

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on April 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

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

I. Staff Discussion Items

A. 2023-089 Colonial Pipeline Company Chattahoochee River Dig Maintenance Project

Chip Little, Government Affairs Manager, Colonial Pipeline, introduced the Colonial Pipeline Chattahoochee River Dig Maintenance Project. The maintenance project will install a sleeve on the pipe. The work is part of Colonial's Integrity Management Plan and will be completed in compliance and consistent with applicable regulations. The impacted pipe runs beneath the Chattahoochee River where the pipeline crosses from National Park Service land into Sandy Springs, which is 1.6 miles downstream from the Georgia Power Hydro-Dam and just upstream of the Nantahala Outdoor Centers Johnson Ferry North Outpost, public river access, water intake, and the Johnson Ferry Bridge.

To access the pipe, Colonial will need to construct a temporary bridge spanning the river and a coffer dam in the water. Two residential properties in Sandy Springs will likely be impacted by ROW clearing, water discharge from the coffer dam, and noise. The project is currently in the mobilization stage which will last approximately two weeks, and then construction will begin. Colonial anticipates the maintenance to last 10 to 12 months, including deconstruction of the temporary bridge. The bridge is expected to span the river for about 10 months.

Terry Mock, Right-of-way Consultant, Colonial Pipeline, reviewed the project.

Councilmember Jody Reichel asked is the bridge permanent or temporary?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied it is a temporary bridge.

Councilmember John Paulson asked will this pipe be live and flowing or shut off when driving the piles?

Colonial Pipeline Government Affairs Manager Little said first the line will stay active. A third party was hired for siphon monitoring. We have protocols when other developers or contractors are doing work within a certain proximity to the pipe, and those same standards apply to ourselves to ensure that we are safe.

Dan Lee, City Attorney, asked have you studied the effect of pile driving on the side with Sandy Springs houses as you did for gasoline in the pipe?

Colonial Pipeline Government Affairs Manager Little said there three residents were contacted and they allowed us a pre-construction analysis of their homes and, we plan to put seismic instrumentation at each of those properties.

City Attorney Lee asked, with the third party vendor, if the seismic activity rises to an impactful level to the pipe, would you stop it, even if on the housing side?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied yes. We have the same measures. We will get a text message

and an email alerting us. Those same devices that are monitoring the pipeline are also monitoring the structures.

Councilmember Paulson asked are you impact or vibration driving these piles? Done a lot of sheet piling where it is vibrated in but do not know what the soils are because it is less impactful than the impact hammer.

Kelvin Turner, Senior Project Manager, Colonial Pipeline, said we are using a hammer to drive sheet piles down. We are not going into the bedrock.

Councilmember Paulson asked is it a vibratory hammer, not an impact hammer?

Colonial Pipeline Senior Project Manager Turner replied yes that is correct.

Councilmember Paulson said there may be a sudden problem with the pipe that runs millions of gallons a day. If something happens, is there a plan in place to mitigate the issue?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied yes. We previously worked with Cobb County Marietta Water Authority for a preventive move on their water intake at the time. As part of our emergency response preparedness, we have response plans in place in the unlikely event something happens.

Councilmember Paulson said you are you going to work on this project for 10 months. How long are you driving piles?

Colonial Pipeline Senior Project Manager Turner replied no. It will take three to four months to build a bridge and the coffer cells.

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said we are scheduled to work Monday through Friday and will operate during the normal operating hours on this project.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked for more information on citizen outreach.

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said there are two neighborhoods and three homes along Riverside Drive. Within 1,800 feet of where we crossed the river in Sandy Springs, there is River North Parkway with about 18 homes either up front the river or are in that cul-de-sac that would hear our activities. South of here there is North River Circle and Riverside Drive. There are roughly less than 30 residents, but each resident receives a letter that contains information on what they are doing and can also receive the information in person at home. We are making this body aware tonight before constituents reach out but, you may have already received some inquiries. The letters will go out tomorrow or Friday. The intent is to be on an individual basis.

Councilmember Mular asked will the pumps operate 24/7.

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said the timeframe for bridge construction is approximately four months. After the equipment is received and pipeline exhibition started, certain infrastructure must be in place before we turn the pumps on. The pumps will only be used during the pipeline work. Long-term projects may be 10 to 12 months and we anticipate the pumps might need to be running plus or minus 60 days. Part of this is dependent of site conditions, for instance the amount of rainfall. We are going to use silent pumps, which may not be as silent as you would like, and other creative measures to mitigate the noise from the work site to homes.

Councilmember Mular asked is there a way to measure the noise?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said this can be done. With the vibration driving of the sheet piling, the coffer dams, and the operation of the pumps, noise will be a challenge.

Councilmember Andy Bauman asked is the City of Sandy Springs involved in this process with permitting or land disturbance for instance? Is there any oversight from the City?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said after Colonial reviewed the plans, the community development director also reviewed to make sure we have no oversight on anything such as permitting. We do not have oversight. The noise ordinance does still apply for work complete within Sandy Springs.

Councilmember Bauman asked what if it is from the work completed outside the City of Sandy Springs, like in the riverbank? Do we enforce? Where does the scope of the City's oversight start and stop. Citizens need some recourse to ensure they know who to contact. This aspect should be coordinated.

City Manager Freeman said we need to review this. It is my understanding that a portion of the river is in the Sandy Springs jurisdiction.

Mayor Paul said the work zone is in the City of Sandy Springs and is largely a federal project.

City Attorney Lee said the permitting process would preempt our process, but our ordinances apply to contractors involved. We talked routinely about limitations on work hours when it comes to construction projects, that also would apply here. In our jurisdiction we cannot stop noise on the Cobb County side other than call Cobb County 911.

Councilmember Bauman asked what is the useful life of this work? When will you be back doing major work on the river pipeline?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said Colonial is investing a large sum of money to do the work with the goal that it would be sometime before we must come back. There is no specific estimate.

Mayor Paul said Colonial does a lot of maintenance on its lines. Sandy Springs has a significant amount of their pipeline running through the City which runs from one end to the other and they frequently do maintenance.

Councilmember Bauman asked are there any other major projects in the offing for the next 10 or 15 years in the City of Sandy Springs?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said he cannot answer clearly.

Councilmember Reichel said thank you for the great work at Georgia 400 and talking with the neighbors. There was not one complaint from the neighbors received. It was an amazing job.

Councilmember Bauman asked if there are major projects, not just maintenance, will you let the Council know.

Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied yes.

Councilmember Bauman asked is there any opportunity to put live camera feeds on your projects for people to see the work being done?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock said he would have to follow-up with that information.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked will there be a website landing page that describes this?

Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied yes. Council will be provided with that information. The website address listed in the letter provided to impacted residents with a QR code and there are signs with a QR code communicating to citizens. There are also permanent signs with the QR code at the national park and on the boat ramps.

Councilmember Kelley asked will people at Morgan Falls hear anything?

Colonial Right-of-way Consultant Mock replied no. The project is 1.6 miles from the park. Our current outreach is 1,800 feet up and down stream of our location.

B. **2023-090** Sandy Springs Police Department and Fulton County Schools Police Department Partnership

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the school shooting last week in Nashville, Tennessee caused much heartbreak and concern, particularly among parents of school children. This is important and the City of Sandy Springs Police Chief was asked to partner with the Fulton County Police Department and provide the latest updates to Council on what is happening.

Kenneth DeSimone, Police Chief, Sandy Springs Police Department said after the tragic event in Nashville, Tennessee he and the mayor's office received many calls about school safety and what we do in the City of Sandy Springs. **Mark Sulborski, Chief of Police, Fulton County Schools Police Department** is headquartered in Sandy Springs on Powers Ferry Road. Chief Sulborski has a large and busy agency providing police services for the entire county from Palmetto to Milton and all the public schools in between, except in the City of Atlanta. We have a great working relationship which includes regular communication and training activities. Recently, the Sandy Springs Police Department learned about a mentally disturbed person on narcotics walking down Roswell Road with an AR-15 type of rifle that we could not catch for two days. We were able to catch him today with some cameras and a quick police response. It was not real rifle but looked like it. We have these incidents more frequently than a lot of people know. We can only train and have good partnerships such as with the Fulton County Schools Police Department. A few weeks ago, we had a large fight at Riverwood High School and a teacher may have pushed a device for help and it was such a big fight, she pushed it more than she should have and, it set off an active shooter alarm. Sandy Springs police and **Chief Sulborski** responded rapidly. It was a robust response, treated like there was an active shooter. Some students recorded video with alarms going off and people screaming and alerted parents there is an active shooter at the school. It is stressful for police chiefs and the officers on the scene, but we handled it very quickly and with no problems. School police took the students and perpetrators in that incident and dealt with them. We are here letting you know that the Sandy Springs Police Department and the Fulton County Schools Department have a great partnership. The Fulton County school police only handle the public schools of Fulton County. There are many Jewish, Christian, and Catholic schools in Sandy Springs and most of those school resource officer (SRO) functions are handled by off duty officers of the Sandy Springs Police Department.

Mark Sulborski, Chief of Police, Fulton County Schools Police Department thanked Council for the

opportunity to share information about the partnership with the City of Sandy Springs. In the Fulton County Public Schools system, jurisdiction is the north and south end of the county totaling 108 school sites in 400 square miles. There are 13 other jurisdictional partners that we must work with. There is nothing that does not happen inside a community that does not work its way into a school and things do not happen in the school that do not work their way out into the community. Partnerships and communication always need to be top-notch. The City of Sandy Springs has always been there for us in our time of need as with the Riverwood event last week. It has always been a great working relationship since inception.

Sandy Springs Police Department Police Chief DeSimone said it has been such a great working relationship that **Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski** contacted him about 12 months ago to say they were awarded a grant for a firearms simulation type of equipment valued at \$100,000. They asked for it to be housed in the new Sandy Springs police headquarters where both departments and kids in the criminal justice programs at the high schools can train on it. It simulates shooting and de-escalation events and more in a virtual reality world that is 300 degrees around them. We have a space in our new headquarters where we are going to put this modern and updated device. We are proud that **Chief Sulborski** asked us to be a partner because there are many other police agencies in this county, but he chose the City of Sandy Springs and that shows the strength of our partnership.

Councilmember John Paulson stated he is pleased to see the cooperation. Last summer we discussed putting speed and license plate reader cameras in Fulton County schools and were back and forth with the idea. What is status with the cameras to be put into the schools?

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski said they are two separate pieces of equipment. Fulton County Schools now has license plate reading technology on all our campuses and have opened that to all jurisdictional partners across the county. Speed zone cameras are a new technology for local police departments and there are a couple agencies using that. Many different bills have been introduced with different language about the nuances of these camera systems. The overall concept of the school speed zone detection devices is a force multiplier and a great piece of technology. There are permits through the state for every speed detection device that every agency runs and must be signed off by the superintendent of the schools. That is the way legislation is written. We are holding half of the bag but there is no accountability on the back end of that. It is a two-way street and there must be some held accountability on both sides. Police departments utilize the equipment in the interest of school zone and traffic safety around schools and it is a good equipment when used appropriately. Unfortunately, not everyone uses it that way. There are limitations within the law that specify when and how this equipment can be used, where the funds go, and more. We have a great working relationship with Sandy Springs and do not see any shortcomings. There are Georgia agencies, not just in Fulton County, that have probably used the equipment inappropriately by garnering funds and used outside of the school hours, sometimes outside of the state law. There is not a much to do other than appeal your ticket in court to the upper levels, but we have not seen any change in the laws.

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone said some cities in Fulton County used the technology inappropriately and ran the speed cameras 24/7 including weekends, instead of just during school hours.

Mayor Paul said the new law regulates that the cameras are to be run 30 minutes before the start of school and 30 minutes after.

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski said, and it does but does not take the superintendent's name off the permit that has to go to the state. We must make sure that the people and departments running these have updated times. They are supposed to be setting them forward to make sure that they

are complying. The other side of that is we get the complaints just like everybody else and the only thing that we should say is the superintendent signed it and handed it over. It is kind of like signing a blank check to the local jurisdiction and there must be some assurances on the back end that we are checking compliance as well. What does that look like? Maybe nothing more than what you must maintain for speed records for any radar or lidar detection device and, we probably just need a copy of that and some reassurance that they are being run appropriately.

Councilmember Paulson said let us figure out how to do this and move this along and let Council know what they can do to help.

Mayor Paul said this is a policy issue. We have had an agreement sitting on the superintendent's desk for months. It was sent back with some things that we have some issues with, but is something we must have some conversations with the superintendent to move forward. The plate readers are very important because **Police Chief DeSimone** made it clear they can give us enormous advantage in seconds and maybe minutes if there is a problem. If the plate readers identify somebody who is a known problem, we are alerted before 9-1-1 gets the call. Those seconds in those situations are literally life and death and we desperately want to make sure we are working together. Speed detection issues can be seen when traffic backs up and people are frustrated. It is the same with some of the other schools. There are many kids who walk to school in that area and are in dangerous situations with the amount of traffic and some of the speed that moves through. Let us know if there is anything we can do or if we can use any tools available for all our sake to mitigate the speeding issue through school zones. It is not about revenue for us and has never been. It is about deterrence and anything we can do to deter speeding through these areas. This is something we have a great interest in as well as the plate readers which could give us an advantage in a crisis.

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone said, to clarify, the speed detection device on the streets has both speed and license plate reading technology in one device.

Councilmember Andy Bauman thanked **Police Chief DeSimone** and **Chief of Police Sulborski** asked how many people are in your force?

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski said there are 108 sites. All of our high schools are allocated two officer positions and the middle schools have one. Our elementary schools are covered by a patrol function, and we have a free-floating unit that is not school attached and has primary responsibility of covering our elementary students.

Councilmember Bauman said if there is anything the City Council can do to supplement, the Council would want to hear if there are any resources the Council can provide to make our schools as safe as they possibly can be in this environment. It is astonishing to see these incidents repeat themselves.

