



City Council Meeting - Final

August 07, 2023

7:00 PM

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- G. **MIN2023-076** Approval of the August 3, 2023 6:30 PM Special Called Council Meeting
Minutes
Citywide

Special Called Meeting Action Items – 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)

A Max Bacon City Hall
HR Training Room
2800 King Street SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

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

August 03, 2023 / 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, Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould, and Councilmember Kathy Young

Also Present: 1 – Scott Cochran

Staff: 13 – Jennifer Bennett, Joe Bennett, Dan Campbell, Anthony Carter, Dustin Davey, Adam Dodd, Dat Luu, Russell Martin, Panny Mocerri, Paul Osburn, Heather Peacon-Corn, Kristin Robinson, and Keith Zgonc

2. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Norton called to order the August 3, 2023 Special Called City Council meeting held at A. Max Bacon City Hall in the HR Training Room at 6:30 PM.

3. Formal Business

- A. **2023-150** Public Hearing and adoption of the 2023 Millage rate and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents.
Citywide

Mayor Derek Norton opened the public hearing.

Gregory Brown, 508 Micayne Circle, came forward and read aloud from a prepared statement. The following are highlights from his statement:

1. Increase Revenue Sources – local sales tax increases, tourism taxes, etc.
2. Economic Development – EV charging stations, manufacturing, etc.
3. Implement Cost-Saving Measures – energy efficient initiatives, public-private partnerships, etc.
4. Collaborate with Regional Partners – share services like public transportation or waste management, etc.
5. Engage in Long-Term Financial Planning – regular financial assessments, multi-year budget plans, etc.

6. See Community Input and Transparency – engage with businesses and the community, etc.
7. No increase in millage rate should be implemented

Mayor Norton thanked Mr. Brown for his thoughts. He explained that many of the suggestions Mr. Brown made are good and are already being implemented, and Mayor Norton stressed that the millage rate is not increasing for homesteaded properties. It has been at 8.99 since around 2004, but the state legislature requires that a tax increase be advertised if the City keeps the millage rate the same but the tax digest grows. There will be no increase for homestead exempted properties. The confusing wording is prescribed by the legislature.

Mr. Brown added that he would like the City to do a better job of communicating the good things that are happening in the City because so many residents are not aware of the measures that are being taken to save money.

Mayor Norton closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Travis Lindley made a motion to approve item 2023-150, a public hearing and adoption of the 2023 Millage Rate and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all related documents; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem / Councilmember Tim Gould.

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 Young
Nay: 0 – None
Recuse: 0 – None

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment

Mayor Derek Norton adjourned the August 3, 2023 Special Called City Council meeting at 6:40 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