

Regular Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation

Rabbi Yossi New of Congregation Beth Tefillah provided the invocation.

II. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

III. Roll Call and General Announcements

Members Present: Mayor Rusty Paul, Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andrew Bauman

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rusty Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Public Comment

Three public comment cards were received.

Allan Chanaberry - No response

Tricia Gephardt stated I am grateful to the Council for offering the opportunity for public comment. I want to speak about the proposal that Councilperson Bauman suggested at the last meeting. I am glad I was able to see the proceedings on the posted recording and hope the city will continue to offer that option. As a mom with school aged children, it is not easy to attend meetings, but I am interested in my community. I was appointed to serve on the Charter Review Commission and we finished our review last month. The Commission members debated and investigated many issues including pay increase and benefits offered to mayor and council positions. Compensation and benefits are important issues and I applaud Councilperson Bauman for continuing the conversation with the Council. Since the chairperson of our Charter Review Commission said that it was not within our purview to talk about benefits, we focused on a pay increase instead. The Commission unanimously agreed to send a recommendation to the legislature for an increase. I was very interested in the presentation by Councilperson Bauman and appreciate the research from the Sandy Springs City Manager who informed us about surrounding cities and the benefits they offer. I was surprised that the issue raised so much controversy in the ensuing discussion among council members because the city would only be offering the option to seven people – mayor and council members. How could that be a bad thing? If one of our elected officials needs to participate in the benefits program offered, that would be a good thing for them and I want them to be happy, healthy and able to make good decisions for our community. The members of the City Council and the Mayor are important and challenging positions. I have an incredible amount of respect for the decisions they make in our growing and vibrant city. The budgets and scope of the work is increasing. Compensation also allows the citizens to hold elected representatives accountable and ensure that there is transparency and no corruption. In the Charter meetings, I found comments from current council members about their compensation to be short sighted. The mayor did not appear before our commission to offer his support or advice. Some council

members expressed disregard for anyone who would want to be compensated for their work and claimed they didn't even know they would receive a salary. Yet none offered that they had returned the compensation they themselves had received. There was also casual mention of 10's of thousands of dollars being spend on re-election campaigns without reference to the fact that only those in a position to spend personal money on campaigns have the privilege to run for elected office in our city. For these reasons, I was in agreement when Councilperson Bauman declared that "serving on council should not be just for the wealthy or retired". We need representation of all people in our government. Access and outreach are vital. If making the option available for a mere sever people could help with that, then I see no reason not to do it provided the budget permits doing so. I also hope that the council will make more of an effort to mentor citizens in their districts to run for office, instead of running for three or four terms consecutively. A true public servant should want to develop leaders and new voices to carry on a public service mission and message. Our community is lucky to have many talented people with interesting and diverse experiences. Our community should be seeking those voices, so we can learn and grow towards a healthy future. Thank you for considering voting for the benefit option.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the mayor did not attend the Charter Review Commission meetings because he was not invited.

Maurice Hoelting, 88 Long Island Place stated the recent disingenuous outrage over volunteer council people is beneath your dignity. If our council people were paid a meaningful salary with benefits we would have a council more reflective of our community and not people who think they are doing us a favor by serving. They might respond to homelessness, hunger and a multitude of issues that concern 40% of our population. Pickleball is great, but shelter and eating are better for those that have taught in our schools, washed dishes in our restaurants, and put out our fires. There has been some concern expressed that paying people adequately will cause people to become lifetime council members. But today we have council members who have been here since the first council meeting in Sandy Springs, so there for that is a false flag. We should make it possible for anyone of our citizens to serve on our city council.

VI. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, seconded by Council Member Steve Soteres, to approve the meeting agenda for August 3, 2021. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. 2021-220 Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021 Work Session
July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Andrew Bauman, seconded by Council Member Jody Reichel, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VIII. Presentations

There were no presentations.

IX. Public Hearing

A. 2021-221 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan 2021 (HUD Revision)

Michele McIntosh-Ross, Planning and Zoning Manager presented the 2021 Annual Action Plan – HUD Revision, which was reviewed at the July 20, 2021 City Council Work Session. Tonight is the final public hearing, and City Council is requested to take action on the amendment. The Annual Action Plan. After the City approved its Annual Action Plan in May, 2021, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has allotted an additional \$8,899 to the City of Sandy Springs, which requires a revised plan. The funds are used to defease the Section 108 loan debt used for the multi-year sidewalk projects along Roswell Road, from Long Island Drive to Stuart Drive, and from Stuart Drive to Northwood Drive. There were no public comments during the public comment period. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the funds must be used in certain neighborhoods, and these funds target our lowest income communities.

Planning and Zoning Manager McIntosh-Ross stated that is correct, based on census tracks.

There were no public comments. **Mayor Rusty Paul** closed the public hearing.

Council Member Andy Bauman there are many people walking along this sidewalk with groceries bags and such. It is a great project that has made a lot of difference in people's lives.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Andrew Bauman, seconded by Council Member John Paulson, to approve agenda item 2021-221, a resolution to adopt the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan 2021 (HUD Revision). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2021-08-98

B. 2021-222 Elected Officials Benefits Discussion

Andrea Surratt, City Manager stated at the July 20, 2021 City Council Work Session, staff assisted Council Member Bauman with to present a recommendation for Council to establish benefits to future City Council Members.

Tochie Blad, stated After viewing the City Council work session, I wanted to voice my support for health benefits to be offered to city council members. The question about providing health care benefits to Sandy Springs City Council is not whether an individual council member needs it. Many city council members already have benefits through Medicare, Veterans Administration or other providers. The correct question is, "Should our city offer an option to allow a council member to join the city's health benefits program?" Currently, many of you participate through the City's benefits program with a retirement plan, as presented in the work session. I think offering health benefits during a pandemic is reasonable. Many people are feeling insecure about their health insurance. I support providing an opportunity for health benefits to be offered. This is a reasonable addition to the retirement plan already offered and participated in by council. I appreciate Councilman Bauman bringing this discussion to the table prior to the election season in hopes that a change in policy could entice others to compete for the council seats. As vice-chair of the Charter Review Commission, we looked at both compensation and benefits. Our Chair insisted that benefits were a policy discussion set by council and no charter change was proposed. A former Councilman and commission member Chip Collins encouraged us to increase salary given that it was political untenable for

council to increase salary themselves. The commission put forth to the legislature a recommendation for an increase. The salary increase was based on current city council members' testimony and Commission recommendation. I was honored to have served the Sandy Springs City and our community through this Charter Review process. We are fortunate to live in a vibrant, diverse, innovative, and growing city. I appreciate the city founders and public servants who have led us to this point and look forward to seeing the progress we can make together with an improved health benefits if needed. Thank you.

Dontaye Carter stated before the meeting started we took a pledge to the Flag. I sat up and read through our Constitution. The first words of our founding fathers are "we the people, in order to form a more perfect union establish justice." I looked at Georgia's constitution and it said "to perpetuate a principal of free government we ensure justice to all." Justice. It is the quality of being fair. I do not understand how in our U.S. Constitution we have those words written. And in our State Constitution we have those words written. But in our City Constitution, which we refer to as our Charter, you will find those words. If you have heard me speak before then you understand that I am a really big proponent of diversity and inclusion. More specifically, ensuring that our elected officials represent the people. This City is more than 40% minority. And a lot of people are not represented. And when we come to an issue of pay and benefits, it is a further slap in the face to people who are not represented. The audacity to talk about service and sacrifice. What we sacrifice does not compare to the men that wrote those words in the founding documents. To the men that wrote that constitution of Georgia it does not hold up to our grandmothers and great grandmothers that marched in the women's suffrage. To the men and women that stood up for civil rights. How can we expect you all to serve us if you do not even see the value in your own position? We have more than 90% of our first responders who cannot afford to live in this city. Me coming today is about all of Sandy Springs. It is about ensuring that voices are brought to the table. Sandy Springs is diverse. Sandy Springs is a good community. I will give you all credit. What you do good you do a great job of. But the things that you get wrong you are getting really wrong. One of those things is this pay and benefits. It is time to take a step into the future. It is time to be more proactive about what we are doing. This is bigger than just the people that are sitting in those seats. I sat back and listened to the Charter Review Commission. And I found it offensive when I heard individuals say that they were the conscience of this city. Knowing that those views do not reflect me, my family and the majority of the people that live in my neighborhood. My neighborhood is extremely diverse. This is about our future. It is about our children. I have a three year old daughter. That is who I am thinking about right now. And I am here to let you all know today that if you all do not get this right, there are going to continue to be people that contest your races. Because we are tired. We are tired of being ignored. We are tired of being pushed to the margins. That is why I stepped up to run. This is bigger, so much bigger than what is going on in this room right now. So much bigger. I will see you on the ballot in November.

Mary Baron stated I want to speak this evening to express my support for the Council to offer and option for health benefits for council members. I was impressed by the benefits presentation at the last City Council meeting. And I personally would be interested to hear more information about why Sandy Springs has such a different policy on benefits than many of the other cities in our area. A couple of months ago I made a public comment at the Charter Review Commission in support of raising the salaries for city councilmembers. I did not express that support because I think people get rich off of serving on Council or make it their only source of income. But rather because I know that inadequate compensation is a barrier for many people to serve. If we do not pay people for their time, then those that do not have the luxury of donating their time appropriately will not be able to serve. I was pleased that the Charter Review Commission voted yes on increasing salaries. I understand that being on Council is a public service. And I certainly appreciate the time and effort given by councilmembers for the betterment of our City. Yet serving on Council is not only an act of public service. It is also about making important policy decisions and being accountable to the people you represent. Our city is now one of the largest in the State with over 100,000

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council

**Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

Page 5 of 11

people and annual budget of over \$100M. We are not a small town any more. And the decisions that you make have a large impact on the quality of life for residents and the future of this city. These policy decisions are best made when there are different perspectives and lived experiences at the table. Adequate compensation can help us attract people from different walks of life to serve on Council. I have also noticed that the City has a number of committees and task forces that provide guidance on issues. I frequently wondered how individuals are selected to serve on these committees. Would it be possible to change the procedures by which people are appointed to the committees so that a broader group can be included? This might be another pathway to consider for increasing participation. I am really glad that the City has undertaken the process of looking at diversity and inclusion. The issues of surrounding compensation and service on council might be an appropriate topic for the Diversity and Inclusion task force to examine and submit a report on. And finally, even though I know it can be uncomfortable, I hope you will all continue to engage in this important dialogue about how to increase inclusion in our City's governance. Our city will be better for it.

As there was no additional public comment, **Mayor Rusty Paul** closed the public hearing.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated the presented resolution provides formal direction to go back and provide more details. Today's vote does not grant benefits for anyone. The proposal was to begin next term.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Andy Bauman to adopt agenda item 2021-222, and the resolution as presented. Failing to receive a second, the motion failed.

Council Member Bauman stated if the discussion is tabled then staff might come back with more a more detailed menu of options for Council's consideration, including what has been proposed and maybe some other opportunities similar to what is done in many peer cities. If there is not Council support for that, then maybe a plan for making health and other forms of insurance available but with the elected officials paying the costs by a payroll deduction?

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Andy Bauman to table agenda item 2021-222, Discussion of Elected Officials Benefits. Failing to receive a second, the motion failed.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated there are merits in all of the options presented. I recommend that Council pay for its benefits, versus it be provided, because being provided is not necessarily equality. The reality is that each of us on this Council is equal. We each have one vote. We each work for our constituents. We can be fired by those constituents in they chose not to elect us again. We each have an equal voice in what goes on in our city. If we have insurance that is provided for some and not provided for others, because some people need it or wants and others do not, then we have created an environment of inequality for those who sit on Council. It is important for us to have a level playing field in terms of benefits. If the legislature approves the recommended raise, then each councilmember will get the \$24,000. And then each councilmember can determine how they use that \$24,000. They can purchase insurance for themselves and they could put it into retirement assessments. The level of each councilmember would be the same. I like the idea of giving councilmembers options. This is a good compromise.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated I spoke opposed to any benefits for councilmembers last meeting because it was going to cost between \$90K and \$190K to the City. If we pay our own benefits and it does not harm the City, and it does the cost the City, then I can be behind that.

Council Member Burnett stated my proposal includes insurance products only.

Council Member Bauman stated anything that moves the needle forward on these issues is a good thing. If this starts the process then that is a good thing. Councilmembers can currently contribute to the City's retirement plan for whatever tax advantages and investments, but the City does not do any match. I would also support if you wanted to do something exactly equal by offering something through the 401 or 457, if you believed the positioned merited it and it would be good for the community and city. But this is only one component of a larger discussion of improving citizen participation in the community. We do not have great voter turnout. This election seems to be more contested than the last. We have all talked about this to differing degrees. And when we think about these kinds of policies we should ask two questions: what is it that inspires people to put their names out there for leadership positions, elected or otherwise; and what inhibits people from putting their names out there. I do not presume to know that answer. It is incumbent upon us to listen to our constituents and think outside our comfort zones. This seat does not belong me. This seat belongs to the citizens of Sandy Springs. I trust our citizens to discern the intentions of those that would seek leadership in this community. Despite differences, I have nothing but the highest respect for every colleague I have served with as public servants. I believe most reasonable people believe there should be compensation, the question is what is the right amount. The right compensation and dedicated public service are not mutually exclusive. I never anticipated the toxicity of this issue. Many of our peer communities do this, even our state legislature. Johns Creek does not do this.

Council Member John Paulson stated the next Council can do something different. We keep talking about how this is preventing some people from running. If that is true, then that is disappointing. Though compensation is a part of this, it really is about the service. I have always encouraged people to run for office.

Council Member Bauman stated the City Charter directed the Council to have this discussion. It is uncomfortable to have this conversation. I first brought this up a year ago. Also, we do not make this decision for us. The next Council can make the decision.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Chris Burnett, seconded by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, to approve the following: beginning in January of 2022, the Mayor and City Council members shall have the option to purchase personal and family health insurance coverage through the City of Sandy Springs Health Insurance Plan. For those who exercise this option, they will be responsible for paying 100% of the applicable insurance premiums for the coverage purchased and said premiums will be automatically deducted on a recurring basis from their City payroll proceeds. In the event that the cost of the insurance coverage should ever exceed the amount of the mayor or councilmember's compensation, then said mayor or councilmember will reimburse the city for the full amount of the coverage. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2021-223 Ad Valorem Tax Rate Public Hearing 2 for Fiscal Year 2022 Millage Rate

Toni Jo Howard, Finance Director stated it is recommended that we move forward with a 4.731 millage rate. State law requires that we advertise that as increase, as the rollback calculated rate of 4.591 mills, which is an increase of .14 mills. However, the 4.731 mills is the same rate the City has had previously.

There were no public comments. **Mayor Rusty Paul** closed the public hearing.

X. New Business

A. 2021-224 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 42 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – In General, Section 42-29 of the City of Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances Entitled “Park Hours”

Michael Perry, Recreation and Parks Director presented an amendment to Chapter 42 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – In General, Section 42-29 of the City of Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances Entitled “Park Hours”. The current Code has all parks closed from dusk to dawn. But In practice several parks, such as Hammond Park and Morgan Falls Athletic Complex, are open and operating after dusk. The presented ordinance denotes passive parks that will close at dusk, because there are typically no lights. Parks with lighting on athletic fields and walking areas shut down will close at a later hour. The Sandy Springs Police Department collaborated with the Recreation and Parks Department on this effort.

Council Member John Paulson asked is not 10:30 p.m. the closing time for activities in our Code? Does closing at 11:00 p.m. violate the noise ordinance? Will neighbors complain?

Mayor Rusty Paul replied the time related to the noise ordinance is 10:00 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Director Perry replied the main goal is to get people off of their activity and provide time for them to vacate and allow staff to lock the park by closing. A survey of the neighboring communities have active parks closing between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. It is up to the individual community. The decision is up to City Council.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member John Paulson, seconded by Council Member Jody Reichel, to approve agenda item 2021-224, an ordinance to amend Chapter 42 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – In General, Section 42-29 of the City of Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances Entitled “Park Hours”. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 2021-08-26

B. 2021-225 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the City of Sandy Springs FY2022 Budget to Authorize a Transfer between Projects and a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager and the City Attorney to Award a Change Order with Northwest Georgia Paving, Inc. for Additional Services to the FY2021 Resurfacing Project (“Project”)

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director stated the presented change order will address project over-runs and repairs that need to be completed as part of the FY2021 resurfacing and paving contract with Northwest Georgia Paving, Inc. The FY2020 and FY2021 resurfacing projects were bid simultaneously, with the FY2020 paving project being award prior to the end of the last fiscal year. The FY2021 paving project was award at the beginning of FY2021 and commenced mid-fall 2020. Northwest Georgia Paving, Inc. was the low bidder for both bids, coming below the staff estimates. Both projects are running simultaneously. Due to the COVID protections, the City froze a Field Superintendent position when a vacancy arose. This may have inadvertently lead to an overage of \$348,670 at the for the FY2021 paving contract. Additionally, roads were milled but left un-topped (0.39 miles of roadway). Some roads were patched, but still need milling and overlay to complete the paving work (1.76 miles of roadway). The work to complete the roadways, in additional to the unaccounted for overrun, totals \$770K. The presented budget amendment considers there is an unencumbered balance within T-3000 of \$370K, so the budget amendment is requested at \$400K. The City will need to defer four miles of paving requirements to another fiscal year.

The cost to address the proposed deferred roads is around \$1M. After the FY2021 financial audit is complete, the City can review opportunities to increase fund up needed paving work.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked what records are kept speaking to when streets are paved?

Public Works Director Martin replied the City maintains the contractual records when streets are maintained, going back at least six years. Every three years the City performs a pavement condition index assessment.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked are the deferred roads okay to wait until the audit is complete.

Public Works Director Martin stated no repairs have been attempted on the proposed deferred roadways. The roads presented this evening as part of the change order are those that need completion because work has started.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if all the roadway projects can be completed by the end of 2021.

Public Works Director Martin replied we staff is working to get the FY2022 paving work out for bid. Northwest Georgia Paving has committed that they can mobilize to address the incomplete work by next week.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked can paving work now be done at temperatures lower than 55 degrees.

Public Works Director Martin stated to some degree, yes. The City has had favorable temperatures for the paving work for the past several years.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member John Paulson, seconded by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, to approve agenda item 2021-0225, an ordinance to amend the City of Sandy Springs FY2022 Budget to Authorize a Transfer between Projects. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 20218-08-27

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member John Paulson, seconded by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, to approve agenda item 2021-225, a resolution authorizing the City Manager and the City Attorney to Award a Change Order with Northwest Georgia Paving, Inc. for Additional Services to the FY2021 Resurfacing Project ("Project"). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2021-08-99

C. 2021-226 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager and the City Attorney to Award a Change Order with Jensen's Concrete Pumping, Inc. for Additional Services to the 5690 Lake Forrest Drive Injection Grouting Project

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director stated on July 1, 2021, a contract was awarded to Jensen's in the amount of \$95,876.00 to execute injection grouting operations at the 5690 Lake Forrest Drive to address a consistent and chronic settlement problem. Prior to this work, staff contracted with Engineering Consulting Services to perform field investigation, design an injection program including

estimated quantities, and oversee construction operations. Based on subsurface soil borings and laboratory test results, Engineering Consulting Services estimated 250 gallons of polyurethane grout would be sufficient to fill voids around existing stormwater infrastructure and alleviate settlement associated with inadequately compacted soils placed in 2010. When pumping operations began, in-field logs revealed greater grout quantities were required to fill the subsurface voids. The contractor had to halt pressure-grouting operations after injecting 53.5 gallons of chemical grouting in excess of contract quantity and exhausting available contract contingency. The revised estimate to complete the grouting work is 800 gallons. The grouting operation will encompass a 25-foot radius around the 30' deep stormwater structure. The change order will add additional polyurethane and the remobilization of the contractor. The work is expected to begin as early as next week. The contract includes a contingency amount so the City pays the unit price for the grout received.

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Andrew Bauman, seconded by Council Member Chris Burnett, to approve agenda item 2021-226, a resolution authorizing the City Manager and the City Attorney to award a Change Order with Jensen's Concrete Pumping, Inc. for Additional Services to the 5690 Lake Forrest Drive Injection Grouting Project. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2021-08-100

XI. Reports

A. 2021-227 Mayor and Council Report

Mayor Rusty Paul reported that the Atlanta Regional Commission's executive director search committee interviewed search firms this past week. A recommendation soon be presented to the board. At the last North Fulton Mayor's Association meeting, the Atlanta Regional Commission reported on the \$1.2T infrastructure bill that is pending in the Senate. There are no specific details, but there may be \$250B in new funds and \$40B in transits, which we hope will be available to support the I-285, East-West Bus Rapid Transit and the GA-400 Bus Rapid Transit projects. Mayors from cities along I-285 from Smyrna to Tucker also met last week to discuss the projects. The conceptualized Roswell Road station will need to be elevated above the existing bridges because of how it will intersect with the managed lanes. Stakeholders are looking into alternatives, perhaps identifying alternate locations besides Roswell Road. The conceptualized Powers Ferry station will not be completed because of costs and ridership studies do not show that it is needed. Additionally, there is new money for bikes and trails and electric infrastructure. Monday, August 2 was the ceremonial signing of the Fulton County T-SPLOST 2 program. Immediately afterwards the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approved putting T-SPLOST 2 on the ballot in November 2021. There will be an education program. The Fulton County Board of Commissioners has dedicated \$72M to address the backlog in the Fulton County District Attorney Office. The Office is hiring new employees. There is information forthcoming about the court backlog and how Fulton cities try to address that. Fulton County did not distribute federally-funded rental assistance funds to cities for their constituents. The County has reopened the online Rental Assistance Portal. Qualified applicants will receive funds. Funds are only for residential renters who are behind on their rent and need assistance. There is some discussion to extend the eviction moratorium. All of the states have had difficulty in setting up the mechanisms to disperse the funds. The cities could have distributed the funds much fast. Lastly, tonight, August 3, is National Night Out, with events on the City Green.

B. 2021-228 Staff Reports

1. 2021-229 COVID-19 Staff Report

Imani White, Executive Officer of Emergency Preparedness, Fire Department reported that CDC has advised that people vaccinated and unvaccinated should wear a mask in doors in high transmission areas, including Metro Atlanta. Includes K-12th grade students and staff, and those with underlying conditions. Also, the City of Atlanta released an Executive Order requiring all persons in public places, including private businesses and establishments, to wear a mask or cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when indoors. Cases have increased over the last 14-day period, while hospital bed availability, hospital critical care unit bed availability, hospital ventilator availability, COVID deaths have all decreased. Neighboring hospitals are reporting an increase in emergency room visits and wait times, some up to 15 hours. Fulton County is experiencing an increase in COVID positive rates, doubling from 2% to 4% during a 28-day period. It is projected COVID positive rates will continue to double, with a 16% positive rate estimated in late August to early September. In Sandy Springs, the COVID positive cases have increased 28 to 74, representing a 164% increase in a 14-day period. While South Fulton cities are seeing higher rates of COVID, cases are increasing in North Fulton cities. The Delta Variant is highly transmissible, and may be just as contagious as Chickenpox. Anyone testing positive for COVID at this point likely has the Delta Variant.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated hospitalizations have jumped significantly, but 98.7% of hospitalizations and deaths are among the unvaccinated. The goal is to get people vaccinated. The emergency orders from the State and Federal governments have expired. The only way to mandate masks is on City owned facilities. Private buildings will have to make their decisions. But the data is clear that the vaccinations are much more effective at preventing the spread of this than the mask. The biggest challenge is the lack of trust. But data suggests that if personal physicians explain the benefits of the vaccinations to their patients, then their patients are more likely to take the vaccine.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked how many of the employees are vaccinated.

Andrea Surratt, City Manager stated about a third of City employees have been vaccinated. The City does not have record of the two-thirds of employees. Communications Director Jason Fornicola will begin to prepare messaging to the organization and community promoting vaccinations.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated over 80% of the population 60 and older have been vaccinated. The biggest challenge is in the 29 – 36 age group. Messaging has to be targeted to that cohort. The Fulton County Hispanic community has done well in terms of vaccinations; much higher than other ethnic groups. Some private employers are requiring vaccinations and others are offer incentives. Fulton County will provide vaccination units on request, but there is a permanent location at the Fulton County Annex. There is adequate capacity to provide vaccinations and testing in Sandy Springs.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked when can vaccines be mandated.

Mayor Paul replied staff is working on strategies to boost the numbers.

City Manager Surratt reported that the City's website has updated information regarding private waste-hauling services and recent delays. Information can also be found in the City's e-newsletter. Keep North Fulton Beautiful operates the Sandy Springs Recycling Center at Morgan Falls, which is a community resource available to residents. Also, the children from the City's summer camp program have gifted hand crafted ornaments and coasters to councilmembers.

Mayor Paul shared a letter received from Kevin and Brittany Maxwell, which thanked the officers of the Sandy Springs Police Department for helping to find their missing child.

XII. Executive Session

Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member John Paulson, seconded by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, to recess the regular meeting and enter executive session for the purposes of real estate discussions. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 7:46 p.m.

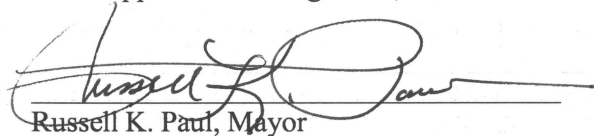
Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member John Paulson, seconded by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, to adjourn the executive session and return to regular order. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 8:09 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

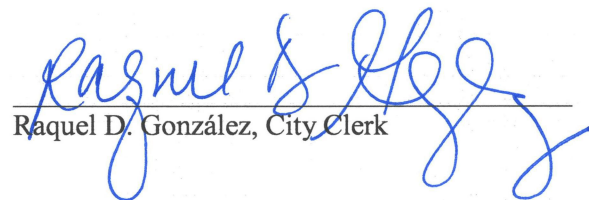
Motion and vote: A motion was made by Council Member Tibby DeJulio, seconded by Council Member John Paulson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Dated approved: August 17, 2021.



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk