

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, June 18, 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 Andy Bauman, and Council Member Tibby DeJulio.

INVOCATION

Beth Schafer – Cantorial Chair, Temple Sinai, offered the invocation.

Mayor Paul recognized and welcomed the attendance of Senator Kay Kirkpatrick and Representative Deborah Silcox.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Municipal Court

1. 19-198 Pre-Trial Diversion Plans
(Presented by Leslie Donaho, City Solicitor)

City Solicitor Leslie Donaho presented the PowerPoint presentation on Pre-Trial Diversion plans and a copy is attached and made a part hereto of these Minutes.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked for an explanation of an accountability court.

City Solicitor Donaho explained an accountability court is where a person would enter a plea of guilty rather than going into custody. They start receiving treatment, report to Probation, and are drug tested regularly. The purpose of the program is to keep somebody out of jail. In accountability court, the participants generally have more significant criminal history than someone in a pre-trial diversion program.

Council Member John Paulson stated he and others have worked with the American Legion Post with reference to Fulton County Veteran's Court and wondered about including a veteran's component as part of this program.

City Solicitor Donaho responded that the problem with the Veterans Court is that they rely on the resources of the VA, which is difficult to get tapped into, but it's definitely of interest.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked if the participants in the pilot program are residents of Sandy Springs or if it is just for crimes that occur in Sandy Springs.

City Solicitor Donaho explained that the program would focus on people that live in Sandy Springs or live in the local Metro area.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with this plan.

Public Works

2. 19-199 Peachtree Dunwoody Road at Windsor Parkway Intersection Improvement (Project TS109)

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Allen Johnson gave the T-SPLOST City Council Review TS109- Peachtree Dunwoody Road at Windsor Parkway Intersection Project PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Rusty Paul questioned if the neighborhood objections came from concerns about getting in and out of their neighborhoods.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated there could be concerns, but also ways to mitigate those concerns.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated that he recalled there being a consensus to put off the right turn lane until the end of construction with GA 285/400 and see how things developed. He stated that he was adamant to go ahead and do the revised plan and then study after completion of SR 400/285 and abide by the almost unanimous wishes of the residents, but that the right turn lane not be added at this time.

Council Member Chris Burnett questioned whether this was on the TPLOST in 2016 and whether there had been any design revisions in the intervening years for a better design.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded that this was on the TSPLOST Initiative in 2016 and there was a Master Plan and an improvement. However, it was decided that this would not be included as part of the Master Plan. In the intervening period, there were a lot of Lucity tickets so the project got added into the TSPLOST Program, but as a minor improvement.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked about the impact to the neighborhood between the Build and the Revised Build options and the associated need for right-of-way.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated that the concern was that of more traffic and that it is not a capacity enhancement, but rather an operational improvement. For the Build option, there is an easement that would be needed at the right-turn lane on Windsor and a right-of-way needed to add a right-turn southbound to westbound at the YMCA soccer fields. From a Level of Service standpoint, during the peak periods, it is basically the same as the No Build option. However, there are safety improvements, if you just do the Peachtree Dunwoody left turn lanes and there are some operational improvements throughout the day beyond the peak period.

Council Member Burnett reiterated that the Build option is for operational and safety improvement; while the Revised Build is mostly for safety, with some slight operational improvements in the non-peak hours.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with the Revised Build option.

3. 19-200 Spalding Drive Widening Project Briefing – SR 140/Holcomb Bridge Road at Spalding Drive

Gwinnett County Department of Transportation representative, Andrew Thompson provided a brief presentation via PowerPoint on the SR140 Holcomb Bridge at Spalding Drive project which included “Quadrant Roadway” intersection improvements to reduce delay at Spalding Drive and Holcomb Bridge Road and reroute traffic along River Exchange Drive. In the Regular Session Meeting agenda, the original IGA will be considered for approval.

4. 19-201 Spalding Drive Widening Project Briefing – Winters Chapel Road to SR140/Holcomb Bridge Road)

Gwinnett County Department of Transportation Representative, Andrew Thompson provided a brief presentation on the Spalding Drive Widening Project which runs from Winters Chapel Road to SR140/Holcomb Bridge Road. In the Regular Session Meeting agenda, a Change Order for the original IGA will be considered for approval.

Council Member John Paulson asked about the 6’ sidewalk portion to ensure that a portion of the sidewalk was going to be on the northside of Spalding Drive.

Gwinnett County DOT representative Andrew Thompson stated that you can see the extension of the left-turn lane for Riverside Drive; 10' pedestrian path shifts to the northside where the new facility is being constructed and continues on from there.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked if this connected our trail network to the Gwinnett Trail Network.

Gwinnett County DOT representative Andrew Thompson stated that the widening for the path is on the southside of Spalding Drive, west of the future Crooked Creek part, intentionally so to minimize disruption to the single family residential on the northside of Spalding as the new bridge is constructed. It will connect to the trail head at Crooked Creek and the City of Peachtree Corners plans to tie into the future trail network on their side.

City Manager John McDonough asked Mayor Paul about a presentation that was scheduled for the Regular Session and requested that it be moved up to accommodate the group. Mayor Paul concurred.

PRESENTATIONS [from Regular Session Agenda]

5. **19-206 Places to Play in Sandy Springs** a class of 3 and 4 year olds, from the Preschool at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School authored a book about 'Place to Play in Sandy Springs' and presented a copy to the Mayor and members of the City Council.

Economic Development

6. **19-202 Update on North End Redevelopment**

Economic Development Director Andrea Worthy gave the North End Redevelopment Update PowerPoint presentation. In January, there were some recommendations from our North End Redevelopment Task Force. The recommendations included several action items under 6 Strategic Areas. The 1st was a Development Code Audit. Community Development staff has done an internal review of how to accomplish redevelopment on the north side and will furnish the results to the consultant who is working on the 2nd item on this list, which is a conceptual plan for 4 shopping centers in the North End. The RFP was released and submittals are due June 20th with estimates that the entire process and those plans could be completed by the consultant by January or early of 2020. The 3rd one is the Feasibility Study for a Chattahoochee River access. The RFP has been released and expect the feasibility study done by the end of this year. The 4th is the PATH Study for possible routes for the Greenline. That process is already underway. It is a city-wide process, but there will be a draft presented tomorrow night (June 19) at the Public meeting at 6:00 pm at City Hall. The public is encouraged to come out and take a look at those. That process should be completed in 3rd quarter of this year. The 5th is exploring opportunities to boulevard Roswell Road in the area of the Fulton County Annex. There is a study underway as well as exploring opportunities to boulevard closer to the river area and add pedestrian connections under the river bridge. Once that is completed, it will be coming before Council for consideration. Lastly, the 6th is Development Authority guidelines supporting the City's redevelopment efforts. The Development Authority has the ability to offer incentives and the City will be speaking to about the best way to move forward. Other opportunities are exploring a boulevard opportunity from Dunwoody Place to the river. Internally, staff is also working on a CID analysis to see if this is something that the business owners in the area may want to consider. There needs to be an analysis of what properties could be impacted by a CID, what type of revenue could be generated and potentially what type of projects could be done with that revenue.

Council Member John Paulson asked if the 4 concept projects were all commercial properties because he believed there were many discussions regarding apartments being initially included as concept projects.

Economic Development Director Worthy confirmed that they are all commercial concepts and include the North River Shopping Center (owned by Stream Realty); the former Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center;

the Big Lots Shopping Center and the former Kroger Shopping Center. They are all aware that the City is doing an RFP process and the primary feedback was very positive. They see this as a potential opportunity for them to be able to market their property for redevelopment.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated these are 4 distressed properties with high vacancy rates. The properties could either be the conduit of the redevelopment or they could sell or joint venture.

Economic Development Director Andrea Worthy stated the goal is for the community and the owners of the properties to understand what the redevelopment potential is for those properties.

Council Member Burnett stated that he assumed the City will try to award it to a company that specializes in redevelopment initiatives.

Economic Development Director Worthy stated the time frame is by the end of the year or 1st quarter of next year. There was a pre-proposal meeting and there was a lot of interest.

Mayor Paul stated this is one of the priorities of the City and it is clear that the City is trying to boost the retail in that area and also provide home ownership opportunities for middle-class families.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. 19-203 Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes

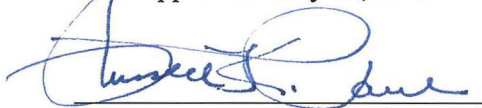
Council Member Andy Bauman, City Council, District 6 presented a Memorandum regarding a **Proposed new Hate-Crime/Penalty Enhancement Ordinance.**

Council Member Bauman presented that while the City has other ordinances regarding destruction of property, vandalism and such, there is not specifically an ordinance covering 'Hate Crimes.' He explained that a 'Hate Crime' is not merely thought or hate without an underlying crime. To have a 'Hate Crime' you must prove both "hate" and a "crime". Per the US Department of Justice graphic included in the Memorandum, there must be a crime and the motivation for committing the crime must be proved to be based on bias, per the **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**, also known as the **Matthew Shepard Act**, is an American Act of Congress, passed on October 22, 2009, and signed into law by President Barack Obama on October 28, 2009, as a rider to the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010 (H.R. 2647). The entire Memorandum and proposed ordinance are attached and made a part of these Minutes hereto.

There was a consensus of Council to bring this item forward for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Date Approved: July 16, 2019



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Coty Thigpen, City Clerk