025 Smyrna Market road closures as follows: King Street from Stephens to Bank St.; W. Spring St. from the traffic circle to King Street; and Bank Street from King Street to Village Walk every Sunday beginning Sunday, May 10, 2025 through Sunday October 19, 2025 for the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- F. **ATH2025-085** Authorization to allow overnight paving construction activities for the Windy Hill Boulevard project starting at 8:00 PM May 8, 2025, continuing each night as weather permits for five to six days, then recommencing several weeks later for an additional six to eight days to construct the surface asphalt course in the through and local access lanes respectively.  
**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

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**

The following individuals spoke during the Public Comments portion of the Mayor and Council meeting:

- Latarsha Traylor-Pearson, 1001 Afton Way
- Dominick Dechristofaro, 2501 Oakbourne Lane
- Diana Blaylock, 2519 Oakborne Lane
- Jennifer Kornahrens, 5240 Afton Way
- Veda Sammy, 1002 Afton Way
- Jasmin Bush, 1015 Afton Way
- Vinay Dharavath, 2732 Bell Drive

They spoke about the recent shooting that occurred during the early morning hours on Sunday, May 4, 2025. They expressed their fears and safety concerns. Though no one was hurt, there were bullet holes in some houses and vehicles. Some reported that 911 was rude, dismissive, and would abruptly end calls. Some said 911 did not answer right away. They said they were concerned about the response time with some stating it took around 20 minutes for any police to be on scene. One individual spoke about traffic issues and speeding through the neighborhood noting that is another safety concern. Many asked that there be more police presence in the area. Another stated she believed this was a targeted attack.

Lt. Hanson of the Smyrna Police Department explained that there were four individuals, three of whom were in custody. They are still looking for the fourth shooter. He asked that residents send anything that might help the investigators whether that be personal video footage, property damage inventory, eye witness statements, and any other noteworthy details that would help with the investigation. He noted that Major Defense will be the best contact for any

information gathering. He told the residents that troops have been told that they are to patrol the area much more frequently. He also explained that because this is an ongoing investigation, not a lot can be divulged.

Several council members expressed sincere apologies to the community. They said 911, response times, etc. will all be looked into. They each mentioned that public safety is a priority and taken very seriously by this council and Smyrna's public safety units. Councilmember Pickens stated that he has already spoken to Police Chief Zgonc, and they have agreed that a town hall for those communities affected will be put together very soon.

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

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby – stated he is happy no one was hurt during the shooting in ward 1. He thanked those who came to speak for their bravery. He announced the first Juneteenth celebration that will be held of June 19, 2025 beginning at 5:00 PM. It will be a free event with music and entertainment. There are sponsorship opportunities, so please reach out to Jodi Mills.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson – Thanked those member of ward 1 for attending the meeting to express their concerns.

Councilmember Travis Lindley – Echoed the words of his colleagues. He stated council will work with the police department and 911 to determine what happened.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines – Gave her email address to the ward 1 constituents should they need assistance determining who to contact regarding the shooting in ward 1. She stated that the Pop-up Legal Clinic this past weekend was a huge success, along with the Garden Tour and all other activities.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens – Thanked residents impacted by the shooting here tonight. He will work with the police department to get a town hall on the calendar as soon as possible.

Richard Garland, Community Services Administrator – Stated the Smyrna Market started this past weekend. He encouraged all to participate on Sundays, and he commended the city on their great programming.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould – Stated the number one mission is safety. They will do a deep dig to find out what happened and address any shortcomings.

## **13. Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould adjourned the May 5, 2025 Mayor and Council meeting at 8:05 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