

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Tibby DeJulio presiding.

Council Members present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, and Council Member Andy Bauman were present. Mayor Rusty Paul was absent.

There was no invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Development

1. **17-349** A Resolution to Amend the City of Sandy Springs Community Development Fee Schedule

Acting Director of Community Development Ginger Sottile stated as per the City Code, application filing fees shall be established from time to time by the Mayor and City Council. One of the main reasons staff is seeking to amend the Planning and Zoning fee schedule is to accurately apply the appropriate fees to the newly adopted zoning districts. Since 2006, City staff has increased and so has the cost of doing business. The City's existing fee schedule associates fees with the old zoning designations, which no longer exist. There is a new fee for changes to the character area map whereas no fee existed prior. The fee for concurrent variances and modifications was removed. Variances will be heard separately by the Board of Appeals. Modifications are the exact same process as a rezoning. Therefore, they will be handled as a rezoning. The variance fee only increased by \$50. This is because the applicant must bear the burden of paying for the advertising fee, which is generally between \$250 and \$500. The applicant must also pay for the oversized sign that costs around \$250. Administrative variance costs have doubled to \$500. They do not have the same notice requirements and a sign does not have to be posted. The same amount of time is invested in conducting a proper review, which is the same with the typical variance process. Stream buffer variances have more than doubled. Staff research is typical of a regular variance. However, the review is more specialized. Staff consults with environmental engineering and often has to get involved with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Conditional use permits also have more than doubled. The same level of review is required when compared to rezonings. These costs were initially substantially less. Appeals have increased substantially from \$50 to \$500. The reason is because there is a lot of writing, research, and collaboration with staff and City attorneys in order to prepare appropriately for a hearing. As we made our way through this process, staff decided to evaluate the time and effort put into the various applications and also look at the current fees compared to other similar municipalities. There are some areas where the City's fees are a bit higher, but overall, staff feels the increases will more accurately cover the administrative costs.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated previously the City paid the advertising costs. This would be moving the cost to the applicant. He asked if the City was underpricing the development fee for quite a few years.

Acting Director of Community Development Sottile stated that is correct.

Council Member Sterling asked if the fees will now be paid by the developers.

Acting Director of Community Development Sottile stated that is correct.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated the City set these fees in 2006. The City has been operating under the same fee structure for eleven years. In 2006, there were two employees in the Community Development Department.

Acting Director of Community Development Sottile stated today there are seven planners in the department.

Council Member Burnett stated there has been a cost of overhead and the City has not raised its fees in eleven years. If you apply an inflation increase, the City would probably be close to where the new fee schedule is.

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

City Manager's Office

2. **17-350** Modifications to the Service Agreement with Keep North Fulton Beautiful to operate the Sandy Springs Recycling Center

Assistant to the City Manager Kristin Byars gave the Keep North Fulton Beautiful Service Agreement PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Ken Dishman asked if the increase in funding is being requested to address some of the solutions that were identified, or is it status quo for the Center to continue with what they are doing today.

Assistant to the City Manager Byars stated the line item allows up to \$50,000 for capital improvements. The cost is significant in terms of adding the gates and any additional capital improvements that they might need. The increase from \$60,000 to \$65,000 will also help with the Center's day to day operations.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked if the \$50,000 would be incremental.

Assistant to the City Manager Byars stated that number would need approval by the City Manager for specific items the Center would need. The amount for approval is up to \$50,000, but that is not guaranteed to be approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Tibby DeJulio asked if the Center came before Council a couple of years ago discussing the issues with the holes in the roof and other capital items that needed to be done.

City Manager John McDonough responded yes. The compensation is to keep up with the cost of doing business. The City has not increased the donation for quite some time. We want the Center to be representative of Sandy Springs and it needs a facelift and capital improvements. Staff thinks this is a reasonable incremental approach to allow for those types of things. There is a representative of the Center in attendance this evening.

Mayor Pro Tem DeJulio asked if the Center will charge for certain recycling items that are dropped off. He knows the City has paint recycling once a year.

Assistant to the City Manager Byars stated the Center already charges for some items that are dropped off. There will be a charge for the paint drop off.

Council Member John Paulson asked if Sandy Springs is the only municipality that financially supports the recycling center.

Assistant to the City Manager Byars stated Keep North Fulton Beautiful also receives funds from Johns Creek, but they have different programs. Johns Creek has an Adopt-a-Road program and education programs.

Council Member Paulson asked if Sandy Springs is the only municipality that supports the recycling center.

Assistant to the City Manager Byars responded yes.

City Manager McDonough stated Sandy Springs is the greatest beneficiary of the recycling center with it being located in the City. Fulton County subsidizes the land lease to the Center.

Mayor Pro Tem DeJulio stated it seems when he dropped items off the last time that the volunteers asked to see a driver's license before they would accept donations. He asked if the services are still limited to the residents of Sandy Springs.

Council Member Paulson stated he thought that requirement was only on the hazardous waste day.

Kathy Reed, Executive Director of Keep North Fulton Beautiful, asked if Mayor Pro Tem DeJulio was attending the bulky trash day event two weeks ago.

Mayor Pro Tem DeJulio responded no. This was about eight to ten weeks ago. He brought paint and computers to the recycling center.

Ms. Reed stated there are certain items that the recycling center charges for when they are dropped off. That is restricted to Sandy Springs or Johns Creek residents only. Certain items that cost the Center a lot of money to dispose of are accepted only from Sandy Springs residents. The hazardous waste event days are restricted to Sandy Springs residents only, so the Center did check for identification on that and required pre-registration.

Council Member Bauman thanked Ms. Reed. He frequently drops off items at the recycling center. He asked if Ms. Reed will look into getting security cameras.

Ms. Reed stated she would like to have surveillance cameras at the exit. She has cameras for the Center, but her concern is that once the gates are installed, there may be illegal dumping outside the center.

Council Member Bauman stated this is not a onetime \$50,000 donation. He thinks the services agreement would allow an annual donation of up to \$50,000. He mentioned the sorting of the items. When you visit the Center now, the volunteers or employees do the sorting. The residents do not sort the items at this time. He asked if the Center at some point will allow the citizens to assist with their own sorting.

Ms. Reed stated ideally the items will be presorted before the drop-off process. She believes the approved signage that will be installed will help with the sorting. She encourages people to sort their items into the proper bins.

Council Member Bauman stated the recycling is a service and it is something great for the City to support.

Council Member Paulson stated some of these facilities, like the one in Roswell, have workers who are doing community service hours. He asked if our City has the same program for those assigned community service hours by the court.

Ms. Reed responded yes. The Center manages approximately 500 community service workers annually.

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

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Date Approved: November 7, 2017


Tiberio P. DeJulio, Mayor Pro Tem


Michael D. Casey, City Clerk