

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

**January 25, 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, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

Also Present: 1 – Jeffrey Tucker

Staff: 11 – Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Mark Binicewicz, Richard Garland, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Eric Mohrmann, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson, Andrea Worthy, and Ashley Youmans

Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called the January 25, 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

Ashley Youmans, Special Projects Manager, presented the following information concerning items of the agenda:

1. Smyrna is Fabulous is requesting to hold the 2024 Annual Pride Festival in the Smyrna Market Village. The event is the same as previous years, except that they plan to hire more off-duty officers.
2. The Smyrna Little League is requesting to hold their Opening Day Parade again this year. Smyrna Police Department has reviewed the route and will be onsite to manage the rolling road closures.
3. The Atlanta Track Club is requesting to hold the Members 10k this year, which was known as the Hearts and Soles 10k in previous years. They are using a similar route, except this year runners will stay within the city limits. Smyrna Police Department has reviewed as part of the racing events permit process.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

A. COW2024-005 CivicReady Discussion – Smyrna Fire Department

A representative from the Smyrna Fire Department presented the following:

CivicReady: Stay Connected

For Emergency & Routine City Alerts

You have the ability to customize your notification preferences; communication can be received through email, text and/or phone call according to your selections and based on address locations that you specify. The information you provide is confidential and will not be shared.

- Stay updated on the following topics through CivicReady.
- Emergency Alerts, including local threats, public health, etc.
- General Notifications, including city closures, technical difficulties, property tax reminders, fireworks and other noise-related alerts, etc.
- Board & Council Updates, including special called meetings, cancellations, vacancies, etc.
- Elections, including important dates, reminders and results
- Event Updates, including cancellations, major changes, fireworks, event-related traffic information, etc.
- Smyrna Sanitation, including route delays and other reminders
- Traffic Alerts, including road/lane closures, expected delays due to construction and/or filming, etc.

Intent of CivicReady Alerts

CivicReady alerts notify the subscriber of a situation and prompt them to seek more information through traditional news media, social media, website(s), etc.

- Geofenced
- 423 total recipients
- 218 Text-to-Join subscribers (no app)
- 205 Internal contacts (employees)
- 14 App users (CivicReady or myAlerts app)
- Alert package included email, text and app alerts

What is Geofencing?

Geofencing uses the location information (GPS, cellular, wifi, Bluetooth, etc.) of a device to trigger notifications once that device has entered a specified boundary.

Next Steps – Establish a workgroup to develop policy, alerting procedures, public access, and advertising strategies for the CivicReady service.

Mayor Norton asked that a simple how-to guide be sent to mayor and council on how to sign up.

B. COW2024-007 Downtown Planning Committee discussion

The following are the names of the people council members and the mayor brought forth for consideration for the Downtown Planning Committee:

Derek Norton (Mayor) – Ryan Campbell
Glenn Pickens (Ward 1) – Harrison Aiken
Latonia P. Hines (Ward 2) – TBD
Travis Lindley (Ward 3) – Dan Styf and Jim Carmichael (Carmichael Funeral Home)
Charles “Corkey” Welch (Ward 4) – Wayne Wright
Susan Wilkinson (Ward 5) – Randy Jordan
Tim Gould (Ward 6) – Chad Koenig
Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. (Ward 7) – Kathy Young

Mayor Norton suggested that by Monday other businesses be recommended.

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. COW2024-006 Review of the January 29, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Norton reviewed the remainder of the January 29, 2024 Mayor and Council agenda. Kristin Robinson, CFO, discussed the following for item ATH2024-025:

The City plans to contract with Smyrna Little League for reimbursement for the reconstruction of the batting cages at Chuck Camp Park. The batting cages were removed for the construction of the new storage building at Chuck Camp. The City will handle the project, and Smyrna Little League will reimburse the City. Estimated cost of this project is \$85,000.

We have several ARPA fund projects that have already or will exceed the budget established during the budget process. Parks and Recreation has provided estimates for the amount needed to complete these projects. We need to add \$141,000 to Brinkley Park Improvements, \$130,000 to Lattanzi Field Improvements, and \$61,000 to the Chuck Camp Storage Building projects.

No further discussion took place.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, stated that the City has received three quotes on the downtown water feature. The project will have to be put out for bid. The plan is to have the water feature chlorinated daily throughout the spring and summer with a part-time employee overseeing it. There are some design flaws that need to be remedied, but those repairs will be done later in the year so as to be able to install an automatic chlorine system. Mr. Bennett also spoke about the vandalization of the downtown fountain in the amount of \$20K. Brief discussion took place about camera systems. Mr. Bennett spoke about the lack of drainage in the new playground area. Eric Randall, Public Works Director, will design a drainage system that can be installed internally. The system will assist with stopping the mulch from washing away.

Councilmember Oglesby – will be meeting with Monique Sheffield. Will be talking about parks.
Councilmember Hines – Black History Month Dinner on February 23, 2024.
Mayor Pro Tem Gould – Thanked Meredith Holt for her role at a recent HOA meeting. Tomorrow night is the Gotcha Covered Blankets at Adventure Outdoors event.
Deputy Chief Binicewicz – Public Safety Foundation Gala at United Distributors on February 10, 2024.

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:10 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for 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**