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone said we are fortunate here in Sandy Springs because the Council has funded us very well and our equipment is top-notch. Mentioned earlier going up against a suspect with a rifle but we are at an advantage because we are well funded with rifle plates, helmets, and long rifles to counter this threat.

Councilmember Bauman asked in the state of Georgia can somebody carry around an AR-15 gun?

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone replied yes. Our intelligence unit responded immediately to the call by activating the camera and watching the suspect live on video. They could see he was pointing the rifle at passing motors. When the rifle was pointed at people, that was when he violated state

law.

Councilmember Jody Reichel said her children attended public schools, and it is concerning that there are there are schools with several entrances and exits and want to address this.

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski said there are quite a few entrances and exists. There are internal systems that will monitor the doors especially after the incident in Uvalde, Texas where the door was propped open. We have policies and procedures in the school system that prohibit doors from being left open. We have emergency buzzers and alarms on each door and if it does remain open or somebody does go through, it will work to let us know that door has been propped open. We have assigned several entrances and exits depending on the school site and it very site-specific.

Councilmember Reichel asked does each door have an alarm and a camera?

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski replied yes. There is a robust camera system throughout the district that is monitored and can be monitored centrally. Can pull it up on my phone depending on what is going on in each individual school site. We have ways of combating that and it was one of those areas that we spent a lot of time and effort after the incident in Uvalde, Texas. Barring all the greatest technology and equipment, you still must make sure that your staff is accountable.

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone said the Sandy Springs Police Department does visit the schools. Some of these schools are very big. We go there as much as possible, but as seen in the video, you are relying on what you hear, see and what people are telling you. You must react quickly and do not have time to view a map when people are getting shot. You must go to where the gunshots are. It is challenging.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked do you do any educational training with the kids at school of what to do if a situation arises?

Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski said yes, and it is age appropriate. The school police department is not going to do any full type scenarios with kids. We do not want to shock our kids because that can cause an inordinate amount of trauma. We present educational information along with all the drills that we do now in the school system. We have simplified it to four basic drills that are memorable under stress. We have evacuation drills, as well as shelter in place, hard lockdown, and soft lockdown drills and, kids are drilled to know what each of those are in accordance with state standards every year. We have an active shooter portion and by state law we may have to address it and probably reaffirm in some of the trainings that we do. The kids know it is the active shooter protocol if we put a hard lockdown for something happening. A hard lock down could be anything and means something is going on inside the building. A soft lockdown is something that is going on outside the building. We institute those into the regular trainings done throughout the year as a part of the required drill protocol.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked what can the community do to support efforts to keep the youth safe and to help mitigate some of the issues?

City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone said before the shooting in Nashville, parents of students at the sister school in Cobb County which had the same set-up asked about a security plan, protocols, drills in place, if they hire off-duty officers and take security seriously. Parents and citizens should ask those questions especially if it is a private school. Sandy Springs Jewish schools are great examples as security is taken very seriously and our officers are in all their schools.

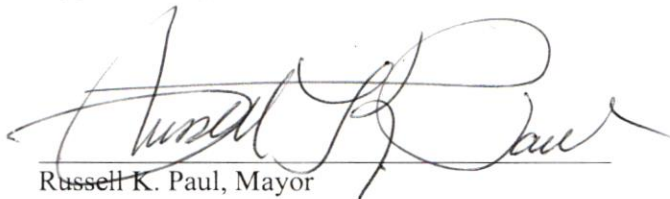
Chief of Police Sulborski said it is important to talk to your kids about these traumatic incidents as no one knows them better than you do. When national incidents happen such as in Nashville, Tennessee or Uvalde, Texas, be able to talk to them on their appropriate age level in the home. Schools are going to invite you to participate in whatever activities are going on. The biggest thing you can do is to show up when we have meetings at our schools. With more community involvement, there will be better results. In the school system we talk to them on a mass basis, but it may not affect them as much as you can with your own kids. Instill into them what you think they need to do in that circumstance.

Mayor Paul thanked **Fulton County Schools Chief of Police Sulborski** and **City of Sandy Springs Police Chief DeSimone** for their presentation. He said the head of the school in Nashville tutored children in his daughter's class at Riverwood and there is a connection to our community and to Georgia. It was very important that we hear from you particularly in the wake of another and far too many tragedies in our schools and, to know the level of communication, joint training and, opportunities that goes on between the two departments. We appreciate that cooperation and we will do anything we can to keep it going.

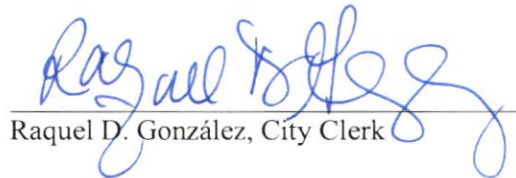
II. City Council Discussion Items

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Approved: April 18, 2023



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk