
Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

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

INVOCATION

North Springs United Methodist Church Student Intern Kelly Autry, Emory University – Candler School of Theology, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 18-048 Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement

Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager France Campbell gave the Roswell Road at Grogans Ferry Road Intersection Improvement PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member John Paulson asked how travelers will have to come out of the Quick Trip to travel north.

Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager Campbell stated travelers will make a right onto Roswell Road, and then make a U-turn from a U-turn lane just south of the Morgan Falls traffic signal. As the signal turns red every 60 to 90 seconds, it causes gaps in traffic, which will allow people to make a U-turn and proceed north.

Council Member Paulson asked if someone is traveling north on Roswell Road, would they have to make a U-turn at Grogans Ferry Road to go to the Quick Trip.

Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager Campbell replied that is correct. This would be the same for all of the nearby businesses. Travelers would utilize the U-turns at both ends. This is a common practice in traffic engineering.

Council Member Paulson stated some signals have left turn lanes that have green turn lights, but then switch to a blinking yellow turn light while the straight through lanes get a green arrow. Is there any consideration of making the left turn lane a blinking yellow signal at Grogans Ferry?

Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager Campbell stated the preference is always to start with a flashing yellow turn signal, which is called protective and permissive phasing. Red arrows are only used when there is a sight distance issue or if there are multiple turn lanes. Phasing design is the next phase.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if there is a cut-through for Ison Road through the back of the neighborhood.

Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager Campbell replied that the roadway does provide connectivity from Ison Springs Elementary School. Traffic/Transportation Unit Manager Campbell and Project Manager Joe Gillis observed school traffic during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods. There was a small percentage of people that might have been coming from that direction of the neighborhood, though it was not clear if they were cut-through or local residents. It is a circuitous path to get there, and not necessarily a shorter or quicker path. Staff will need to make sure that the signal timings at Roswell Road and Ison Road/Pitts Road can properly handle the traffic, then there should not be a cut-through issue. In most conditions, it would be much quicker to go to the traffic signal.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to final design.

2. **18-050** A Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of New Fire Engine/Pumper for the City of Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department

Fire Chief Keith Sanders gave the Purchase of New Fire Engine/Pumper for the City of Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if changes in technology have made it so that the proposed Pumper truck, while shorter than trucks in the City's current fleet, can go just as high as the City's current trucks.

Fire Chief Sanders replied yes. Most fire departments move towards a Tiller truck concept, where an officer is driving in the rear of the truck. The City borrowed Alpharetta's new Tiller truck to see if it maneuvered better in the City's traffic and if it was able to get into the City's apartment complexes. It was a challenge to get the truck into many of the City's apartment complexes, because of their steep and narrow entrances. The City's current Aerial truck from Station 2 cannot get into two of the City's apartment complexes. When tested, the proposed Pumper truck was able to maneuver well, and go around the City's cul-de-sacs and islands. Also, the turning radius is improved in the Pumper truck. Changing the size of the apparatus is a focus of the Department. Since 2014, the Fire Department has reduced its call volume by 4,000 medical calls. The Fire Department has held the City's ambulance contractor more accountable, in order to ensure adequate coverage in case of a serious fire threat. The Department has discussed options to pay-off the current debt services with the City Manager and Finance Department. The pay-off of the proposed truck purchase would happen in the latter part of next year's budget, which would be at the same time as the delivery of the new fleet.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked what is the cost of the new equipment, the trade-in values of the current fleet, and the City's net out-of-pocket expenses.

Finance Director Karen Ellis replied there are two different amounts to finance the purchase. One is approximately \$4.5 million, if the City goes outside of Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. Pierce is offering the best rate, because they are building the truck. Pierce is giving the City a special discount. The rates are all competitive. The financing would include a seven to ten year loan, which is similar to how the City financed the last purchase. Additionally, the City would have the option to prepay. The City's debt service would remain the same, if it elected to finance over ten years.

Council Member Burnett asked staff to consider completing a cost-benefit analysis, which should include a review of the potential reduction in maintenance costs.

Council Member John Paulson stated the cost of the new fleet appears to be \$3.5 million, but staff has requested \$4.5 million. What is the discrepancy?

Finance Director Ellis replied the difference includes the pay-off of the City's old loans. The fleet will take a year to build, but financing needs to be in place to purchase today. Though the truck will be delivered in a year, the City will need to continue to pay on the old loan. The City will receive the proceeds from the sale of the current fleet in a year. The City would come out with about a \$900,000 surplus. As it amortizes, the loan will go down to about \$500,000, and the City will sell the trucks for approximately \$1.4 million.

Fire Chief Sanders stated he will review any discrepancies prior to bringing the item before City Council for action.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to a future regular City Council meeting.

3. **18-051** An Ordinance to Amend the City Code as it Relates to Noise

Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert gave the Changes to the Noise Ordinance, Section 38 of the Code PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if measuring decibel levels would require that all officers carry decibel level readers in their vehicles and be trained on how to interpret decibel levels for proper enforcement.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied that the City would follow a common practice where only supervisors have decibel meters in their vehicles. Supervisors would respond to complaints and take the readings. The decibel meters would be calibrated regularly. The City's Code Enforcement supervisors would also be equipped with readers to supplement the Police Department's efforts.

Council Member DeJulio asked what the added expense is.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied that the meters are seven hundred dollars each.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked how officers currently respond to noise complaints in the middle of the day, when a complaint is received that a neighbor's gas blower is too loud.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied that yard work is exempt during the day. On occasion, the City receives similar complaints about golf courses. The City's current regulations state that golf course employees can do the yard maintenance anytime they want to. However, if the service is outsourced, then the contractor is restricted by the starting and ending time.

Council Member John Paulson stated there is an app available on smart phones to measure decibel levels. Many times the ambient noise level coming from GA-400 is above what City Code allows. How can we ensure our restrictions are practical?

Assistant City Manager Tolbert replied that an option is to enforce a specific maximum noise level and include the alternative "or ten points above ambient". Typically, commercial areas have ambient noise that can make it difficult to determine where the noise is coming from.

Council Member Paulson asked staff to review how the additional ten points added to the ambient noise level will work, and to discuss that at a future City Council meeting.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to a future regular City Council meeting.

4. **18-052** Amendment to Reciprocal Easement Agreement between the City of Sandy Springs and Junior Achievement of Georgia, Inc.

Recreation and Parks Director Mike Perry gave the Amendment to Reciprocal Easement Agreement between City of Sandy Springs and Junior Achievement of Georgia, Inc. PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked if patrons are parking in unmarked spaces during peak times. Staff needs to provide Council with additional information, such as the referenced Reciprocal Easement Agreement.

Recreation and Parks Director Perry stated yes, but the Tennis Center operators believe the loss of parking spaces will have minimal impact during peak hours.

Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert stated that the Primrose School only operates Monday through Friday. When they are not operating, then the parking spaces dedicated to Primrose School may be available to Tennis Center patrons.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if the strip highlighted in green will be sold to the company building Primrose. The challenge includes weekdays.

Recreation and Parks Director Perry replied the highlighted area is owned by Junior Achievement.

Council Member Burnett stated that Holy Innocents meets at the Tennis Center during the spring. There is hardly parking during this time. The proposal seems unsafe, because there will be a school with little kids and a lot of traffic. Now we are talking about additional under-parking at the Tennis Center on weekdays, when this is business time at Primrose. We need to know more about what we are signing up for.

Council Member Bauman stated that while Junior Achievement owns the property, the City has a property interest with the easement. There is some talk about passive use of the greenspace behind the building. More information is needed prior to a final decision. We should have an understanding of the value of the easement in the property. If the City walks away, is it some sort of gratuity?

Mayor Rusty Paul stated that Junior Achievement has been trying to sell the building. With all the work that has gone into the presented agreement, all the key parties believe what is presented is to everyone's advantage.

Council Member Burnett stated that with the Tennis Center contract coming up for bid July 1, it is possible that the current operator will not be the operator of the Tennis Center by the time the Primrose School is built.

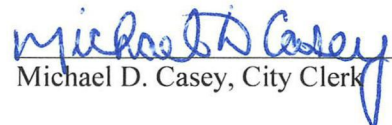
There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to a future regular City Council meeting, and staff should provide the additional requested information to the City Council.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Date Approved: February 20, 2018



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk