

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 7:17 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Development

1. **17-087** Introduction to the Assessment of Fair Housing

Director of Community Development Michelle Alexander gave the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) and Community Engagement Plan PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he is regularly asked by some of the citizens about the old apartments that are disappearing, and what the plans are to develop areas where the poor are being pushed out. That is not the case. This more proactive approach is something we need to do to reassure the community that a diverse community is a healthy community. Diversity may involve different ethnic groups and generational groups, among other things, to make a healthy community. One of the great things about Sandy Springs is that we do care about making sure people have fair access to housing, and we put money into a lot of programs to help the least, the lost, and the left behind. Housing is the most crucial aspect of that. It's important that we do this, not just because the federal government requires that we do this, but because it is also part of our moral and ethical code as a community.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated that the presentation states the City will define affordable housing as paying no more than 30 percent of one's gross income for housing, including utilities. The federal government also uses percentage of median household income to define affordable housing. Would it make sense for the City to use more than one measure?

Community Development Director Alexander responded yes, multiple metrics would be used to paint the whole picture.

Mayor Paul stated the 30% measure has been CDBG's threshold when measuring income versus housing costs.

City Attorney

2. **17-088** Service Delivery Strategy Agreement
(Presented by Wendell Willard, City Attorney)

City Attorney Wendell Willard discussed the proposed Service Delivery Strategy Agreement made between Fulton County and all of the fourteen cities within the County. The negotiations have required numerous meetings, often times involving the elected officials and/or the attorneys. The Agreement recognizes how the various services will be provided, from 911 services to yard waste collections, by the county, by the cities, or sometimes in combination, so there is not an overlapping of services. Water Treatment and Distribution includes a provision that states, "the City of Sandy Springs reserves all rights available under the Constitution of Georgia and Georgia law, with respect to the provision of water services within the corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs, and by entering into this agreement does not waive any such rights". This formalizes that there is not an agreement between Sandy Springs and the City of Atlanta addressing its water delivery. Now that the county's Service Delivery Strategy Agreement has been finalized, the cost of water delivery is something we need to turn our attention to. The City Clerk has a full copy of the 1,600 page Service Delivery Strategy Agreement. Once completed,

the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement will be filed with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated there have been news reports of Fulton County debating whether to discontinue animal control services. Based on the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement, what will happen if Fulton County stops providing Animal Control services?

City Manager John McDonough stated under the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement there is no change. The County pays for rabies control through their general fund. There is a pro rata assessment based on all of the political subdivisions within the County, and the municipalities then pay a proportionate share of the animal control services provided.

Council Member Sterling replied that south Fulton County and the City of Atlanta receive approximately 70% of the animal control services, so they may not be paying their full share.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated this is an item for discussion at an upcoming city and county joint meeting.

City Manager McDonough stated the City's preference is for the County to continue to provide the service on a countywide basis. It makes sense to continue the status quo, even if it costs a bit more, as opposed to the individual municipal jurisdictions providing their own animal control services.

Council Member Sterling asked if the Fulton Industrial Boulevard area is still a special service district, or will it be annexed.

City Attorney Willard replied that there is a bill going through the legislature now that will allow for a referendum in the area to determine annexation into the City of South Fulton.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked how the City's provision regarding the Water Treatment and Distribution will push forward the City's attempt to get control of our own water system.

City Attorney Willard replied it is just an acknowledgement within the service delivery strategy which says that the City of Sandy Springs still has the ultimate right to determine by whom or by what means that water service is provided to the City of Sandy Springs.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated, now that we have a service delivery strategy, we have made clear that we reserve the right to negotiate on this subject.

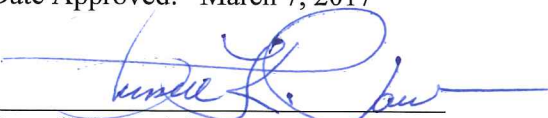
Council Member John Paulson asked if the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement obligates the City of Sandy Springs to perform all of the services listed, such as solid waste.

City Attorney Willard replied that the services listed are services that are already being provided by the City either directly or under contract with third parties. For example, solid waste is provided by a program established by the City where individual customers make their agreements with a firm authorized by the City to provide solid waste collection services.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated this agreement simply acknowledges who is responsible for what services.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Date Approved: March 7, 2017


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Michael D. Casey, City Clerk