

# 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

**October 03, 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 (virtual), Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

**Also Present:** 1 – Jeffrey Tucker

**Staff:** 7 – Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Jon Carter, Dat Luu, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson

## Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the October 3, 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

**AGR2024-045:** Carol Sicard, Human Resources Director, stated that GMEBS has recently received a favorable determination letter from the IRS for the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Each employer using the GMEBS Retirement Plan is required to adopt the restated Adoption Agreement and General Addendum as part of the restatement process. The draft documents will take effect on the date of their approval by the city. Please note that per O.C.G.A. § 47-5-40, the Adoption Agreement has been drafted in the form of an ordinance.

Ms. Sicard also mentioned the wellness plan that participants can enroll in to earn a credit. \$140K is spent each year for this program which includes screenings, coaching, plans, etc. She asked the Mayor and Council if they would be interested in ending this program to save money. She stated that the employees are lukewarm on the plan, especially as this past year there have been some negative issues with the program managers – missed appointments, changing of staff, etc. The discount would still be active, but instead of participating in the wellness program, an employee would have a preventative wellness claim through their own doctors to get the

discount. With the savings, this would enable to City to not have to increase insurance premiums.

Jennifer Bennett, Community Relations Director, discussed an alcohol license issue that she provided a solution for. Mayor and Council were in agreement. She also updated Mayor and Council on the Birthday Celebration. She asked them to arrive by 7:00 PM. War & Treaty takes the stage at 7:00 and will play until about 8:00 PM. The Roots will take the stage around 8:30 PM. Fireworks will be around 10:00 PM. Road closings will be about the same as last year. She discussed their parking passes and where they are to park. Discussion took place about traffic lights on Atlanta Rd. and barricades to prevent people from being mixed in with the tables.

### 3. Formal Business and Presentations

#### A. COW2024-059 Croy – Quarterly Update on Projects

##### **Project Highlights – Windy Hill Road Improvements**

- Barrier walls and ornamental fencing along the local access lanes are being installed.
- Eastbound local access lane is scheduled to be shifted to inside lane on 10/9/24 and 10/17/24.
- After local access is shifted, construction of the multi-use paths & driveways will begin.
- Baldwin's latest schedule shows they will be substantially complete at the end of 2024.

##### **Project Highlights – Windy Hill Multi-Use Trail**

- Concept Development and Due Diligence is under final review stages.
- Anticipated Study Completion Date: Fall 2024

##### **Project Highlights – South Cobb Drive Improvements**

- Funding in TIP, Survey design database is complete.
- Concept Development and Environmental Assessments will be completed this Fall.
- Environmental Screening Process is nearing completion.
- Traffic Engineering Report and updated concept have been submitted to Cobb DOT for review.

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

- Croy and Staff held pre-construction meeting with Contractor.
- Contractor set to install initial erosion control measures and begin construction taking the City's Birthday Celebration and early voting into consideration.

##### **Project Highlights – 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 (FY2025)

Priority Roads in FY 2024 Include:

- Bourne Drive
- Pasadena Place
- Ask Kay Drive
- Berkley Drive

- Fleming Street
- Dogwood Circle
- Oakley Trace
- Highview Drive
- Spring Leaf Circle
- Evergreen trail
- Carolyn Drive
- Spring Drive
- Barbara Lane
- Brenda Drive
- Rolling View Drive

### **Project Highlights – Aquatics Center**

- Conceptual site layout, water feature amenities, and Aquatics programming are underway.
- Design team working closely with staff on revised Tolleson Park facility.
- Scoping underway for an early-release demolition and site preparation package that will inform the final design.

### **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 has begun concept development.
- Received Community Project Funding of \$1,000,000.
- 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 of 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:29% of Budget Obligated

#### **Traffic Calming**

- Status: 35% 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

- 18% Of proposed budget spent to Date
- Additional 5% Estimated to be spent on:
  - Decorative Tree Fencing in Market Village – 90% Complete
  - Phase 2 Landscaping – 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 – 85% Complete
  - 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)
- Item on agenda for Mayor & Council approval, installation is scheduled for end of 2024.

## 4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

### A. COW2024-065 Review of the October 7, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

**ATH2024-154:** Paul Osburn, Asst. Public Works Director, stated this request is to expand the scope of work from Bridge Repairs and Maintenance to include Bridge and Culvert Repairs and Maintenance based off GDOT’s Bridge and Culvert inspection, and deficiency list provided to the city annually. This will allow the city to utilize these funds to make necessary repairs to culverts as well. For ARPA funds, everything needs to be encumbers by 12/31 of this year.

**ATH2024-159:** Kristin Robinson, Deputy City Administrator, stated Parks & Recreation has allocated SPLOST funds to upgrade sports field lighting at several parks including, Brinkley, Cobb, Jonquil, River Line and Ward Parks. The scope of work includes design, layout, installation, and testing of the SportsCluster system with Total Light Control (LED). The pricing is from Musoc Sports Lighting, LLC per Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #041123-MSL. The project total is \$1,285,986.00.

**ATH2024-158:** Mayor Norton explained that the Art Committee should not move forward with projects that they have voted upon without Council approval. Councilmember Oglesby decided to present the artwork that was presented at the Art Committee so this item could remain on the agenda. October 14 would be the start of the project. The timeline for all public art is 3-5 years, and the artist is available for touch ups, etc. Though Mayor and Council had stated they want the artwork to come before them for approval, the art policy that was adopted states that the Smyrna Public Art Committee with its consultant make those decisions to remove Council from the decision-making process. This item is for approval of the road closure, not to vote upon the art.

## 5. Other Business / Staff Comment

### A. COW2024-061 Presidential Election Update

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, updated the Mayor and Council on the following:

- Advanced voting begins October 15, 2024
- Voting will take place in the Rec Room in the Community Center
- 18 machines will be available for voting
- The PD overflow lot, the library lot, and the City Hall lot are available for parking
- She explained the path voters will take to line up to vote
- She showed Mayor and Council the directional signs that will be installed to help direct traffic
- The lot behind the Community Center will be for employees, ADA, and deliveries only
- A Smyrna Police Officer will be on site and available as needed

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

- IT received a cybersecurity grant in the amount of \$69,650.00 to build and enhance cybersecurity operations
- Tolleson Pool building has asbestos which will need to be remediated before it is demolished.
- Contract for the GA Power building – revision to include a financing contingency
- Mr. Bennett will be in a trial most of the week next and may not be available.
- Damage to the Riverview Park area was discussed along with estimates to correct the damage
- ADA compliance inspection at Community Center – staff did a phenomenal job with the Department of Justice (DOJ) walkthrough – only minor adjustments will need to be made

Kristin Robinson, Deputy City Administrator, provided information about the updated fee schedule. Tax bills were sent out. Statewide homestead exemption was discussed, but the new law does not impact Smyrna or Cobb County.

Mayor Norton discussed the retreat January 9-10, 2025. He suggested Mayor and Council arrive at noon for a working lunch on the 9<sup>th</sup>, then staff will arrive around 2:30-3:00, have a reception and dinner, then have breakfast and a quick morning session on the 10<sup>th</sup>, then go home. He thanked Paul Osburn and staff for all of their hard work getting Smyrna ready for the hurricane. He also updated all about the two officers who were involved in the shooting. They are both home and recovering.

Councilperson Hines thanked PD, Public Works, and Fire as well as Cobb County PD for all of their hard work. LiveSafe Resources will receive the proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness. They will have a Que & Brew fundraising event this month. Support Smyrna is having a gala on October 24 at the Reed House.

Councilperson Lindley mentioned the joint Ward 1, 3, & 6 meeting. He also had someone ask about the City's golf cart ordinance. The next Church Redevelopment Advisory Committee meeting will be on October 30. They had to cancel a visit with two cities because no quorum was available. He expressed concern that these earlier meetings are the easiest parts of this committee, so when things really start to get difficult later, he does not trust members will be willing or available for the meetings

because they have not been coming to the meetings thus far. He would like to revisit some appointments.

Councilperson Oglesby also commended staff for all of their hard work in preparation for the storm/hurricane. Though there was water damage, it could have been worse.

Councilperson Wilkinson thanked Paul and staff for cleaning out culverts in preparation for the storm. She received positive feedback for that. She requested that any of the printed documents that were made available for this meeting be placed in her council box.

**6. Executive Session (As Needed)**

**7. Adjournment**

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the October 3, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:37 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**