

# 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

**July 11, 2024  
6:30 PM**

## 1. Roll Call

**Present:** 4 – Mayor Derek Norton, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

**Absent:** 4 – Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, and Councilmember Charles Welch

**Also Present:** 1 – Scott Cochran

**Staff:** 13 – Tyler Addison, Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Louis Defense, Robert Early, Richard Garland, Russell Martin, Paul Osburn (virtual), Heather Peacon-Corn, Eric Randall (virtual), Kristin Robinson, Joey Staubes, and Mark Wolff

## Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the July 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the HR Training Room at 6:31 PM.

## 2. Staff M&C Agenda Items to Review

Jennifer Bennett, Community Relations Director, briefly discussed item AGR2024-031. The City of Smyrna has been working with Mitch Leff & Associates since July 2023 with the initial contract/agreement period expiring in December 2023. This Letter of Agreement formalizes the ongoing working relationship and scope of work. The agreement is effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with terms as outlined in the Letter of Agreement with monthly rate below budget, and includes clear terms for termination and/or adjustment due to change in scope of work.

## 3. Formal Business and Presentations

### A. COW2024-035 Universal Concepts – Christmas Light Presentation [Smyrna Clip-1080p30.MOV](#)

Richard Garland, Interim Asst. City Administrator/Parks & Recreation Director, introduced Universal Concepts who presented a brief clip of examples of what they could do for

Christmas lights in the downtown area. Mr. Garland noted that there will be no changes for downtown. A small change would be a lighted ornamental sleigh rather than the ceramic sleigh. There will be dancing lights on several different trees throughout downtown. There will be an 80 foot RGB (programmable lights) tunnel. Universal Concepts will do all installation and store everything. Mayor Norton would like to have lights for the new greenspace.

#### 4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

##### A. COW2024-037 Review of the July 15, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Derek Norton reviewed the July 15, 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting agenda. He noted that Councilmembers Gould and Welch will not be in attendance.

**Item ATH2024-093:** Joe Bennett, City Administrator stated that this is a request for authorization to approve the following change in scope of work outlined in Work Order 2024-01-Rev1

- Requesting the removal from the original approved scope to remove ECM5 LED Lighting for all Park Ball Fields, Batting Cages and Pool. At a cost reduction of \$2,316,297.00
- Requesting an additional increase to scope ECM4 Switchgear, Transformers, Generators, ATSS. At a cost increase of \$1,775,650.00
- Requesting the modification and scope change of the original approved amount of \$10,735,243.00 to now \$10,194,596.00 with a cost savings of \$540,647.00 to the overall project amount not to exceed.

This request was based off findings as GA Power started performing engineering for the new generators it was found that the current ones do not service the main essential functions of Fire Stations 1 – 5, Police Department / Jail, & Public Works as they should be the essential facilities of the city. The new generators will service the entire facility at each location. If a catastrophic event were to arise the facilities would operate without interruption.

**Item RFP24-032:** Richard Garland, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that this request was brought to the mayor and council months back without formal approval. Due to purchasing policy constraints, it required us to follow the purchasing policy due to cost. Staff discussed and agreed, being this is permanent lighting that we incorporate into the holiday lighting RFP to see if there was potential for economy of scale which we did. It was determined once we received the bids back that there were no real cost savings and now has been separated from the holiday lighting altogether. This is a 1-time request to be paid from 2022 SPLOST. The general ongoing maintenance will be added to B&G operational budget.

**Item RFQ24-035:** Eric Randall, Public Works Director, stated the City of Smyrna requested bids for the Riverlands Trail Streambank Stabilization. The purpose of this project is to stabilize the bank of the Chattahoochee River in the area by re-grading the slope and installing a vegetated concrete mat and live stakes. Eight (8) bids were received on Friday, June 21, 2024, and the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is SCA Construction in the amount of \$394,984.55.

**Item AGR2024-029:** Joe Bennett, City Administrator, stated the City of Austell, Georgia has requested the City of Smyrna, Georgia to host Austell's Mobile Field Reporting (MFR)

and Records Management System (RMS) systems within Smyrna's existing servers. These public safety software systems will allow Austell's police department to create police reports and store it electronically. Utilizing Smyrna's existing IT infrastructure will allow Austell to avoid the initial upfront cost and time to acquire servers that would run those systems. The agreement will take effect once it is approved and is valid for 5 years unless the agreement is terminated by means stated in the Intergovernmental Agreement. The City of Austell has agreed to pay the City of Smyrna an annual rate of \$1,000 compensation to cover the expenses related to hosting these systems.

**5. Other Business / Staff Comment**

Joe Bennett, City Administrator, provided the following updates:

- Received proposal from Pond to rework splashpad and restroom – signed and moving forward to next step.
- Three-hour meeting about service delivery – Next Wednesday & Thursday is mediation with Cobb County.

Mayor Pro Tem Gould thanked Russell Martin, Community Development Director, for attending their town hall the previous Sunday.

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

**A. 2024-206 Enter into Executive Session**

Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. made a motion Enter into Executive Session to discuss Legal at 7:00 PM; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem/Councilmember Tim Gould.

The motion Enter into Executive Session carried with the following vote:

- Aye:** 3 – Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 4 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch

**B. 2024-208 Return to Regular Session**

Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould made a motion Return to Regular Session at 7:45 PM; seconded by Councilmember Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr.

The motion Return to Regular Session carried with the following vote:

- Aye:** 3 – Councilmember Wilkinson, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Gould, Councilmember Oglesby  
**Nay:** 0 – None  
**Absent:** 4 – Councilmember Pickens, Councilmember Hines, Councilmember Lindley, Councilmember Welch

## 7. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the July 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:45 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**