

Regular Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

INVOCATION

Reverend Tom Van Laningham, Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA), offered the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eva Galambos called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Clerk Michael Casey reminded everyone to silence all electronic devices at this time. Additionally, those wishing to provide public comment during either a public hearing or the Public Comment section of the meeting are required to complete a public comment card. The cards are located at the back counter and need to be turned in to the City Clerk.

City Clerk Casey called the roll.

Mayor: Mayor Eva Galambos present.

Councilmembers: Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Dianne Fries, Councilmember Chip Collins, Councilmember Gabriel Sterling, and Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny present. Councilmember Tibby DeJulio was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Agenda Item No. 11-118)

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve the Meeting Agenda for June 7, 2011. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Agenda Item No. 11-119)

1. Meeting Minutes:
 - a) May 10, 2011 Budget Workshop #2
 - b) May 17, 2011 Regular Meeting
 - c) May 17, 2011 Work Session*(Michael Casey, City Clerk)*

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve the Consent Agenda for June 7, 2011. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation - National Flag Day

Mayor Eva Galambos called the Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to the front. The Color Guard was with the City on its day of inception, December 1, 2005. She read the proclamation which states the Continental Congress of the United States, on June 14, 1777, adopted the first official flag of the United States. The Congress of the United States on August 3, 1949, officially designated June 14th of each year as "National Flag Day". The Congress of the United States on June 20, 1965, adopted a Joint Resolution approved by the President, to recognize a pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as part of National Flag Day ceremonies and urged all Americans to participate. The City of Sandy Springs has always been proud of our National Flag and what it symbolizes, knowing that it stands for the best that humankind has ever sought and achieved in the history of this world. She proclaimed June 14th as "National Flag Day" and called upon all citizens to share actively in this commemoration and join in a common declaration of faith represented in the words of the Pledge of Allegiance. She thanked the Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Allen Greenly, Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented Mayor Galambos with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and certificate. Mayor Galambos has served as the Mayor of Sandy Springs since 2006. She has held various positions in the Sandy Springs community before becoming the first Mayor of the City. She was the President of the Committee for Sandy Springs from 1975-2005, which fought to incorporate Sandy Springs. She is also co-founder and former secretary of Sandy Springs Revitalization, Founder of Sandy Springs Clean and Beautiful, Chair of services Committee for the Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods, former Chair of Fulton County Public Housing Authority, and Founder of Sandy Springs Civic Roundtable.

Mayor Galambos stated she is very honored and will cherish this award, which will remind her of the group's visits.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Clerk Michael Casey read the rules for the Public Hearings section of the meeting.

(Agenda Item No. 11-120)

1. First Public Hearing on FY2012 Budget

City Manager John McDonough stated in front of the Council are updated budget pages of three areas from the May 24, 2011, budget presentation. There were questions about the police officers assigned to Court for security. That was a duplication in the budget, which was eliminated and resulted in a savings of \$149,480. That savings was placed into the capital contingency fund. The second area is non-profits and the \$325,000 was reallocated. Under general administration there is \$120,000 unallocated to provide all interested non-profit organizations the opportunity to make an application to the City for that money. The Keep Sandy Springs Beautiful amount of \$75,000 was moved to the Public Works Department. The remainder of the money was moved to the Parks and Recreation Department. These items are represented by Movies by Moonlight at \$15,000, The Bike Classic at \$12,500, Sandy Springs Festival at \$12,500, the Heritage Green agreement at \$75,000, and \$15,000 for Heritage Concerts. The total dollar amount remains the same, but was allocated to Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and General Administration. There are a couple of pages which list the capital project funds. This list shows a summary of the status of all the projects, how much money the City has had since inception, and how much money remains. Two changes in this category are the \$149,480 that was moved from the duplication of employee savings in the Court to the capital program funds; and the City recently received a GDOT award for \$500,000 for the Morgan Falls Road project and this was updated. There has been an interest in the amount of savings from the City's recent procurement process. He will be discussing the staff recommendations for the Public Works subcontracts as well as the gymnastics contract. Council has received a five year cost savings update based on all the information available to staff. In the area of Public Works, staff has identified savings of approximately \$500,000 from the anticipated cost of the contracts. The subtotal

estimate on the first year anticipated savings for FY2012 over the previous contract is 31.3%, or \$7,522,000.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked if the \$500,000 savings from Public Works is the result of the subcontractors being cheaper than anticipated.

City Manager McDonough responded yes.

Mayor Galambos called for public comments in support of or opposition to this application. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Galambos closed the public hearing.

Alcoholic Beverage

(Agenda Item No. 11-121)

2. Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Double Zero Napolenta at 5825 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Applicant is Federico W. Castellucci for Consumption on The Premises of Wine, Malt Beverage & Distilled Spirits

Finance Director Amy Davis stated this item is an alcoholic beverage license application for Double Zero Napolenta.

Mayor Galambos called for public comments in support of or opposition to this application. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Galambos closed the public hearing.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-121, Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Double Zero Napolenta at 5825 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Applicant is Federico W. Castellucci for Consumption on The Premises of Wine, Malt Beverage & Distilled Spirits. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

River Corridor

(Agenda Item No. 11-122)

2. RC 11-01SS - 100 River Close

Environmental Compliance Officer David Schmid stated the owner of the property at 100 River Close proposes to build a single family residence. The owner submitted an application of review to the Atlanta Regional Commission, since the property is in the river corridor. The Atlanta Regional Commission found the plans consistent with the River Corridor plan and the application was advertised for the required time. Staff recommends approval, since the application was found consistent with the Chattahoochee River Corridor Plan.

Mayor Galambos called for public comments in support of or opposition to this application. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Galambos closed the public hearing.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-122, RC 11-01SS - 100 River Close. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda Item No. 11-123)

1. Operating Agreement with Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc.

Director of Recreation & Parks Ronnie Young stated Marina Davidovich is the principal of the Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc. Ms. Davidovich has been the Recreation and Parks Program and Gymnastics Manager for the past five years for the City. During this time, the gymnastics program has grown from approximately 100 children to over 1,200 in the program today. Rhythmic and artistic teams have been created with ninety young girls participating. This agreement is to allow Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc. to take over operation of the center and provide the programs.

City Manager John McDonough stated the Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc. would pay the City a flat fee of \$3,000 per month. This agreement was discussed over the past several months. This is a fee based arrangement in which the fees paid by the participants will go to the provider, Sandy Springs Recreation. The expenses for the program will be approximately \$530,000 in the first year. Under Section 4 of the contract there is an incentive clause that states that any fees collected over \$530,000, netting out the expenses, would be split 50/50 between the provider and the City. This is an incentive for the vendor to grow the program. The first year term is recommended for six months, which would go to December 31st. The purpose for this, under Georgia Law, is there can be an automatic renewal of a contract that ends at the end of a calendar year. If the City is satisfied with the program and does not give a thirty day notice, the contract can continue to roll over for up to a period of five years.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked if every time the contract comes up for renewal it will be automatically renewed, unless the City cancels the contract.

City Manager McDonough stated the contract will continue for up to five years, unless the City gives the vendor thirty days notice.

Councilmember Chip Collins asked if the \$530,000 in expenses includes salaries and Ms. Davidovich's salary.

City Manager McDonough stated the cost includes instructors, the Program Manager Marina Davidovich, the fee to the City of \$36,000, online registration, business insurance, and staffing support for front desk personnel, janitorial promotions, accounting, and approximately a five percent profit.

Councilmember Collins asked what Ms. Davidovich's salary would be.

City Manager McDonough stated her salary will be \$85,000, which includes salary and benefits.

Councilmember Collins asked if that amount is standard for this type of position.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young responded yes.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny asked how many other instructors there are and what their hourly rate or annual salary will be. Is this a reasonable amount?

City Manager McDonough stated the instructors are paid on a percentage basis, with a 65/35 split. The instructor receives sixty-five percent and the vendor receives thirty-five percent of the cost of the class. If there are fifteen kids in each class and the class cost is \$10 per kid, the total amount would be \$150. The instructor would receive 65% of that.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked where the remainder of the \$530,000 goes. Where is the bulk of the money going? Is the City paying the instructors a salary in addition to the percentage they receive?

Councilmember Dianne Fries responded no. Ms. Davidovich runs the program and is a salary employee. The instructors are paid based only on how many kids attend the class.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked if the instructors sixty-five percent split is included in the \$530,000.

City Manager McDonough stated yes, the sixty-five percent is included in the \$530,000. It is the estimated expense to have the instructors. Staff can only go on the estimates we have.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young stated the instructor's income is based on the number of classes they work with in a twelve month period.

City Manager McDonough stated the nice thing about this agreement is it is fee based. The arrangement made at this point is fair to both parties and based on the fees. Any fees collected in excess of \$530,000 will be split evenly between the vendor and the City. At the end of twelve months, staff will have a better idea of what the participation is and where the program is going. At this point in time, these are the best estimates that staff has.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated she wanted to make sure what the City is paying is reasonable, since we have the obligation to the capital and are providing it.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young stated the Sandy Springs gymnastics program is one of the most respected and best attended programs in the metro Atlanta area.

Councilmember Collins asked if Sandy Springs Recreation's financial records will be available for the Council to review.

City Manager McDonough responded yes. There are provisions in the contract for an audit.

Mayor Galambos asked if the contract covers only gymnastics or some of the other programs.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young stated on page one of the contract it states the contract includes dance classes, cheerleading, martial arts, etiquette classes, summer and winter camps, birthday parties, and some independent shows and workshops. Everything that has been previously conducted in the gym facility will be under the new contract with Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc. This contact service is similar to the agreement with the Sandy Springs Youth Sports that provides baseball, softball, and football programs. Ms. Davidovich's company will take care of gymnastics.

Mayor Galambos asked if any of the activities take place at the Hitson Center.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young responded no.

Councilmember John Paulson asked if Council can have a report at the end of three months on how the agreement is working.

City Manager McDonough responded yes.

Mayor Galambos asked if there is a similar program at Hitson.

Director of Recreation & Parks Young stated the possibility of taking the rhythmic gymnastics group to practice at the Hitson Center was discussed. For some unforeseen reasons, this was not done. All of these programs will be conducted at the gymnastics center.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-123, Operating Agreement with Sandy Springs Recreation, Inc. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Agenda Item No. 11-124)

2. Recommendation to execute a contract with Republic Intelligent Transportation Services for Signal Maintenance and other services

City Manager John McDonough stated the next five items are all related to the current Public Works subcontractors that are under the CH2M HILL master contract. An important requirement from Council was continuity of service. In order to mitigate the City's risk in that area, the determination was made to bid out the professional services for the positions at City Hall. If the subcontractors would maintain the same terms and conditions they provided to CH2M HILL with the City, we would extend them a contract for a period of one year to ensure continuity for the citizens of Sandy Springs. The initial numbers received from CH2M HILL were approximately \$5.1 million dollars in the earlier spreadsheets provided to Council. Staff met with each of the subcontractors, looked specifically at the scopes of work, and asked the subcontractors to provide their costs. Those numbers were less than what staff had anticipated by an amount of \$552,000. That is why the total savings for FY2012 increased to thirty-one percent, from \$7 million to \$7.5 million. There is a contract for each subcontractor to continue the same level of service at the same cost as what is being provided today. He recommended Council approve all of the contracts and authorize the Manager to execute the contracts. This is not an indefinite contract, but for a period of one year. As staff learns more about the operations by working with the contractors, the scopes of work will be validated. Staff will then prepare a request for proposal to rebid all the packages. The expectation is that July 1, 2013, new contracts will be in place for a multiyear period of time. The City will go out to bid after the first of the year in 2012.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated she has a few questions regarding the contracts. Why is the mowing of the highway interchanges not being extended into mowing the highways?

City Manager McDonough stated a separate bid and contract is in place for the mowing. Staff did not want to get into changing the terms and conditions of the contract, but left them at status quo. Going forward into the new RFP, staff will take all the workload indicators into account for the new solicitation that will be put out.

Councilmember Fries stated the scope of work states that illegal signs will be picked up between 8:00 – 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays only.

City Manager McDonough stated there may be a distinction between the Code Enforcement officers under the Collaborative's contract, which is now done by CH2M HILL's Code Enforcement staff. Typically, the Code Enforcement officers will pick up the illegal signs. Staff will confirm this.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated she believes the Code Enforcement officers currently pick up the illegal signs.

City Manager McDonough stated picking up the illegal signs is a shared responsibility between the Code Enforcement officers and the subcontractor.

Councilmember Fries stated the Wildcat contract seems like a small number for the striping.

City Manager McDonough stated that paint is cheap. These are the numbers that have been used for the last several years, so staff felt no need to change them.

Mayor Galambos stated if the contractor agrees to the numbers, she does not see why staff should argue.

Councilmember Fries stated she did not see how many miles of striping the contract will cover.

Councilmember John Paulson stated that contract also has a table of specific items that have to be purchased, which are separate items. The base contract does not include additional material, so that may be why the number looks low.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-124, To execute a contract with Republic Intelligent Transportation Services for Signal Maintenance and other services. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Agenda Item No. 11-125)

3. Recommendation to execute a contract with Optech Monette for park maintenance, right of way maintenance, street cleaning and other services

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-125, To execute a contract with Optech Monette for park maintenance, right of way maintenance, street cleaning and other services. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Agenda Item No. 11-126)

4. Recommendation to execute a contract with Roadworx for road maintenance and other services

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-126, To execute a contract with Roadworx for road maintenance and other services. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Agenda Item No. 11-127)

5. Recommendation to execute a contract with Wildcat for road striping, sealing and other services

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Paulson moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-127, To execute a contract with Wildcat for road striping, sealing and other services. Councilmember Meinzen McEnery seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Agenda Item No. 11-128)

6. Recommendation to execute a contract with Blount Construction for road maintenance and other services

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-128, To execute a contract with Blount Construction for road maintenance and other services. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked the City Manager to call the attention to the proper subcontractor for the Northridge traffic islands. They look awful.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated landscape fabric needs to go under this area.
Mayor Galambos stated there are more weeds than plants.

City Manager John McDonough stated the City may need to enter into new contracts for that area and expand the level of service there. Staff will take appropriate action on this.

Mayor Galambos stated even if weed killer was used it would help.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated she worked on a City park project that had landscaping material which collected leaves and dirt. Spraying the plants with weed killer is probably the cheapest solution long term.

Councilmember Fries stated the plants are too close for spraying in that area.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor and Council Reports
2. Staff Reports
 - a) Contract Transition Update – John McDonough

City Manager John McDonough stated the representatives from the five different companies have been invited to give the Mayor and Council a brief update. He would like to introduce the lead and they will introduce their staff. He asked Bayne Smith with URS to the front. URS is responsible for the Public Works services as of July 1st.

Bayne Smith, Representative of URS, stated his company is pleased to be there and to be selected for the work. URS is an international engineering company with an office in Sandy Springs. The office has two hundred or more people, they have been in Sandy Springs for about seven years, and in the Atlanta area for over fifty years. He introduced Kevin Walter, the Public Works Director, and Walter Rekuc, the Deputy Public Works Director. He introduced Peter Hortman who works as a liaison between URS and the public sector agencies. URS has been on site for a couple of weeks and staff has been accommodating in helping with the transition. His company is in the process of interviewing the incumbent staff. Almost all of the incumbent staff have applied for positions with URS and those interviews have been completed. In the next few days, URS will be making offers. By mid June all staff should be hired and ready to complete the transition.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked if all the offer letters will be out by the end of this week.

Mr. Smith stated URS will probably make verbal offers first and those will be followed up with formal offer letters. The vast majority of those will be out within the next five days.

Councilmember John Paulson stated this is a City that had a dire need for Public Works over the past five years. The CH2M HILL employees have done a great job. Those are big shoes to fill.

Mr. Smith stated the staff is fabulous. URS has enjoyed interviewing the existing staff and will do their best to bring as many over as they can. There will be a few that will not make the transition, but a vast majority will.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated we like what we are hearing.

Councilmember Chip Collins stated he would like a meeting with the new Public Works Director and Deputy Director in the near future to discuss issues in his district.

Mr. Smith stated URS is in the office almost full time now. The last few days have been spent interviewing. He has charged his staff to be on site as much as they can for the next few weeks for the transition.

City Manager McDonough stated these types of meetings will be coordinated. He reminded Council that the contractors do not officially begin work until July 1st.

Councilmember Collins stated we want to hit the ground running and make sure the transition is seamless.

City Manager McDonough stated URS has a very detailed transition plan. They are doing a great job of providing weekly updates and working through the transition plan.

Councilmember Collins asked what Mr. Smith's role is.

Mr. Smith stated he is the Principal on the project. He is accountable to the City Manager to ensure the contract is followed. He will not be on site full time, but he is just down the road in the office. His job is the overall program manager.

Councilmember Sterling asked where the URS office is located.

Mr. Smith stated his office is located in the 400 building at North Park.

Kevin Walter, future Public Works Director, stated he is delighted to be here working for such an innovative and exciting City. He considers this the highlight of his career and he is looking forward to starting work full time July 1st.

Mayor Galambos stated there is a huge list of Public Works projects underway and we do not want to lose the momentum on any of them.

City Manager McDonough asked Chuck Button from Jacobs Engineering to the front. Jacobs Engineering will be providing Court Services and Recreation Services.

Chuck Button, Representative of Jacobs Engineering, stated he appreciates this opportunity. Many knew Jacobs before as JIG. They have been the largest engineering company in the Atlanta area for fifty-five years. He appreciates what staff has done for his company, making the transition very easy. Jacobs has met with all of staff for interviews and has considered all of their ideas. They are looking at different options on how to improve the Court department. They have met with the different stakeholders that are involved with Court, which include the Police Department, the Solicitors office, the Call Center, and the Probation Department. They have received ideas from all of these departments for possible changes to make things more efficient. He met with Director of Recreation & Parks Ronnie Young and discussed the staffing organization and salary structures. Just about every existing employee will be incorporated during the transition time. Official offer letters will be given on June 20th.

Mayor Galambos stated we look forward to working with you.

City Manager McDonough called Gary Nichols to the front.

Gary Nichols, Representative of InterDev, stated almost all of the IT equipment has arrived. The servers are running in this building and at ChatComm. There has been excellent cooperation from the CH2M HILL and Critigen staff. He has been working with the Fire Department on a bonus application for software development for bonus tracking to assist with the Human Resources Department. The

migration is going well, but it is two weeks behind where he would like it to be. His staff is working hard to catch up and still be off of all the systems by the end of this month. There is a contingency plan in place, if that is not the case. The cooperation has been excellent and InterDev has enjoyed meeting and working with all the staff. Four of the current staff will be hired by InterDev.

Councilmember Sterling asked if InterDev is two weeks off schedule, will that change any of the amounts of money being spent on the transition.

Mr. Nichols stated more money is not anticipated directly at this time. However, their contingency plan from the beginning would be a request to either CH2M HILL or Critigen to have the data center open for one month, if necessary. This should not require any staff.

Councilmember Sterling asked if there is a cost for that request.

