

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:02 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.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Joshua Heller, B'nai Torah, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. 19-063 TSPLOST Program Update

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Allen Johnson gave the T-SPLOST Program Update PowerPoint presentation.

There was no Council discussion on this item.

City Management

2. 19-076 Ordinance Regulating Small Wireless Infrastructure

Mayor Rusty Paul stated this item was voted on in the House during the State legislative session. The Senate committee and the House have approved this bill.

Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert gave the Small Cell Wireless Regulation PowerPoint presentation dated February 15, 2019.

Mayor Paul stated the City has certain areas that already have buried utilities where utility poles are not located. He asked if a utility company is allowed to erect a pole in an area where poles do not exist today.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated he will address that now in the presentation. The City does have more flexibility in areas that the City designates as an underground utility area. Staff will bring changes back to Council for our Underground Utility Ordinance that will designate the areas where we both intend to have underground utilities and those where the utilities have already been placed underground.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if the utility companies will be able to place utility equipment on City light poles located in the right-of-way.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert responded yes. He does not believe the utility companies will use the pedestrian lights because the poles are short. The City owned light poles will be used.

Council Member DeJulio asked how many potential poles are there.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated he does not believe that Council has calculated the number. The utilities are usually placed about every 250 to 500 feet.

Mayor Paul stated the utility transmitters only have a range of about 500 feet.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated the trend of state legislative preemption is troubling. Once again, we are having the state force certain regulations onto the municipalities. He asked if these fees are the maximum fees allowed by law.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated the fees that were quoted are the maximum allowed by law.

Council Member John Paulson asked if the City can limit the minimum distance between poles so they can be spaced out.

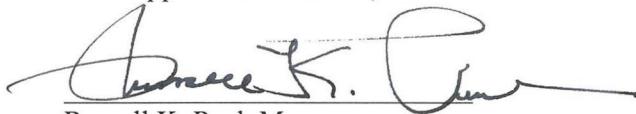
Assistant City Manager Tolbert responded no.

Mayor Paul stated the current bill we are operating under has been negotiated through the Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Verizon, and AT&T. On the House side, the leadership is saying all four of those parties can veto amendments. Through our City Attorney, we suggested an amendment that was taken straight from the Georgia State Constitution. We just found out that amendment has been rejected. Leadership does not want to make any changes on the House side beyond what has been negotiated. This is restrictive for the City and will cause us challenges.

There was a consensus of Council for staff to move forward with this item to be presented at the next City Council meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Date Approved: March 5, 2019


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Coty Thigpen, City Clerk