

# Pre-Council Meeting – Final MAYOR AND COUNCIL



Derek Norton, Mayor  
Tim Gould, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 6)  
Glenn Pickens (Ward 1)  
Latoria 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  
Administration Conference Room  
2800 King Street  
Smyrna, GA 30080

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

**March 11, 2024  
6:30 PM**

## 1. Roll Call

**Present:** 8 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latoria 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:** 6 – Joe Bennett, Jill G. Head, Russell Martin, Paul Osburn, Joey Staubes, and Mark Wolff

## 2. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the March 11, 2024 Pre-Council meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the Administration Conference Room at 6:30 PM.

## 3. Formal Business and Presentations

## 4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

### **PRE2024-005** Review of the March 11, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Norton reviewed the agenda with Council.

- Councilmember Pickens explained to Mayor and Council that he received new information for item Z24-002 from the applicant’s attorney that they do not want to provide a deceleration lane because of the potential exorbitant cost. Mr. Pickens does not feel comfortable voting in favor of this if there is no deceleration lane included in the plan.

Russell Martin, Community Development Director, stated that the initial traffic study said the deceleration lane was necessary with max enrollment. Max enrollment would be 600 students. They are anticipating starting with approximately 200 students then add a grade level each year. Enforcement is the difficult part of this because there is no easy way to verify student count. Mr. Martin suggested giving them until the end of 2025.

Councilmember Wilkinson mentioned that she thought a patrol officer would be available to direct traffic. All agreed that would be helpful but may still cause traffic issues, especially during morning rush hour.

Mayor Norton recommended the Council give them a deadline of 2026. Scott Cochran, City Attorney, suggested that placing a deadline on them may result in a difficult decision later if they decide they will not provide the deceleration lane regardless – Council would have to decide if they should let it go, change the restriction, or close them down. After further discussion, Mayor Norton recommended that this item be tabled so there is more time to work out details with the attorney for the applicant, Anre Washington.

- Councilmember Welch asked if the OpenGov software saves the City money. Mr. Martin stated that they are able to process business licenses in a much more efficient and timely manner. On the building permits side, it saves the City and the customer a lot of time, and it saves the customer thousands of dollars in printing fees. The year before implementation, the City collected \$1.6M. After implementation, the City collected \$2M.

## 5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Councilmember Oglesby stated that spring youth sports kicked off.

Councilmember Pickens said the past weekend's 10K was great, and about 900 participants were in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould mentioned the Jessye Coleman PTA Council hosted the Teacher of the Year lunch when they celebrated 3 teachers from each school.

Councilmember Wilkinson stated that she learned about an infant who passed away in ward 5. The funeral was held today, and a constituent contacted her and was grateful that a Smyrna police officer was in attendance.

Russell Martin, Community Development Director, said he had an opportunity to speak at the Georgia Affordable Housing Coalition. He also announced that 12-year-old de la Rosa won the state championship. Mayor Norton said he would like to recognize him at a future council meeting.

## 6. Executive Session (As Needed)

## 7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the March 11, 2024 Pre-Council meeting at 6:50 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