

Pre-Council Meeting – 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)
Kathy Young (Ward 7)

Smyrna Community Center
Oak Room
200 Village Green Circle
Smyrna, GA 30080

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

December 04, 2023
6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: 7 – Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould, Councilmember Glenn Pickens, Councilmember Latonia P. Hines, Councilmember Travis Lindley, Councilmember Charles Welch, Councilmember Susan Wilkinson, Councilmember Kathy Young

Also Present: 1 – Jeffrey Tucker

Absent: 1 – Mayor Derek Norton

Staff: 3 – Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, and Russell Martin

2. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould called to order the December 4, 2023 Pre-Council meeting held at the Smyrna Community Center in the oak Room at 6:30 PM.

3. Formal Business and Presentations

4. Review of Current M&C Agenda

A. PRE2023-028 Review of the December 4, 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Gould reviewed the December 4, 2023 Mayor and Council meeting agenda.

Brief discussion took place regarding tabling the PoolPak item (2023-223) in order to purchase the equipment first which will take approximately 20 weeks for delivery. While waiting for the equipment, the City will bid out for installation and have an installer ready when the equipment arrives.

Brief explanation of item ATH2023-55 for the City’s Worker’s Compensation Program, Joe Bennet, City Administrator, stated that because the HR team is short-staffed and does not have a designated person for Worker’s Comp issues, the best alternative is to contract through the City’s insurance plan that has devoted resources which reduces the City’s exposure and allows the City to gain a risk management team.

No further discussion took place.

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

Councilmember Welch asked how short-staffed the police department currently is. Mr. Bennett stated they are around 10-12 short. Mr. Welch asked if there is anything further that can be done to promote the police department better. Discussion took place about how most neighboring communities are also very short-staffed, the many efforts the City has taken to retain officers already (pay increases, better benefits, bonuses, retirement, etc.), the continued negative culture surrounding police officers.

Councilmember Lindley mentioned the Highland Rivers open house. They offer many services, and he encouraged everyone to visit and see all they have done and all that they do in the community. It is geared toward youth populations but not exclusively, and they are very engaged in Cobb County.

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

- Drywall is up on Council Chambers
- Pressure is being put on the vendor who is providing soundproofing panels
- Administration hall is nearly ready for everyone to move in
- Village Green Park – pad for the stage has been poured

6. Executive Session (As Needed)

7. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Gould adjourned the December 4, 2023 Pre-Council meeting at 6:51 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**