

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 2, 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.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser, Union for Reform Judaism, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fire Department

1. 18-331 Apartment Ordinance Compliance Project

Fire Chief Keith Sanders gave the Apartment Ordinance Compliance Project PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member John Paulson asked about the canisters that have to be placed in the apartments in the next couple of months and if this is difficult for the apartment complexes to accomplish.

Fire Chief Keith Sanders stated the City has provided the apartments with the information on where they can purchase the canisters. The canisters are very easy to install.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked how the City will know, when someone purchases an apartment complex, if the owner is sharing the information with the new buyers, so they are aware of the City ordinance.

Fire Chief Sanders stated the City does not know if the information is shared.

Council Member DeJulio asked if the requirements are on the City's website.

Fire Chief Sanders responded they are. The information has also been given to the Apartment Association, as well as the current owners. He can try to find out if the current owners are communicating this to the new owners.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if any of the eleven fires in the City this year have been in the newer apartment complexes built in the last two to three years.

Fire Chief Sanders stated some of the fires have occurred in apartments that have sprinkler systems, as well as fires in the older apartment complexes. Cascade at Morgan Falls Apartments was one of the recent fires, but it does have a sprinkler system.

Council Member Burnett asked if the sprinkler system was installed post construction.

Fire Chief Sanders responded no. The newer apartments are usually designed with sprinkler systems.

Public Works

2. 18-332 TS191 Johnson Ferry Road at Mt. Vernon Highway

TSPLOST Program Manager Allen Johnson gave the TSPLOST City Council Review – Johnson Ferry Road at Mt. Vernon Highway PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member John Paulson stated this project is still in the preliminary phase. He asked if there is room for the compressed grid option to have more greenspace. One of the challenges at this stage is that the level of survey and detail is not accurate enough to provide representation. He is in favor of the compressed grid, but he would like to see the next level of detail to see how wide the grid can be made. If the greenspace is just twenty, thirty, or forty feet, how wide can it be and still not have to purchase and relocate the five businesses. One of the goals of the compressed grid, as opposed to the full grid, is the businesses along the south side of Mount Vernon could still operate.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated since staff is asking for direction, we will not take a formal vote. He asked each member of Council to express their desires and then a consensus will be taken from there.

Council Member Steve Soteres stated he is in agreement with the compressed grid and any additional expansion that can be worked into the project. He is not a big fan of the cost associated with displacement of those businesses.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated he is also in favor of the compressed grid. He would like staff to look at wider options, if possible. He is not in favor of taking the businesses along the south side of Mount Vernon. When a project is started, it will usually be on the higher side of an estimate. The cost of \$5million to \$10 million, and the difference between the two, is a huge amount of money. Given all the other projects we have to complete in the City, we could invest that money more wisely.

Council Member Jody Reichel stated she is in favor of the full grid. She has taken polls from those that live at Mount Vernon Towers and residents in the area that the project will directly affect. They are overwhelmingly in favor of the full grid option. The City can use as much park space as possible. We have been looking for a place for a dog park and that could be a location. At this time it is uncertain if the compressed grid option will save the businesses.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated he is also in favor of the full grid. He is afraid that two to five years down the road Council will wish that something else was done. For other projects completed in the City, Council has not worried about purchasing right-of-way. There has not been much greenspace added in the last several years. This would be a good location for greenspace. For the long term, the full grid option would be the best option.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated he agrees with the split the difference approach and the compressed grid. He does not want the City taking or negotiating deals to take property from landowners any more than necessary for this project. He fears the City would end up going down the path of eminent domain. If we end up with a shaded walking path, that would be great to create connectivity. He is in favor of a dog park, but is not sure the middle of the street is the best place. It is a question of how much the Council wants to spend and how far they want to go with this project.

Mayor Paul stated this is a TSPLOST project that has to be completed within seven years. We are running right up against the deadline.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with the compressed grid option and also look at how much greenspace can be included in the median.

3. 18-333 Update on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Gwinnett County to include a sidewalk along the north side of Spalding Drive within a roadway widening project from Winters Chapel Road to Holcomb Bridge Road that is being executed by Gwinnett County

Director of Public Works Marty Martin introduced Andrew Thompson, who works with Gwinnett County, and is in attendance to address any questions. Kevin Ungle with Kimley-Horn, the design consultant for Gwinnett County, is also in attendance. He gave the Intergovernmental Agreement Spalding Drive from Winters Chapel Road to Holcomb Bridge Road PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he was in Johns Creek and drove down Spalding Drive on his way back. One thing that he did not see is a "Welcome to Sandy Springs" sign at the City limits. This is an area where this project will be very beneficial. He is excited about the opportunity to complete the larger project at less cost to the City.

Council Member John Paulson stated this is a great project located in District 1. The City of Peachtree Corners has been talking about this project for a number of years. The Winters Chapel widening going northeast and the new right turn lane from Winters Chapel to Spalding Drive have been high on their priorities list. This is a great project and it is exciting for the City to be able to participate and not bear the full cost of rebuilding the bridge. The current sidewalk project only extends the sidewalk west to Spalding Lake Court. He has had discussions with staff about extending that sidewalk from there to Nesbit Ferry. He would like staff to revisit extending the sidewalk. It would allow sidewalk access all the way down to the Publix shopping center and allow people to visit Crooked Creek Park.

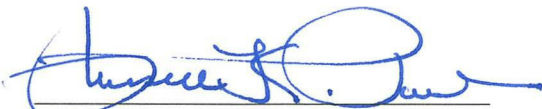
Director of Public Works Martin stated staff will move forward with scoping and preparing an estimate for the additional work.

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

Council Member Bauman stated at the last Work Session Council decided to move forward with the City Council meeting schedule for next year. The meeting for October 1, 2019 was not going to be on the schedule, due to the Jewish holiday. The holiday actually ends that day around sunset. That meeting has now been added back to the schedule with a 7:00 p.m. start time.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Date Approved: October 16, 2018



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk