

The Special Called Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was Broadcast Live via Webinar, Teleconference and Facebook on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Raquel D. González called the roll.

Mayor Rusty Paul – present.

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved to approve the agenda for the Special Called Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Council Member Soteres seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 20202-121 Adoption of 2020 Citizen Participation Plan Amendment

Madalyn Smith, Planner, Community Development presented an amendment for the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) for approval by Council. She is also announcing the commencement of the public comment period for the Action Plan and Consolidated Plan. Currently, there are not provisions in the plan. Several of the participation methods outlined in the current plan do not respect the current social distancing requirements; they also interfere with our ability to quickly and efficiently respond to the current pandemic. Staff proposes an amendment that will allow virtual public hearings, a five (5) day comment period, and allows us to only accept public comment digitally and to forego posting hard copies of the Plans.

Mayor Paul opened the Public Hearing.

Tochie A. Blad, 7320 Hunters Branch Dr. NE, Sandy Springs 30328 - 5/7/2020 - To Mayor and City Council, The CDBG funding may be redirected from sidewalks to loans to businesses or non-profits to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

Who will decide what loans to give and what non-profits to support with these funds? What criteria will be used to determine funding? I suggest a citizen's advisory panel similar to Fulton County has use for this program in the past.

I served on a CDBG citizens panel for Fulton County (prior to our becoming a city) that allocated funding to non-profits based on a ranking formula. Although the citizen's panels was advisory, the Fulton County

Commissioners followed the recommendations and appreciated the citizen's panel input. Has Sandy Springs considered forming a similar advisory panel to review business loans and allocations to non-profits impacted by the COVID - 19 pandemic?

Another item, there is a short time frame for folks to respond to changes in plans. With only two business days for response, citizens will not have read about the new funding or the redirection of the funds beyond the website. The weekly newspapers will not have any ability to know about the change in the CDBG funds or the additional funding, \$384 K secured for the expanded program. More time for public comment enables that all voices are heard.

"Financial Impact: The City has received an allocation of \$653,208 plus an additional allocation of \$384,260. These funds will be used to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic". I appreciate your efforts to serve and hope that you will take these items of public notice and input into consideration. Sincerely, Tochie Alford Blad

City Clerk Gonzalez advised there were no additional Public Comment Cards.

Mayor Paul closed the Public Hearing.

Motion and Second: Council Member Reichel moved to approve the agenda item 2020-121, Adoption of 2020 Citizen Participation Plan Amendment. Council Member Bauman seconded.

Council Member Paulson asked when will the public formally be notified and when will the public have an opportunity to comment on where these funds are going to be distributed?

Planner Madalyn Smith responded that the proper time for public comment would be at this public hearing; also, during the five day Public Comment Period. The five day Public Comment is a HUD suggested time period. This allows us a more timely response. Citizens can email their comments to the CDBG Program email and they can also email me directly with any comments.

Mayor Paul asked do we ever get any extensive comments on the CDBG Plan?

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied on the Citizens Participation Plan, rarely. The action today is to approve two things. First, the Citizens Participation Plan and secondly, to announce the public hearings and the Public Comment Period for the Annual Plan and the Consolidated Plan. Those will be on the agenda for the May 19 Mayor / City Council meeting. There is no recommendation, at this point, to use all of our regular \$653,000 allocation.

Mayor Paul stated this is dealing largely with the emergency appropriation that we received from Congress. One of the reasons why HUD has advocated a shortened Public Comment Period is so that these funds can be moved into the economy more quickly. Is that correct?

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied that is correct.

Vote on the Motion: Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05-55

B. 2020-122 2020 Annual Action Plan and 2020 Amendment to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan

Madalyn Smith, Planner, Community Development presented the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans, which guide how CDBG grant funding will be spent. The Public Comment Period will be from May 7 to May 12. This year the City received an additional allocation of approximately \$384,000 through the CARES Act, specifically for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. Due to this, we needed to amend our Consolidated Plan and adjust our proposal for the 2020 Annual Action Plan. We have added a new project to the Consolidated Plan called COVID-19 Pandemic Response. The CARES Act funding will be dedicated to this project. The City also proposes the ability to use our normal allocation, which is approximately \$600,000 for COVID-19 Response. At this time, we are not considering this but, we would be using this money for our typical project, which for the past few years has been the Roswell Road Sidewalk Project. We will use our funds to defease the Section 108 Loan that was used to fund that sidewalk project in low-to-moderate income areas.

Mayor Paul opened the Public Hearing.

City Clerk Gonzalez advised there were no additional Public Comment Cards.

Mayor Paul closed the Public Hearing.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Reichel moved to approve the agenda item 2020-122, 2020 Annual Action Plan and 2020 Amendment to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan. Council Member Burnett seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020-123 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval to Apply for the 2020 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant

Donald Kahn, Field Services Unit Manager, Public Works presented a request for Mayor and Council to approve our Application to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the 2020 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant, which allows these projects along SR 400. The funding from the grant comes from contributions and fees paid by outdoor advertising companies to GDOT for vegetation removal and outdoor advertising signs. Funding may be used only for landscape plants, materials and insulation, for furtherance of the enhancements and beautification projects along state routes in Georgia. Due to COVID-19, the deadline for submissions is being extended to May 15, 2020. The maximum of the grant for award is \$50,000 per project. Additional information on how the funds can be used is on landscape, planting materials, sod, top soil, and mulch and labor costs associated with the above. Funds cannot be used for hardscape items, maintenance, design, and administration, planting at private developments, business developments or individual businesses that solely benefits and brings attention only to those businesses or developments. It cannot be used for annual planting, such as seasonal color, median planting or for trees planted within 500' of legal outdoor advertising signs. The project that we have identified is on Roswell Road, on the west side, south of Morgan Falls, all the way down to the north entrance of Classic Cadillac of Atlanta. The project consists of the installation of granite rock rubble walls, landscaping, and invasive vegetation eradication. The current estimate for the landscaping portion of this is \$66,000. The initial concept plan for the North End is pruning of an existing oak tree, removing existing

landscaping at the corner of Morgan Falls Road, removing invasive species in the landscaping currently in place. The center section is the installation of a wall, landscaping removal of a Chinese Holly, and invasives, selective tree pruning and sod replacement. The last section, on the south end, would be a wall installation, landscaping, removal of invasive species from the slope, selective trimming of the existing trees, removal of the existing Junipers from the existing wall landscaping at the far left hand, at the entrance to the Classic Cadillac location.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Paulson moved to approve the agenda item 2020-123, Consideration of Approval to Apply for the 2020 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant. Council Member Soteres seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Paulson, wanted to clarify that there is some talk that in the future putting a hawk crossing right at North Fulton County Government Annex. Will any of the improvements along this way have to be torn out, if that 'hawk' gets installed?

Field Services Manager Kahn replied, it will not.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05-56

VI. ADJOURNMENT

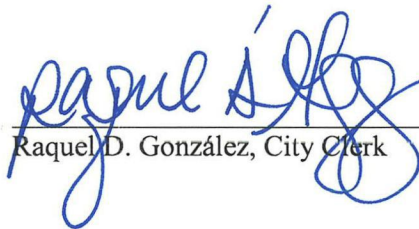
Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved to for adjournment of this Special Call Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sandy Springs. Council Member Soteres seconded. Mayor Paul called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm

Approved: May 19, 2020



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk