

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

June 13, 2024 / 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: 6 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Absent: 2 – Councilmember Travis Lindley and Councilmember Charles Welch

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 8 – Joe Bennett, Mark Binicewicz, Richard Garland, H. Houze, Mary Moore, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, and Joey Staubes

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the June 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the HR Training Room at 6:30 PM.

2. Staff M&C Agenda Items to Review

CHOR2024-004: Mary Moore, Library Director, explained that the architect, contractor, and staff did a walkthrough and determined that removing the wall would create a problem. They will add supports because it is a load-bearing wall, and that is the reason for the change order.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. COW2024-029 Croy Quarterly Update Presentation

Zach Strickland, Croy Engineering, presented the following updates:

Project Highlights – Windy Hill Road Improvements

- Traffic was shifted to lower lanes May 29 – 30.
- Upon completion of express lanes, traffic will be moved from Local lanes to allow for the construction of the trails, bike lanes, and completion of the walls.
- Baldwin indicates that they will be substantially complete in **2024**.

Project Highlights – Windy Hill Multi-Use Trail

- Concept Development and Due Diligence are ongoing.
- Anticipated Study Completion Date: **Summer 2024**

Project Highlights – South Cobb Drive Improvements

- Funding in TIP, survey design database is complete.
- Concept Development and Environmental Assessments have begun with Cobb DOT.
- Traffic counts have been completed in support of the traffic analysis.
- Traffic Data Report has been completed and the Forecasting Report is underway.
- Environmental Screening Process has begun, and Property Owner notification letters have gone out to inform residents of coming activities.

Funding Information:

	City of Smyrna	GDOT	ARC	Community Project Funding	Funding Need	TOTAL
Total	\$8,335,000	TBD	\$8,760,000	\$8,116,279	\$5,068,721	\$30,250,000
Design	\$3,300,000				\$0	\$3,300,000
ROW	\$190,000		\$760,000		\$0	\$950,000
Utilities	\$500,000				\$0	\$500,000
Const.	\$4,315,000		\$800,000	\$8,116,279	\$5,068,721	\$25,500,000

Project Highlights – Downtown Parking Deck (Atlanta Road Surface Lot)

- Design has been submitted and approved by Community Development.

Project highlights – Restrooms at North Cooper Lake Park

- This project has been substantially completed.
- Pavilion Ribbon Cutting was April 29, 2024.

Project Highlight – Resurfacing

- Current anticipated resurfacing budget: approx. **\$3,629,906***
- *Budget to be comprised of FY 2024 SPLOST, FY 2024 LMIG, FY 2024 Supplemental LMIG, FY 2025 SPLOST, and FY 2025 LMIG.
- Anticipating resurfacing RFP to be on the streets this Fall (FY 2025)

Priority Roads in FY 2024 Include:

Bourne Drive	Highview Drive
Pasadena Place	Spring Lead Circle
Ask Kay Drive	Evergreen Trail
Berkley Drive	Carolyn Drive
Fleming Street	Spring Drive
Dogwood Circle	Barbara Lane
Oakley Trace	Brenda Drive
Rolling View Drive	

Project Highlights – Aquatics Center

- Conceptual site layout, water feature amenities, Aquatics programming, and facility master planning are underway.
- Currently evaluating alternate sites for feasibility.

Project Highlights – Splashpad/Sprayground

- The design team is currently refining design elements to finalize construction documents for advertisement for bid.

Upcoming Projects

Cobb Parkway Pedestrian Bridge to the Battery

- Status: Projected 2026 – County had begun concept development.
- Received Community Project Funding of \$1,000,000 from Congressman Scott.
- Cobb DOT has issued an RFP for scoping and design.
- Current Budget: \$280,000

**\$3.4M of funds reallocated to Downtown & S. Cobb Drive in July 2022

Camp Highland – Complete Bridge Replacement

- Status: City is currently discussing the Project scope with Cobb DOT
- Current Budget: \$1,500,000

Additional Projects

Facility Improvements

- Status: 72% of Budget Obligated

Environmental Improvements

- Status: 100% of Budget Obligated for GA Power Contract

Curb and Gutter

- Status: 4% of Budget Obligated

Sidewalks/Trails/Greenways/Beautification

- Status: 13% of Budget Obligated

Traffic Calming

- Status: 28% of Budget Obligated

Public Safety – 800 MHz Radio Replacement

- Status: 82% of Budget Obligated

Fire Department – Small Equipment

- Status: 99% of Budget Obligated

Project Highlights – Sidewalks/Trails/Greenways/Beautification

- 5% of proposed budget spent to date
- Additional 8% estimated to be spent on:
 - Replacement of Tree Fencing in Market Village – In Progress
 - Phase 2 Landscaping – Around Fire Station 1-5, Police Station and Back Side of Library/City Hall, Park Area at West Spring Street Intersection across from Moe's near the Railroad Tracks – In Progress
 - Up Lighting around trees – Market Village and City Hall – Complete.

Joint Projects with County

Awaiting Final Execution of CFA with Cobb County

East West Connector Roadway Safety Improvements

- Status: Projected 2025

Windy Hill Parkway Improvements

- Status: Projected 2025

Conversion of Sports Lighting to LED on all sports fields/courts

- Status: Projected 2025
- Partially obligated for the conversion of LED lighting component on River Line & Jonquil Parks turf field contract (FY 2024)
- Remaining Budget is obligated for GA Power Agreement that was previously approved.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. **COW2024-031** Review of the June 17, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Notice and Agenda

Z24-008: Joey Staubes, Planner II, stated that Robin Rosenberg is requesting a rezoning from OD (Office-Distribution) to GC (General Commercial) to allow additional tenants to operate in the existing building. Rezoning to GC will also allow the property to be within a consistent zoning district of the other properties on Ask Kay Drive.

Staff Recommendation: Approval of the rezoning from OD (OfficeDistribution) to GC (General Commercial).

Planning & Zoning Board Recommendation: Approve by a vote of 6-0 at the May 13, 2024, meeting.

ATH2024-091: Deputy Chief Mark Binicewicz stated that the Smyrna Police Department budgeted in FY2023 CIP to renovate and refresh the men's and women's locker rooms, including replacement of flooring, shower tile, restroom countertops, painting, and replacement of metal lockers with modern wood lockers. They have not been updated since they were built in 1997.

AGR2024-021: Joe Bennett, City Administrator stated that this is a continuation of the Rebuilding Together Atlanta program that Councilmember Wilkinson helped bring to Smyrna.

AGR2024-023: Paul Osburn, Deputy Public Works Director, stated that after Georgia DOT provided an inspection report for the bridge on Camp Highland Road over the abandoned CSX Transportation rail line, where apparent deficiencies were noted, the City and the Cobb County DOT undertook inspection and testing activities to verify the stability of the slope under and adjacent to the bridge. This area has come under further scrutiny with the construction of the Silver Comet Trail extension by the PATH foundation. Before opening the trail to users, the City and Cobb County desire to stabilize the slope based on the recommendations of the geotechnical investigation, with both parties sharing the cost.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

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

- Approved the Master Services Agreement with GA Power. List included the replacement of all generators. Engineers discovered most of the generators are undersized and do not actually run some of the components they are supposed to run. Most of the facilities need to be rewired to upgrade to proper generators. Quote: \$2.6M. He spoke about rearranging funds from SPLOST and adding to the GA Power Master Services Plan.
- Crews are well underway at various sports fields.
- Tolleson Pool: There are issues that need to be addressed.

- Signed a proposal for a concept for downtown restrooms.
- New art has been placed. Take a look.

Mayor Norton gave the following updates:

- Stated the concert this past weekend was really great.
- Tomorrow starts the state tournament for Little League. 7U is in Columbus and 8U is in Warner Robbins.
- The 489 agreement with the County: the Mayors came together and issued a proposal to Cobb County. The county rejected it. It looks like they will be heading to mediation. Mediation will begin July 17, 2024, and a quorum will be required.
- County voted to place M-SPLOST on the ballot in November.

Scott Cochran, City Attorney, spoke about virtual attendance at meetings:

- Unless there is a State of Emergency declared by the government, a quorum is required to attend **in person** for someone to attend virtually twice a year.
- This is not just for Council meetings, it also goes for committees, boards, task forces, etc.

Councilmember Wilkinson stated she received a voicemail from a constituent who praised Josh and Mark from Public Works.

Councilmember Hines stated that the “Smyrna is Fabulous” event is this weekend. August 13 is the CMA meeting when Smyrna hosts. And Juneteenth is next week. She also mentioned she will not be here for the Council meeting on Monday.

Councilmember Oglesby met with Walt Ray (Chattahoochee Program Director). He stated that work is well underway at the river walk project, and as soon as Smyrna is finished with the embankment, they will begin work there. Eventually there will be a bridge that will connect Atlanta to Smyrna.

Councilmember Pickens asked about road striping.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould stated he appreciates the support for Smyrna is Fabulous. The dedication for the Fanny Williams legacy project is still on track for September.

Richard Garland, Parks and Recreation Director, announced Movie in the Park this weekend (Back to the Future) and, the Edgewood String Quartet will be at the Reed House on Saturday.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the June 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:27 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