

# 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 Administrator Joseph Bennett  
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

**October 07, 2024  
7:00 PM**

## **I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

### **1. Roll Call**

**Present:** 8 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia 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 – Jeffrey Tucker

**Staff:** 5 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Heather Peacon-Corn

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

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the October 7, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in Council Chambers at 6:58 PM.

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

**A.** Rev. Kathryn Davis, Smyrna First United Methodist Church (1315 Concord Rd)

### **4. Agenda Changes**

### **5. Mayoral Report**

## **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. PRC2024-032 Proclamation in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month  
*Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines***

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines read the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION  
By the Mayor of the City of Smyrna  
In Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
October 2024

**Whereas:** National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed in October each year to promote screening and prevention of breast cancer; and  
**Whereas:** this observance provides a focused time to support patients and families facing a breast cancer diagnosis, educate people about breast cancer risk factors emphasizing the importance of regular screening starting at an age that's appropriate for their personalized risk, and to fundraise for breast cancer research; and  
**Whereas:** this year's theme, "No one should face breast cancer alone," serves as a reminder for providers to consider the many ways they can partner with patients and families in the prevention, detection, and treatment of breast cancer; and,  
**Whereas:** a little over 300,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and one in eight women in America will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes; and  
**Whereas:** many organizations continue to search for a cure through vital research, and physicians, public health professionals, and advocates continue to educate our community about the awareness and innovative advancements in early detection and treatment; Now  
**Therefore:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH and urge all citizens to observe this month by recognizing the trauma breast cancer brings and join in activities that will increase awareness of what Americans can do to prevent and control breast cancer and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives to this disease.

**B. PRC2024-034 Proclamation in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
*Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines***

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

A PROCLAMATION  
By the Mayor of the City of Smyrna  
In Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
October 2024

**Whereas:** homes should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security. The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community, and it is a goal of this administration for communities to be safe; and  
**Whereas:** domestic violence is more than the occasional family dispute, and the problem affects all citizens of Georgia crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups; and  
**Whereas:** millions of Americans face physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their significant other each year; and

**Whereas:** in a lifetime, one in three women and one in four men experience some form of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner; and  
**Whereas:** organizations like LiveSafe Resources are committed to providing safety and healing to those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault within our community by providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, legal advocacy, a 24-hour crisis line and many other services to empower those we serve to rebuild their lives. By raising awareness and fostering support, LiveSafe Resources is dedicated to building a community free from domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse; and,  
**Whereas:** organizations across Georgia are working to end domestic violence and provide the support survivors need to find their voice, while law enforcement remains committed to ensuring justice is served to individuals who harm those who trust them;  
Now,  
**Therefore:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH and urge all citizens to observe this month by becoming aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working toward its end, and participating in community efforts.

Lisa Mello – LiveSafe Resources – announced a Que & Brew festival at Taylor-Brawner. It will be a one-night event on Friday, October 19, 2024. There will be BBQ, axe throwing, a silent auction, and more. All proceeds will go to their organization. In 2023, they helped over 3,200 individuals, with 1,900 of those being from Cobb County. They provide services 24/7, and they are bilingual. Currently under construction and opening next month will be four pet sanctuaries because 49% experiencing abuse will not leave their situation without their pets.

**7. Community Development Items**

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

- A. LIC2024-020 Privilege License - New License request - Beer & Liquor (pouring and Sunday Sales) – 2415 Cobb Pkwy SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 - Taqueria La Villa, LLC, dba Tacos La Villa with Nancy Covarrubias as agent.  
**Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens****

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

New Application was made for privilege license for Taqueria La Villa, DBA Tacos La Villa for the sale of beer and Liquor (Pouring and Sunday Sales). Nancy Covarrubias is the agent applicant.

Nancy Covarrubias will be the registered agent responsible for the sale of alcohol at 2415 Cobb Pkwy SE, Smyrna, GA 30080. The applicant has been given a copy of the Alcoholic Beverage ordinances and attended the mandatory alcohol awareness workshop.

A background investigation conducted by the Smyrna Police Department failed to reveal information that would preclude issuance of this license. Ms. Covarrubias has agreed to abide by the guidelines set forth by the City of Smyrna ordinance governing the sale of alcohol.

Councilmember Pickens confirmed with the applicant, Nancy Covarrubias, that she has taken all necessary classes. He thanked her for doing business in Smyrna.

Councilmember Glenn Pickens made a motion to approve item LIC2024-020; seconded by Councilmember Travis Lindley.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Recuse:** 0 – None

## 9. Formal Business

- A. ATH2024-154** Authorization to amend the budget for project #314 to change all approved ARPA CIP projects titled Bridge Repairs and Maintenance to now include Bridge and Culvert Repairs and Maintenance and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

### **Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

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.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2024-154; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Recuse:** 0 – None

- B. ATH2024-159** Authorization to award Musco Sports Lighting, LLC (100 1st Avenue West – PO Box 808, Oskaloosa, IA, 52577) the Sports Field Lighting project in the amount of \$1,285,986.00, to be paid from FY22 SPLOST per Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #041123-MSLand authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.

### **Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

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.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2024-159; seconded by Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Recuse:** 0 – None

## 10. Consent Agenda

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

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Recuse:** 0 – None

**A. MIN2024-157 Approve the September 19, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. MIN2024-159 Approve the September 23, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. MIN2024-161 Approve the September 23, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting Minutes**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**D. AGR2024-045 Adopt & Execute 2023-2025 GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement Adoption Agreement and General Addendum *Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **ATH2024-158** Approval of Road Closures for the Installation of a Crosswalk Mural in front of City Hall from October 14th through October 17th between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
**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**

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

Councilmember Glenn Pickens thanked all who came out to the joint town hall. It was the last one of the year.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines stated that since the last meeting, many occurrences have taken place. She thanked Public Works, the Fire Department, and the Police Department who went above and beyond to make sure the City was safe. She mentioned that two police officers were shot, and she commended how the community has come together. She also thanked Cobb County Police for their assistance. And she announced that the Black History Month event will take place on February 28, 2025. More information to come.

Councilmember Travis Lindley stated they toured the 911 call center earlier today. He stated they do amazing work there. After the events unfolded the last two weeks, he wanted to extend a special thanks to Joe Bennett (City Administrator). He also mentioned that he, Councilmember Hines and Councilmember Oglesby attended the Cobb County Chamber Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon. Smyrna Fire and Police were recognized. And he said that he is looking forward to the birthday celebration October 12, 2024.

Councilmember Charles Welch expressed how fortunate we were during this past storm. He asked that everyone keep those less fortunate in their thoughts and prayers.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson encouraged all to come out to the birthday concert on October 12. She extended her thanks to staff for their hard work putting the event together. She also thanked Public Works for their hard work to weather the storm.

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould thanked staff, specifically Heather Peacon-Corn (City Clerk), for working with Cobb County Elections for setting up early voting. He also mentioned that he and the Mayor attended the Campbell High School Baseball Program fundraiser. He asked all to remember to support their local school programs. He said they had a great joint Ward meeting with 1 & 3. Que & Brew fundraiser Friday, October 18 at Taylor-Brawner Park..

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. stated in honor of breast cancer awareness month, Tracy Willis, a breast cancer survivor, is holding an event at Auntie's House Restaurant on October 19 at 1:00 PM. Ward 7 was affected by the storm with the river cresting. He thanked Paul Osburn and the Fire Department who kept all safe. In the spirit of public art,

the City of Smyrna is now a public art friendly community. He is very excited about the first artist, Lela Brunet, who will be featured. More art to come.

Heather Peacon-Corn, City Clerk, announced that Cobb County will be holding advanced voting on October 15 – 19, October 21 – 26, and October 28 – November 1 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. There will be a drop box located inside the Rec Room in the Community Center. All of this information can be found on both the Cobb County and City of Smyrna websites.

### 13. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the October 7, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting at 7:25 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**