Mr. Nichols stated a request has been made. He does not have that number at this time, but he does not anticipate a particularly high number for that.

City Manager McDonough introduced Ed Shoucair with the Collaborative. The Collaborative will be providing Community Development services and Communications beginning July 1st.

Ed Shoucair, Representative of the Collaborative, introduced Barbara Patterson, a senior manager from their California office who is helping with the transition, as well as the Director of Operations, Craig Martin. Transitions are a time of learning. On June 1st the Collaborative began the transition process. The process began by meeting with City staff, elected officials, and business leaders in the community. The interview process with staff has already started. His staff is moving through the interview process with speed and care. The Collaborative has learned how well trained the incumbent staff is, how dedicated they are, and how much they care. CH2M HILL brought in terrific people and did a great job in nurturing those people. In talking to City leaders he sees how much the people in this community care. With talented staff, community leaders and business leaders who care only good things come out of that. His staff looks forward to working with the City.

Councilmember Sterling asked if there is a timeline when informal offers and offer letters will go out to the incumbent staff. His main concern is he does not want people on June 25th not knowing if they will have a job on July 1st.

Mr. Shoucair stated after all the positions are looked at, his company will not waste any time in making offers. Hopefully, by the end of next week offers will be made.

Councilmember Sterling stated he appreciates that.

b) April Financial Report – Amy Davis

There were no questions from Council on the April Financial Report.

c) LED Status Report – Blake Dettwiler

City Manager John McDonough stated staff has an update for a project at the Prado regarding signage and LEDs.

Director of Community Development Blake Dettwiler stated this is an update from the last meeting when there was a discussion on why the City currently prohibits the use of LEDs for commercial signs.

Staff has met with Assistant City Attorney Cecil McLendon and Laurel Henderson. Staff has provided a handout, a draft markup of Section 33.18 of the Zoning Ordinance. On Section 2 of the second page is what will be seen at the July 12th City Council Meeting. This item will be taken to the Planning Commission next week and has to be advertised for fifteen days. This is the amendment that is being proposed and will be brought before Council on July 12th. This will allow the business community to use LED technology specifically for backlighting of signs.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated there are new street signs where the traffic lights are. The City has installed backlit street signs that are very appealing. Is that what is being referred to with this language.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler stated the zoning ordinance currently prohibits the use of light emitting the diode technology.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if this is referring to the flashing lights.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler stated the lights are not necessarily flashing, but are high efficiency lights, instead of the incandescent lights that were more commonly used. Based on feedback from the business community and the Mayor and Council, he had the opportunity to sit with the City Attorney's office to craft language that would allow the use of this technology in backlighting. The use of these lights will not be bright and flashing or a distraction for drivers. The revised ordinance will allow the business community to leverage the technology that makes sense from an energy efficiency standpoint.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if the backlit lights at Hammond Drive are LED.

Director of Public Works Tom Black responded they are.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling stated there is a second part of this which is using LEDs in a street lighting situation. This item does not address that. Does something else need to be done?

Director of Community Development Dettwiler stated the LED lights can be used in a street light situation. This language specifically prohibits the use of the LED lights for signs.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if there is any progress being made regarding the other comments from the Main Street Alliance about signs, mixed use, and streetscape.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler stated many of those items are part of an agenda that has been tentatively scheduled with the Planning Commission for the retreat next week.

Councilmember Chip Collins asked if the LED language would take care of the request the City received from the health club.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler responded it will.

Mayor Galambos asked if there was a request from a new restaurant.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler stated there have been probably half a dozen requests within the last six weeks related to the LED lights.

Councilmember Collins asked if the ordinance would still prohibit the billboards that change every few minutes.

Director of Community Development Dettwiler responded yes.

Mayor Galambos stated this ordinance would utilize energy efficient lighting in store fronts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elna Sheetz, 145 North Mill Road, stated she spoke to the Mayor and Council approximately a year and a half ago to ask that the Council participate in the FEMA mitigation project. She wanted to give Council an update on her personal situation. At the time of the flood, she had her home listed for sale for \$515,000. Her home was not one of the six home buyouts, but is on the next home buyout list. Her house is now uninhabitable and has been reassessed at \$124,000. She is now paying taxes on a lower amount, which helps. She has been working closely with staff, David Chasant and Bennett White, who have been helpful. She has learned over the past two years the difference between a flood plain and a flood way. GEMA explained to her that a flood plain encompasses all of it. If a house is in a flood plain, the house is on the edge of a bathtub and a flood way is if the house is in the bathtub. Her house is located in a flood way on North Mill Road, in the March Creek Basin. Because her house is in the flood way, there are a lot of restrictions on what can be done to the property. She cannot repair the home and it has flooded since September. The house has flooded four times in seven years and flooded again in August, 2010. In order to be eligible for the FEMA project, she has to keep up the mortgage, insurance, and taxes, as well as maintain her new residence. She will be moving, because she has been assigned by the Methodist Church to a disaster relief center in Louisiana. She will be helping others in Louisiana that might possibly be in the same situation she is in here. When looking at long range planning for this area, properties like hers will never be buyable to be homes. Her home was built in the 1970's and at that time the area had not flooded for twenty-five years. There are a lot of people she has spoken with about putting a community garden in this area or a natural habitat. She thanked the Mayor and Council. She has been a resident of Sandy Springs for twenty-seven years, which has been a joy.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated we are sorry to see you go. We wish you a lot of good luck.

Noss Taheri with T-Domus, LLC, 1220 Regency Road, stated this is his first time attending a City Council Meeting. While he was waiting to speak he read the City logo which states honest, efficient and responsive. These are things that he takes very seriously in his existing business of manufacturing. By chance, his wife convinced him to go into the construction business. He became interested in building efficient homes that are responsive to customers. Recently, the ground breaking has occurred on one of his properties. There have been difficulties within the past several months regarding permits being issued, as well as inspection of the property, which has caused five months of delay. His plan is to create energy efficient, quality homes. He felt it important to bring these issues to Council's attention. When dealing with the government, some bureaucracy comes into the picture. There is a necessity to meet and demonstrate the difficulties his company has been facing the past few months.

Mayor Galambos stated staff would be happy to speak with Mr. Taheri. She asked him to call the office and make an appointment.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny asked where he is trying to build homes.

Mr. Taheri stated he has an eight lot subdivision on Glenridge Drive. His wife is a real estate agent and decided to purchase the lots, since they were a good opportunity. He would like to meet to go over the plan. He is not familiar with all of the construction issues, but his general contractor knows all the details. His contractor has told him the project cannot begin due to some issue. He feels that different rules apply to different people in the same area of construction.

City Manager John McDonough stated we would be happy to learn what we can from this experience and offer some guidance. He suggested Mr. Taheri speak to Assistant City Manager Noah Reiter regarding his experience.

City Manager McDonough stated Bob Koncar from Severn Trent just joined the meeting. He asked Mr. Koncar to the front for a transition update.

Bob Koncar, Regional General Manager for Severn Trent Services, stated with him is Karen Ellis, who is the head of the Atlanta office. They just left a meeting with the employees. He apologized for his delay in arriving at this meeting. Their contract requires 18.5 full time equivalent positions. Currently, sixteen of those positions are filled. All of the HR requirements will be met by the end of this week. The other positions will be filled within the next week to ten days with all of the required background checks completed. There will be additional training with the personnel and they will be ready to start work on July 1st.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated this comment is for all of the contractors. There was mention of a background check. The existing staff has been in these buildings for five years. The offers can come ahead with a line item stating contingent on background checks and not make the people wait for three weeks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

(Agenda Item No. 11-129)

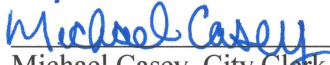
ADJOURNMENT

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Date Approved: June 21, 2011



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk

