

Regular Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation – Reverend Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Clerk Raquel D. González made the general announcements and called the roll.

Mayor Rusty Paul – present.

Council Members present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Tibby DeJulio and Council Member Andy Bauman.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

One (1) public comment card was received for the Tuesday, January 5, 2021 City Council meeting. The public comment is attached to the meeting agenda and the meeting minutes.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved that the meeting agenda be approved for Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Council Member Reichel seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2021-001 Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020 City Council Work Session

December 15, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

B. 2021-002 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Acceptance of a Temporary Driveway Easement on Property Located in Land Lot 32 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs

2021-01-01 RES

Motion and Vote: Council Member Bauman moved that the consent agenda be approved for Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Council Member Burnett seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2021-003 Presentation of the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Toni Jo Howard, Finance Director introduced **Adam Fraley, Engagement Partner, Mauldin & Jenkins. CPAs & Advisors**, who provided a brief overview of Mauldin & Jenkin's audit responsibilities. City management, the Finance Department and all other staff fully cooperated during the audit. There were no significant issues discussed with management. Mauldin & Jenkins is an independent firm in accordance with AICPA professional standards. There were no Findings that the Auditing Standards would require be cited. There are Management Points that did not raise to a level of a Finding. It is recommended that the Municipal Court continue to monitor the Subsidiary Ledger. The second Management Points pertained to the Tree Fund whose accounting relates to GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) Statement No. 54. GASB Statement No. 54 defines the requirements of special revenue funds. It is recommended that the City update the wording to comply with the accounting standards so that the fund is reported in accordance with GAAP, in that the revenue resources of the fund be committed to specific purposes. State of Georgia requires that all deposits of the City be insured or collateralized at 110% of the value of the account. There was one CD that was not properly collateralized at one of the banks. Although considered immaterial, state law does require that there has to be a budget adopted for every special revenue fund and it was noted the Federal Grants special revenue fund did not have a budget adopted during the year. While this fund had minimal activity during the year, it was recommended that a budget be adopted for the General Special Revenue Funds. The new GASB Pronouncements for future years are highlighted, their implementation dates are noted. Due to the pandemic, there is a delay of a year on most of these. In Other Matters, there is a list of changes that the GASB is working on having to do with the financial reporting of the City.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked Mr. Fraley to establish his familiarity with the history of the City's audits. Also, the City has had a change of City Manager during the past fiscal year, a change of CFO, and has gone from outsourcing many service providers to in-sourcing employees. These changes are significant. To what extent do they factor into the review and what examination is required? After the pandemic ends, can we do a deep dive look back on the qualitative and quantitative results of this situation?

Mr. Fraley stated he is aware of the changes in management related to the City. All of which does go into their consideration when assessing risks for the audit. The firm is very familiar with Ms. Toni Jo Howard and her abilities as they have worked together in other governments. When we talk about significant issues, they are issues that need to be overcome or have an adverse effect on the impact of the audit and the audit process. All of these things are considered, but they do not rise to significant difficulties encountered giving the audit.

Council Member Bauman asked if now that the City has fewer outsourced contracts is there an increase in the volume of material of the inputs for the auditors to review.

Mr. Fraley replied that the main goal of the audit is to ensure that the financial statements are materially correct. It does not look at necessarily whether things are in-house versus outsourced, we audit the transactions to ensure that the balances as reported in the financial statements relative to expenditures, assets, liabilities, are materially correct for the benefit of Council and citizens of the City of Sandy Springs.

Council Member Bauman asked how, if at all, the scope of work that has been assigned to their firm has changed in the past year or years; and, if there is a change of scope of work, is that something that would by protocol, be reported to the Council or Audit Committee. He is very interested in changes over the years in scope of work and what confidence we would have that those changes are reported to the Council so that we are receiving an 'apples to apples' review. He asked that scope of work be discussed over the recent year and over the recent several years.

Mr. Fraley stated that the audit presented here is a financial statements audit and the single audit. There was a Single Audit this year; there have been some years where there was not a Single Audit performed. That is the most common scope of work but it is all audit, Financial Statement and Single Audit. If you are referring to things that are outside of the scope of the audit for which we have done separate engagements, we have done some procedures like Agreed- Upon Procedures. That is a technical term within their profession. We've done some separate projects like that. If the City is involved with issuing debt, we may be involved with those debt offerings as far as reviewing the official statements and providing either an Agreed-Upon Procedures letter or Consent Letter. There have been some out of the audit scope.

Council Member Bauman asked is there a standard or stock or minimum scope of work that would be industry standard, municipal standard, that we, as a body, can have assurance that that scope of work is put in play each and every year and is there a protocol where, in their professional opinion, feel like the scope is somewhat insufficient. There is no specific allegation. We want to make sure the Council understands the boundaries of the report being presented. Is there a standard and if the scope were to change, would that be something, particularly if it were in a way that they would feel was insufficient to deliver us the clear award winning report that we seem to get every year. Is there any protocol or assurance to this Council that we would be notified of any change of scope that would raise concern?

Mr. Fraley reported that there are standards that have to be followed. There are the Auditing Standards, generally accepted in the United States of America. There are also Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO). These are the standards and then we go from planning to conduct to final reporting. Those are the minimum standards auditors are bound by. As far as any insufficiency, the City has received an 'unmodified' (it used to be an 'unqualified') type of report every year since its incorporation, which is good. That is 99% of the time; the times when you would not have something like that, as an example, would be that if we felt like a balance was reported incorrectly and management was not willing to change that. We would then have to 'modify' their report. Or, if information was presented correctly but we were unable to audit because of insufficient information; we've never had that with the City of Sandy Springs.

Council Member Bauman asked if there are other reports that provide the scope of the engagement as part of the report. If the Council wanted to see the engagement made part of the report, is that something that is commonly done or not commonly done? There is a presumed engagement letter? Would that ordinarily be made part of the report, or certainly the piece of that engagement letter that reflects the scope of work? There is a scope and a price, is that correct? Would this engagement letter ordinarily be made a part of the public record or not? If the Council requested that, it would be provided, correct? To compare from year to year to determine if there have been any changes. Has the scope has changed over the last few years?

Mr. Fraley said the audit engagement letter is obtained every year. Absolutely, that could be provided. That would typically be the request of the Finance Office. The firm can provide an analysis on peer group cities as their firm performs audits for over 500 governments in Georgia. This definitely an analysis that could be performed.

Council Member Bauman asked, in reference to the pie graph of the expenditures, and then, is there a metric that can be shared that would show how these percentages, i.e., 48% for Public Safety, 2% for Judicial, General Government 21%, how those compare for peer group cities.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked in the auditor reporting the number of cities their firm audits, where does Sandy Springs fit in size compared to the other municipalities that their firm audits. In terms of best practices, it has always been our goal to have Sandy Springs be at the very top of the list in terms of

performance in everything that we do. So that when we are compared with some of those larger municipalities, are there certain things that your firm does in your audit process that perhaps are not being done for Sandy Springs? Are there recommendations that Mr. Fraley or the City Manager or the Finance Director might recommend we begin doing going forward so that we can assure the citizens that we are getting the best and as much information as we can so that our City is up there comparable to other larger municipalities your firm is working with?

Mr. Fraley stated that the City of Sandy Springs comes in as a little larger than average. Size is measured in different ways. They look at population; budget size of the government; transactions of the government. We audit governments from the size of Gwinnett County to the size of XYZ, and everything in between. We have that niche in our firm. Presented is the City's Financial Statement Audit, and the State of Georgia requires a Financial Statement Audit. We all know these days that things like cybersecurity is a very hot topic, and it is a hot topic for a reason because it is a very big risk. A lot of entities, as well as governments, are being faced with that risk. That is an area that, as an independent auditor, he would recommend to any clients. State law requires to have audits over what is presented and what is prepared by the Finance staff. Obviously, the City has staff in place related to IT and cybersecurity function, but in a city handling public funds, down the road that may be an area where law may actually require more independent review, monitoring, etc. related to that. The City has gotten very good audit reports. The City grew very fast from 2005 to 2020. There could also be an Operational Assessment, which gets outside the bounds of the Financial Statement Audit. Looking at the Operations, looking more at the internal controls, doing a GAP Analysis to assist the municipal government. The firm does provide these type services; they have teams that are just governmental versed in those type of services; separate teams that have all the certifications and know all the cybersecurity and IT related stuff. The firm also has an advisory practice, led by another partner that just does operational advisory services.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated that it has become clear there is a gap between what Council and he thought we had been getting traditionally and what we maybe really need. Basically, you are telling us that what they told you is what they told you. We maybe need, with no reflection on any of our management team, it would be worthwhile for us to take a look and make sure that we are getting more than just the basics. Maybe not every year, but on a random fairly recent periods of time that we at least dig in and look a little bit deeper to make sure we are getting all the information that Council needs to make wise decisions about our financial steps. We will ask the City Manager and Finance Director to meet and bring forward some recommendations on how this could be done.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING – none.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021-004** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of a Contract with SD&C, Inc. to Construct Roberts Drive Sidewalk Project, TS171, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract

Marty Martin, Public Work Director stated that the project consists of 1020' of curb and gutter, 6' sidewalk and 2' landscape buffer from immediately south of Northridge Road, tying into the sidewalk system in front of the Davis Academy campus. An invitation to bid for this project was issued September 17, 2020. Nine contractors provided bid by the October 8, 2020 closing date. A review of the bids discovered that two of the bidders were non-GDOT pre-qualified, as was a stated requirement within the ITB. Therefore the two contractors were disqualified. Further in post-bid receipt interviews and a request for additional document with Sol Construction, the contractor decided to withdraw their bid and the withdrawal was accepted. With that, SD&C was the apparent low bidder. In comparing SD&C's bid of

\$327,215.00 with the engineer's construction cost estimate of \$393,786.50, the work and the cost of the project, proved favorable to the City, therefore staff recommends moving forward with award to SD&C Construction.

Council Member John Paulson asked does the project include handrail or guardrail, and if so, what is the length.

Director Martin replied this is handrail associated with a drop-off on the sidewalk where you have to provide pedestrians. There will be a portion with some turned down sidewalk. With regard to the disqualified contractors, although specifications are outlined in the RFP, sometimes there are contractors who enter a bid that do not meet all the qualifications. People are always interested in doing business with us, which is reflected in the nine bids.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked for an update on the Brandon Mill project.

Director Martin stated the staff attorney that is working with all parties involved. As of tonight, we have secured the site, the Brandon Mill sidewalk site, while we reconcile the dispute in play between us and the contractor. When he says secured the site, we safed-up the slope cut with backfill, we have protected the utilities that were exposed so that water service to the residents is not interrupted with freezing temperatures. We have basically gotten the site stable and secure and we are working through discussions with all parties involved right now.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Paulson moved that agenda item 2021-004, Approval of Contract with SD&C, Inc. to Construct Roberts Drive Sidewalk Project, TS171, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract. Council Member Reichel seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-02 RES

- B. 2021-005** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Contract Award to Ohmshiv Construction for the Construction of the Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement Project, TS105, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract

Marty Martin, Public Works Director presented this project TS105, Roswell Road at Groans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement project. At approximately \$4M, this will create a signalized intersection on Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road, as well as dividing medians, pedestrian improvement, streetscape lighting, etc. to make a far more efficient stretch of Roswell Road, as well as much safer. The Invitation to Bid was advertised on October 28, 2020, with a pre-bid meeting held on November 10, 2020. Bids were received on December 3, 2020. Included within the scope of work are: 1. Site grading and retaining walls; 2. Roadway construction; 3. Sidewalks; 4. Curb and gutter; 5. Traffic signal installation; 6. Pedestrian scale lighting and landscaping; and 7. Erosion control measures. The City received bids from four bidders. Upon review of those bids, and as compared to the engineers construction cost estimate of \$3.5M, we found that an additional line item used in the engineer's original estimate, a 10% contingency line, remained within the bid document as provided to the construction contractor's bidding on the project. Staff reviewed all bids against the engineer's construction cost estimate and determined that the difference in bids can be attributed to increased material costs. Additionally, staff contacted the references of the low bidder to verify that the contractor has performed work of the same scale and magnitude successfully in the past three years. With the removal of that additional 10% contingency, as estimated figure, the final bids are adjusted accordingly, with Ohmshiv Construction being the apparent and recommended low bidder. In response to

the requirements outlined in the bid documents, Ohmshiv Construction provided the most responsive and responsible bid for the project construction at a cost of \$3,594,792.00. Staff recommends a contract award to Ohmshiv Construction for the construction of the Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement Project (TS105). The project will be a significant undertaking. Because of some of the associated widening to create turn lanes and to allow turn lanes at the new signalized intersection, there will be major utility relocations associated with this project, which will take place during construction. The overall schedule allowed within the contract is 18 months, including the utility relocations. The contractor will receive a Notice to Proceed within the next 45-60 days. Depending on permits and coordination, we hope to see work begin within the next 60 days.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Soteres moved that agenda item 2021-005, Approve a Contract Award to Ohmshiv Construction for the Construction of the Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement Project, TS105, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract. Council Member Paulson seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-03 RES

- C. 2021-006** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of the Use of Eminent Domain for the Appropriation of Certain Property Rights and Interests Located at 5330 Northside Drive NW, Fulton County, Georgia (Parcel ID 17 0204 LL0032)

Dan Lee, City Attorney reported this is the last property that will complete the project. This property owner is against the project and will not make a counter-offer. The appraised value is \$102,400.00 and the parts of the required deed consists of 7,562.62 square feet of right-of-way, 905.45 square feet of permanent easement, and 5,110.16 square feet (aggregate) of temporary easement. In order for the project to proceed, we recommend the use of eminent domain to gain the property, as the home owner has an attorney and the property owner refuses to counter-offer.

Council Member John Paulson asked has the Public Works teams looked at alternative ways of putting the retention structure there, given the slope on the southwest side of this property. Is it the least option to the property?

Public Works Director Marty Martin replied that from our last meeting, we discussed the northwest quadrant and we developed the least invasive structural solution for that retaining wall, which was 20-22 feet of rise for the wall in the northwest quadrant. This is the parcel to the north of that parcel. In this case, there is drainage, so this will fall on a portion of the parcel to the south. Most of this is a wooded corner, somewhat remote from the residence itself. It seems any improvement, along the roadway frontage, appears to be the opposition of the property owner here. Given the wooded lot and relatively significant distances from the roadway to the residence, staff does not see any direct impacts or significant loss of buffer. Much different than the property on the northeast quadrant of the intersection, where we discussed mitigating costs because of the loss of a significant portion of that homeowner's backyard. In that case, we did make recommendation for adequate compensation. That is the neighbor diagonally opposed to this current homeowner. They were on agreement with us on the compensable amount offered to them for those repairs. This corrects a long-standing site distance issue where oncoming traffic cannot be seen without this traffic circle.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked is the homeowner adverse to the overall traffic circle project or is this more of a disagreement on price and value. Do we get pretty far into this homeowner's front yard or do we get close to his home? As a city we do not want to 'take' property. Hopefully, we will find a

resolution before it goes to the end of the process. This is an important TSPLOST project and it is a safety issue as well.

City Attorney Lee stated that the homeowner has refused to speak to the City Attorney. The process is the acquisition firm, then the staff, and if that is exhausted, it comes to Legal. He has employed an attorney, who sent a letter in response to the City's inquiry to say that he is adamantly opposed to the project.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Bauman moved that agenda item 2021-006, Consideration of the Use of Eminent Domain for the Appropriation of Certain Property Rights and Interests Located at 5330 Northside Drive NW, Fulton County, Georgia (Parcel ID 17 0204 LL0032). Council Member Burnett seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-04 RES

- D. 2021-007** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Set Qualifying Fees for the Sandy Springs Municipal Elections

City Clerk Raquel Gonzalez presented that the City's Municipal Election for the Mayor and each City Council seats will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. State law requires that the City fix and publish its qualifying fees for each office by February 1, 2021. For each office the qualifying fee is 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding year. As noted in the agenda packet's member, 3% of the current annual salary of \$40,000.00 for Mayor, or \$1,200.00 and 3% of the current annual salary of \$18,000.00 for each Council seat, or \$540.00. The City's qualifying period has typically ran a full work week. Once these fees are approved by Council, they will then be published in our legal organ to meet the state's requirements. The qualifying will begin Monday, August 16 and the dates will be published as we draw closer to the election. The City will post and make available the needed documentation for candidates at that time

Motion and Vote: Council Member Reichel moved that agenda item 2021-007, Consideration of a Resolution to Set Qualifying Fees for the Sandy Springs Municipal Elections. Council Member DeJulio seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-05 RES

- E. 2021-008** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Contract Award for Synthetic Turf Replacement at Hammond Park; to Approve Fund Transfer for Project Budget Deficit; and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract and an Ordinance to Authorize Amending the City of Sandy Springs FY2021 Budget to Authorize a Transfer Between Projects

Michael Perry, Director of Recreation and Parks presented that the 12-year old synthetic turf at Hammond Park has exceeded its normal life span. We received five responses to the November 24, 2020 Invitation to Bid. The project scope is to improve the safety of the play surface, the playability of the surface, the draining and water quality underneath, as well as improve the aesthetics and visibility of that area. In addition to requesting bids for the base bids, the City included two alternates. One would be a dual fiber synthetic product which is a different type of construction in the turf field. The second alternative is more significant, it is a 'cool fiber technology' that when installed it actually cools the temperature up to 20 degrees. We did procure a solicitation of the most qualified firms we could locate. There were five quotes provided. The first bidder, Sport Turf Co. Inc., who had the apparent low bid did not meet our specifications

as their fiber did not meet our specifications. The determined low bidder is Sprinturf, LLC at the price of \$386,440.00. The range of the quotes were from \$380K up to almost \$800K.

The next portion of our discussion is regarding monies. The project is within Account P0007 for Hammond Park Improvements, which in essence contained two large projects. The first project being the award from 2-3 weeks ago for the erosion and stormwater improvements to the park. The erosion control, like the turf replacement, came in at costs higher than designer projections. For this reason, and to fully fund the turf replacement, a budget transfer from Capital Improvements Project Account P0009 (Overlook Park Streambank Restoration) in the amount of \$50K is recommended. We are far enough along in P0009 to know that if the transfer of \$50K is approved, adequate funds will still remain in P0009 to address engineering, design plans, permitting and construction needs within that project.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Burnett moved that agenda item 2021-008, Approval of an Ordinance to Authorize Amending the City of Sandy Springs FY2021 budget to authorize a transfer between projects as outlined above. Council Member DeJulio seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-01 ORD

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked how long the park will be shut down. Are there other alternatives for the sports teams and organizations that use the facility? Also, what is the life expectancy of that the new turf?

Director Perry responded that the park will be shut down for approximately six months. We have posted this information on the field, have gotten the word out with the newspaper. It is also listed on our website. We have been able to accommodate everyone who needs space at either Dunwoody Springs Elementary School or Morgan Falls. The industry average for turf's lifespan is eight years. We have found that if taken care of adequately, we can expect it will last 8-10 years. The recommended firm will complete both of the bid alternative items. Cool fiber technology has been out, not as long as the synthetic turf technology, but enough time to have a reputation of durability. Part of the care process is going in a 'grooming' the filler periodically and at the proper level amounts but it does have to be supplemented as it should.

Council Member Reichel asked if pickle ball courts will be built in Sandy Springs.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Reichel moved that agenda item 2021-008, Approval of a Resolution to Approve Contract Award for Synthetic Turf Replacement at Hammond Park and to authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract. Council Member DeJulio seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-01-06 RES

IX. REPORTS

A. 2021-009 Mayor and Council Reports

Mayor Rusty Paul stated that the Small Business Assistance Program received 170 applicants. The review committee is reviewing the applications for compliance with the program requirements and the businesses will be notified in February regarding the status of their requests. The deadline for the non-profit organizations submittal is January 28, 2021. Program information can be found on the City's website. Secondly, Dr. Looney and members of the Fulton County School Board will be guests at the January 19,

2021 City Council meeting. Also, the 15th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is on January 18th. We will have to do this digitally this year. We have created a video tribute which will feature our children; the video will go live on MLK Day and be linked from the website. It will be a real opportunity for us to pause, think about Dr. King's message and mission and also what we are doing here in Sandy Springs. Recommendations for the commission was discussed as an off-shoot and carryover from the Civic Dinners will be brought to the January 19 meeting. The Commission will be comprised of a diverse group of 8-10 people. And finally, the approval and disbursement of vaccines is good news. The challenge is we have had a huge spike of COVID cases in the state. Dr. Del Rio from Emory and Dr. Schmidt reported there have been approximately 5,000 hospitalizations across the state as a result of COVID-19. They shared that the vaccines are not going to get here fast enough to roll back the current wave of infections. Everyone over the age of 65 is encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The governor's Executive Order accelerated the 65-and-older vaccination, bringing them into Tier 1a. It may be another couple of weeks before we have enough vaccine here to begin. We need extra vigilance. Wear your mask. Avoid large gatherings. Follow all the sanitary procedures. This current wave may end up being worse than the one in the spring. The newest variant strain of the virus is more contagious, not necessarily more deadly, but is easier to catch.

B. 2021-010 Staff Reports

Fire Chief Keith Sanders reported that as of 5:00 p.m., he spoke with the county officials, as well as the Medical Director. Hospitals are at capacity. The Georgia World Congress Center opened this afternoon, which has 25 beds. They are almost full. They hope to add five more by tomorrow. Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Watch your distance. It is critically important. The state is close to having an online vaccine registration portal. The Communications Department will share the information when it is available. We are currently at the latter part of Phase 1a. About 40% of Sandy Springs Fire Department personnel volunteered to take the vaccines. The vaccines will be available to our police officers and Fire and Police administrative staff on Monday, January 11. Fulton County EMA has announced the 65 & older group should be notified in the next two weeks that the vaccine will be available to them as well. This changes information daily. The City has offered the new Public Safety facility to be a location for the administration of the vaccine. We have volunteered our paramedics to be a part of that administration and we are in the top three in locations as they begin to receive more of the vaccine. We do not have to worry about refrigeration, as we have been told by Fulton County EMA Director Matthew Kallmyer that they will be able to keep the vaccines cool at a location they have, then give us the number of vaccines to be able to administer from that location over the next three weeks.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated GMA has discussed the shortage of personnel to administer the vaccines. A lot of areas are having to make the choice of either testing or administering the vaccines.

Chief Sanders stated the City Manager has fully endorsed the use of the City's paramedics to be utilized during the administration and training. It will require an investment from our City to pay for their overtime. This is a matter of expediently putting those vaccines out there and we have the staff to do it. Dr. Alexander Isakov, with Emory Clinic, the vaccine is effective for 19 different. The vaccine does not prevent a person from getting COVID but it gives them the survivability without having deadly symptoms and catastrophic outcomes.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated he supports the expenditure of money to utilize the City's paramedics to train to administer the vaccine. The Communications Department should continue to communicate the three W's. The information from the GMA call has been very troubling. There needs to be outreach to the city's Hispanic community to provide information about the vaccines, etc. Perhaps add a 'big, bold button' on the City's website with vaccine information as to where, when, how.

Chief Sanders stated once people receive their first shot, you get a packet, then you are either given a card with your next appointment or will receive a text. Everyone who is eligible should take the vaccine, whether they have had COVID or not.

Mayor Paul remarked that some of the smaller counties are not having problems, but Fulton County, being one of the largest counties, is having some difficulty in rolling out this vaccine.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio reported Fulton County Board of Health is taking applications for people in the 1a Phase, and are scheduling for vaccinations around January 11th.

City Manager Andrea Surratt reminded Council and staff of the **2021 Mayor / City Council Planning Retreat** on January 26, 2021, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This will be conducted in the virtual environment. City Council, Mayor and senior staff will be housed in the 3rd floor Ballroom area and the meeting will be conducted from there via Zoom.

Mayor Paul stated that the mayors are meeting with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on Friday, January 8, 2021 and one of the major topics of discussion will be the renewal of the TSPLOST. As soon as the information is available, a briefing will be held to discuss a proposal.

XII. Executive Session

A. 2021-011 Real Estate

Motion and Vote: Council Member Paulson moved to suspend Regular order and enter into Executive Session for the purposes of real estate discussions. Council Member DeJulio seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. Executive Session began at **7:48 p.m.**

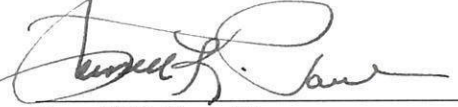
Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved adjourn Executive Session and return to the Regular Session. Council Member Reichel seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. Executive Session ended at **8:05 p.m.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

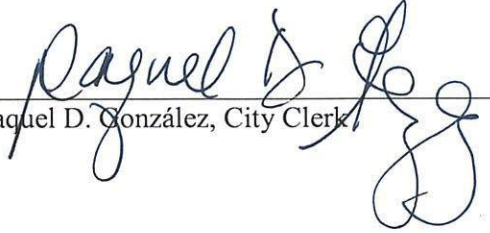
Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved adjourn the meeting. Council Member Paulson seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **8:05 pm.**

Dated approved: January 19, 2021.



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk