

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 7:31 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

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

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Management

1. 16-131 Non-profit Annual Report

1. Heritage Sandy Springs

Carol Thompson, Executive Director of Heritage Sandy Springs, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Heritage Sandy Springs.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked if Ms. Thompson will be narrowing down the plan and cost for the stage upgrades.

Ms. Thompson responded yes. This presentation includes what Heritage is currently looking at for upcoming projects. The Spring Site project has already started. The upgraded entertainment stage is on Heritage's list of what they wish to accomplish in the next one to two years.

Mayor Rusty Paul thanked Ms. Thompson. The City has a great relationship with Heritage Sandy Springs. He attended their Rhythm and Blues event this past weekend, which was fun.

Council Member Bauman stated the Farmers Market opens on April 16th, which is also Volunteer for a Better Sandy Springs Day and Sandy Springs Artsapalooza.

Public Works

2. 16-128 Approval to Enter into a Formal Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Atlanta

Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman gave a PowerPoint presentation on Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cities of Sandy Springs and Atlanta.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated Sandy Springs receives calls about the water when citizens should be calling the Atlanta Water Department.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the City receives calls about billing issues as well. If there is something located in the City's right-of-way, the City wants to know about it in case City crews need to be dispatched. The City gets calls about the metal plates in the road that are often times not pinned down by the City of Atlanta Water Department. The Sandy Springs contractors will pin them down or place asphalt around them to secure them in place.

Council Member Ken Dishman asked how far \$100,000 will take the City.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated he is not sure. That amount will get the City through at least half a year. The IGA will be on a reimbursement basis.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling asked, if something that belongs to the City of Atlanta breaks, what will the liability be to Sandy Springs?

Director of Public Works Coleman stated that is included in the details that need to be worked out. Sandy Springs will be responsible from the water meter back to the main line, but not touching the main water line. If a water leak occurs in that area and the homeowner states the City caused the water bill to increase, that may be an issue.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the City can work on the water line from the water meter out to the street and not from the water meter to the house. The City will not have an impact on water usage if we do work on the other side of the meter.

Council Member Sterling asked if the City has the staff necessary or if we will be contracting out the services.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated staff will get the agreement in place first and then look at the level of service that the Mayor and Council would envision happening. He will then speak to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to see what that could mean for City staffing in field services. If Council gives staff consent to move forward with this, there will be a formal agreement presented to Council at a later date. He hopes to have the funding and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set up by the FY2017 budget approval.

Council Member John Paulson asked if staff has spoken to the City of Atlanta Water Department and if they are in agreement.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes.

Council Member Paulson stated there is a conflict with City of Atlanta Water over water rates, yet the City will have an IGA with them regarding the City performing repairs to their system.

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated the Legal staff will be working closely with Director of Public Works Coleman working on the provisions for an agreement. Hopefully, this can be a catalyst to open discussions with Atlanta for a better relationship about the water and the City having more input about the water services in the City.

Council Member Bauman stated it sounds like Council is authorizing money for a revolving line of credit and working capital. He asked if this would be a citizen response center item.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes. Currently, the City of Atlanta is required to partner with the City regarding water services. For routine service extensions, the City should have locations in its database for this. It is up to the City to decide if it is a 24 hour response or a two week response.

Council Member Sterling stated he would like broken or missing fire hydrants to be higher on the priority list.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the most effective way for a customer to reach customer billing is to contact the City of Atlanta Water Department.

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

Community Development

3. 16-129 Alcoholic Beverages - Special Provisions within City Springs

Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert gave a PowerPoint presentation on Alcoholic Beverages Special Provisions within City Springs. It has been asked if the City will be allowing the open carry of alcohol in the City Springs area.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated there was a situation this past weekend when Heritage Sandy Springs held their Rhythm and Brews event. They had vendors on site where someone could purchase a beer and walk around the park. He asked if that is currently done under a Special Events permit.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated he believes it is.

Mayor Paul asked about the Sandy Springs Festival and how the vendors are set up to sell alcohol.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated this would be a consistent ordinance that would allow someone to purchase alcohol from a restaurant on site and allow this on the City Springs site, potentially expanding to the Heritage area. He asked about the Mill Creek area and if this ordinance will apply across Roswell Road.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated staff has not looked at that as an option at this point. That is something staff can look at.

Council Member John Paulson asked if the City already has an ordinance allowing the open carry of alcohol.

Mayor Paul stated the City has a special events permit available for these types of events. The proposed ordinance would be for ongoing usage.

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated Special Events have a short term usage. This ordinance would give restaurants a long term usage.

Council Member Ken Dishman stated he has two points of discussion. There is the Mill Creek development, One City Walk, and other businesses in the area. One way this could be done is to create an open container district. If the City does that, he asked if people can be forced to purchase from certain restaurants, or would it be just an open container ordinance.

City Attorney Willard stated it will be very difficult to allow open containers outside a park and difficult to control.

Council Member Sterling stated allowing open containers outside the park area could be unruly and there could be an unfair competitive advantage to some of the businesses located inside the open container area.

Mayor Paul stated he also wants to make sure this area is maintained as a family friendly environment. We do not want to create a situation where people are afraid to bring their children, because of too much of a party atmosphere.

City Attorney Willard stated there will be security at the City Springs park area. For any area beyond that there will not be that type of security.

Mayor Paul stated at the same time, there are a lot of special events in the park where people may want to be allowed to have an alcoholic beverage.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated he thinks about patio dining and confined areas allowing the alcohol. This is the exception rather than the rule, as opposed to the other way around.

Council Member Sterling stated the City needs to hear from the public on this item. We are trying to encourage the City Springs area as a place where people want to go, but at the same time keep everything else in mind. Something similar is Piedmont Park where people bring coolers when attending an event. What is being discussed is a different type of thing where it is a smaller venue. We want to encourage the use of the outdoors and intermingling of people doing fun stuff. Limiting the open container to 16 ounces

as well is something to consider. He does not think the ordinance is intended to allow for unruly or crazy times at the City Springs park. He is in favor of something similar to the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Bauman stated he agrees with City Springs being family friendly.

City Attorney Willard stated regarding the ordinance, Alpharetta, GA and Savannah, GA have a similar ordinance.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated the City of Marietta also has a similar ordinance. All of the ordinances vary. In Alpharetta there is a district where you can purchase an alcoholic beverage from those vendors in the district and walk from one place to the other. Marietta has the same ordinance, but it is only during approved festivals. He is not sure about Savannah's ordinance.

Council Member Sterling stated Savannah has a consistent ordinance that allows open carry on River Street.

Mayor Paul stated this is a significant question and a major change in how the City operates, and it should be taken with a grain of caution. He does not want to be overly restrictive, but at the same time he does not want to turn the downtown area into an open carry party district. There has to be a balancing act to get where we want to go with this ordinance. He suggested reviewing the ordinance in incremental steps and that the City adapt as time progresses.

Council Member Sterling stated this is a starting point for the restaurants. He asked how quickly this ordinance should be reviewed and adopted.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated the businesses are negotiating leases at this time, but they have not set a date by which they need the information on this proposed ordinance.

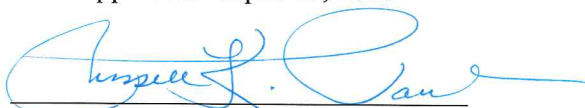
Council Member Sterling asked to see the specifics of other jurisdictions that have similar ordinances.

Mayor Paul stated the City Council can look at options that move the City in that direction.

There was a consensus of Council to review the proposed ordinance and for staff to bring it back to a future Work Session meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Date Approved: April 19, 2016



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk