

# 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

**March 11, 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 – Scott Cochran

**Staff:** 9 – Joe Bennett, Jill Head, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Eddie Matano, Mary Moore, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, and Joey Staubes

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

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

**A.** Pastor Dyke Verkerk, Life Church Assembly of God (4100 King Springs 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. PRC2024-005 Proclamation in Recognition of Women's History Month  
Ward 5 Councilmember – Susan Wilkinson  
Ward 2 Councilmember - Latonia P. Hines**

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines and Councilmember Susan Wilkinson read aloud the Women's History Month Proclamation and presented it to Library Director Mary Moore

#### A PROCLAMATION

By the Mayor of the City of Smyrna  
In Recognition of Women's History Month

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes that women of every race, class and ethnic background have made significant and historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes that women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home and by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force; and

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; and

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes American women who have served our country courageously in the military; and

**Whereas:** Women's History Month recognizes women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

**Whereas:** In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. Six years after the proclamation, Congress declared March of each year as Women's History Month; and

**Whereas:** The national theme for Women's History Month 2024 is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" as announced by the National Women's History Alliance, which spearheaded the movement for March being declared National Women's History Month. Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections with each other; NOW

**Therefore:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby recognize the month of March as Women's History Month to honor women everywhere for their outstanding achievements and invaluable contributions to society.

Mary Moore, Library Director, Smyrna Public Library and Friends of Smyrna Library are hosting a lecture this Saturday about notable women of Smyrna. May of the women are women of politics and philanthropy. Also, every Wednesday is Women's Wednesday.

## 7. Community Development Items

- A. **Z24-002** Public Hearing - Zoning Request - Z24-002 - Allow rezoning from GC to OI for a charter school - Land Lot 779 - 6.87 acres - 2200 Lake Park Drive - Amana Academy Inc.

**Ward 1 Councilmember - Glenn Pickens**

Councilmember Glenn Pickens made a motion to table to the March 25, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting item Z24-002; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

The motion to table to the March 25, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting 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

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

**9. Formal Business**

- A. CON2024-001** Authorization for the contract renewal of OpenGov, Inc. (660 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94107) in the amount of \$389,545.44 over three years through the end of 2026, as noted in the background, for permitting and licensing services for Community Development and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.  
**Citywide**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

Community Development has been utilizing OpenGov for permitting and licensing since 2022. Renewal of the contract is requested for an additional three years in the following amounts: \$123,567.15 for 2024, \$129,745.51 for 2025, and \$136,232.78 for 2026. Community Development recommends authorization for the contract renewal of OpenGov.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould made a motion to approve item CON2024-001; 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

- B. ATH2024-044**  
Request to Authorize Additional Services as requested by Baldwin Paving, 1014 Kenmill Drive NW, Marietta, GA, 30060, for soil remediation for Windy Hill Boulevard adjacent to the easterly bridge roadway in the amount of \$196,256.87 and authorize the Mayor to execute all related documents.  
**Ward 5 Councilmember - Susan Wilkinson**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

During regular inspection and testing prior to paving, the proof roll for the area under the easterly bridge was found to have inadequate bearing capacity, apparently due to a high water table. The geotechnical engineer hired to monitor and test for the project recommended several options for remediation – undercut and backfill with gravel/Geotech fabric, lime stabilization, and cement stabilization.

The PM and inspection team prefers to install cement stabilized subgrade because this would preclude time intensive undercut and replacement of unsuitable materials, and cement is a better stabilizing material than lime. It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to authorize Additional Services.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item ATH2024-044; seconded by Councilmember Charles Welch.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 1 – Councilmember Wilkinson  
**Recuse:** 0 – None

- C. **CNV2024-001** Convey a temporary construction easement to Foundry Watkins Property, LLC for construction and installation of a sanitary sewer easement across property owned by the city at the intersection of Nickajack Park Road and Oakdale Road and authorize the mayor to execute all related documents.  
***Ward 7 Councilmember - Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.***

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following background:

This temporary construction easement would allow Foundry Watkins Property, LLC to install a sanitary sewer line across property owned by the city. Upon completion, the sewer line within the city limits would be dedicated to the city. Foundry Watkins Property, LLC would also install a lateral sanitary sewer line from the proposed main sanitary sewer line to a clean out located approximately 10 feet from said main sewer line, such location to be approved and coordinated by designated city staff. Upon completion and dedication of such lateral sewer line, sewer would be available for future development of Grantor's Property for recreational use, at the option of Grantor. The sewer line would be parallel to an existing water line. Staff recommends conveyance of a temporary construction easement to Foundry Watkins Property, LLC.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby Jr. made a motion to approve item CNV2024-001; 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

## 10. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Latonia P. Hines.

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. MIN2024-029** Approval of the February 22, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
***Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- B. MIN2024-030** Approval of the February 26, 2024 Pre-Council Meeting Minutes  
***Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- C. MIN2024-031** Approval of the February 26, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes  
***Citywide***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D. ATH2024-042** Authorization of Road Closure at King Springs and South Cobb Drive beginning April 1st through April 5th for the installation of 12" main water line performed by KM Davis Contracting.  
***Ward 6 Councilmember – Tim Gould***  
***Ward 3 Councilmember – Travis Lindley***  
***Ward 5 Councilmember - Susan Wilkinson***

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- E. ATH2024-046** Approval for Atkins Park through event coordination by Redbird Events to hold the Annual Crawfish Boil - two days of New Orleans style crawfish/food and music themed festival - in the Market Village taking place in 2024 on Saturday, April 20 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (outdoor music ending at 10:00 p.m.), and Sunday, April 21 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (outdoor music ending at 10:00 p.m. - with setup beginning on the afternoon of Friday, April 19 with all event/festival items removed or out of sight by midnight on Sunday, April 21 for pickup on Monday, April 22, 2024. Approval includes associated street closure request conforming to work in tandem with the City of

Smyrna Jonquil City Jog on Saturday, April 20 am. Street closings include Market Village from S. Atlanta Rd to the end of the top traffic circle at the edge of the fountain area from 7:00 am until after the close and breakdown of the Jonquil City Jog around 10:00 /11:00 am on Saturday. Once the Jonquil City Jog has concluded, expansion of event space may move into the Market Village, but not prior. On Sunday, April 21, setup may begin at 7:00 am and include the Market Village from S. Atlanta Road toward City Hall. At least one cross way must remain open at all times to allow traffic to move between both parking area sides of the Market Village. The traffic circle will be open both Saturday and Sunday night ASAP after the last band has finished with all streets to open concluding event close and cleanup on Sunday, April 21.

**Ward 3 Councilmember - Travis Lindley**

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

## 11. Ward and Staff Reports

Councilmember Glenn Pickens thanked the Atlanta Track Club and the Smyrna Police Department for hosting the 10K this past weekend.

Councilmember Latonia P. Hines mentioned how wonderful it was to see the participants who are participating in this year's Citizens' Academy. She mentioned again that it is Women's History Month and that she and Laura Norton (Mayor Norton's wife), and Former Councilmember Kathy Young are coordinating a celebration to recognize women in Smyrna.

Councilmember Charles Welch announced that this Saturday is the paper shredding event from 9-12 at the Wolfe Center. And on May 4, 2024, this year's Garden Tours sponsored by Keep Smyrna Beautiful will be going on from 10-4.

Councilmember Susan Wilkinson wished Councilmember Welch a happy birthday and expressed that her favorite event is the Garden Tour he mentioned. She thanked all the women in the community who contribute to businesses and who volunteer.

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould mentioned that this past Thursday, the Education Committee hosted a roundtable with local school foundations to discuss successes. Approximately 35-40 people were in attendance. He also spoke about the Teach of the Year lunch (Jessye Coleman Council PTA) with 10 or 12 teachers in attendance who were recognized. Campbell High school will be holding a major fundraiser (golf outing) on April 22, and the Jonquil Jog will be held on April 20 which helps Support Smyrna and the Campbell High School Foundation.

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. mentioned he had the honor of volunteering at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Expo. He was proud to see so many successful students from Smyrna. He also wished all the Little Leaguers (track & field, baseball, softball, etc.) a great season,

## 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***

## 12. Public Comment

Debra Scott – 3464 Cedar Valley Ct (Ward 6) – She came forward to express concern about Lake Court Park, the dog park area, and the owners that put pronged or pinch collars on their dogs. Those collars can be and are harmful to other dogs as they have witnessed recently. She has asked that signage be changed to include “No Pronged or Pinch Collars.”

Mayor Norton told Ms. Scott the City would be happy to change the signage and make available enforcement of that.

Neal Ionnae – Had come to speak about the same issue about dog collars but felt that the issue had been addressed.

## 13. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the March 11, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting at 7:28 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