

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 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 Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Mario Karpuj, Congregation Or Hadash, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Management

1. **18-357** Sandy Springs Cultural Center at City Springs

City Manager John McDonough gave the Cultural Center PowerPoint presentation dated November 6, 2018.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he knows that Council is generally aware of this project. The project has progressed and that is why it is before Council this evening from a conceptual point of view. This is an interesting project. There are members of the Holocaust Commission in attendance this evening. The City has had great meetings with the Holocaust Commission, which was instructed by the Georgia General Assembly to raise funds for a Holocaust memorial in the State of Georgia. The Commission is based in Sandy Springs and many of its members live in the City. We believe that Sandy Springs is the ideal location for the center. The Commission is in the process of checking with potential donors about raising money for this. The Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber and Visit Sandy Springs would have long term arrangements with lease payments made to pay the City back for their prorated share of the Center. We are in the process of working on those details. The cost and exact location are still being discussed. Staff felt it was very important to brief Council about the conversations that have occurred to this point. Through the Holocaust Commission, we have one of the few Anne Frank exhibits outside of Amsterdam. Presently, the exhibit is not located in a very good space in the City. His predecessor has a connection to Anne Frank, particularly her husband John, who was in the same concentration camp. The City has had a long relationship with the Anne Frank museum. This is a relationship our community takes tremendous pride in sharing. We have supported the exhibit with City funds. This is important to the community and follows Mayor Eva Galambos's commitment to the Anne Frank exhibit and the Holocaust Commission. The City has a very significant Jewish community and many Holocaust survivors live in the City that feel very strongly about this project. Staff hopes to have more details in January.

Council Member John Paulson stated he is in favor of this project. It is a great idea and he is looking forward to more details. Sometimes joint ownerships of buildings can get complicated. He is sure that staff will work through the details.

Mayor Paul stated it will take some efforts to make this work. The challenge is the Holocaust Commission's mandate from the legislature to raise money for a project. We are working on balancing out those issues.

There was a consensus of Council to continue to move forward with the project.

Police Department

2. **18-358** False Alarm Update

Major John Mullin, SSPD, gave the False Alarm Update PowerPoint presentation dated November 6, 2018.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated he received an email from a constituent that stated the City had fined him for a false alarm. He thought the companies were being fined for the false alarms, rather than the residents.

Major Mullin stated that is correct. The fines go to the alarm company. He asked Council Member DeJulio to forward him that individual's information and he will follow up. He asked if the alarm company fined the citizen, as opposed to the City fining the citizen.

Council Member DeJulio stated he is not sure.

City Attorney Dan Lee stated this was reported to Captain Nable and it has been looked into. The fine that the consumer received was from the alarm company and not from the City.

City Manager John McDonough stated it is highly likely that if the constituent went through the appropriate appeals process, the appeal would probably be granted. His alarm company will need to submit the appeal.

Council Member Jody Reichel stated there are 245 customers impacted because of alarm companies' failure to pay the fines. She asked how many homes are on the do not respond list because of three false alarms. She asked if the City makes sure the customers are aware of being on this list.

Major Mullin stated the alarm company is required to make the customers aware that they are on the do not respond list. His understanding is there are nineteen companies on that list and that affects 245 total customers.

Director of Communications Sharon Kraun stated that is correct. When the aging information is posted on the City website, it lists the companies that are on the do not respond list.

Council Member Reichel asked about homes that are on the do not respond list due to three false alarms.

City Manager McDonough stated that information may or may not be included in the numbers. Staff will prepare a report on that and get it to Council.

Council Member Reichel asked if the City or the alarm company lets the customers know they are on the do not respond list.

Director of Communications Kraun stated the alarm companies let their customers know when they are placed on the do not respond list.

Council Member Andy Bauman stated if there is a customer that is with a company on the do not respond list, we want to make sure the home owner knows they are on that list. He asked if the true verification that will be implemented in June 2019 applies to a panic button or alarm.

City Manager McDonough stated the police respond to panic alarms. There will be no change in the City's policy regarding that.

Council Member Bauman asked if a fire alarm will require true verification.

City Manager McDonough stated a fire alarm is one of the categories that falls under a panic alarm.

Major Mullin stated the alarms in that category are fire, panic, holdup, and duress.

Council Member John Paulson stated the education component for next year is a big deal. He attended an HOA meeting a couple of weeks ago and the subject came up. There was confusion about what was involved in this process. He explained as best as he could. Staff will have to make sure they do a good job reaching out to people with the information.

Director of Communications Kraun stated that is one of the reasons staff is meeting with the alarm companies monthly. We are trying to get information from them and share ideas about how best to educate the consumers. At the first meeting, we discussed the ordinance itself. One question that came about is if the alarm company has a video, do they have to send it to the City right then, or could they do it later. We will continue to discuss any questions and concerns. Each alarm system operates differently. General information should be given to educate consumers, so they can ask the right questions of their alarm company.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated he noticed that fifteen alarm companies are invited to the meeting. He asked if the goal is to meet between now and June 2019 with all of the alarm companies that are registered to do business in the City.

Director of Communications Kraun stated staff is meeting with the larger companies with the most customers in the Sandy Springs area. Those companies that are a party to the lawsuit are not attending those meetings.

Council Member Burnett asked if since those meetings began, the relationship has been better with the alarm companies that have attended the meetings.

Director of Communications Kraun replied the first meeting in September was very productive. We discussed what the ordinance meant. A question that everyone asked was if the City can switch the fines back to the consumer. City staff let them know it is up to the City Council and that could be reviewed at a later date. Staff reiterated the fact that we want to educate the consumer. The companies have been very helpful in providing feedback. One alarm monitoring company completed the visual notification already. They discussed the technology they used that is web based and easy to implement.

Council Member Burnett stated it seems the message from the alarm companies to their customers is very much against the City. He asked if staff could craft a unified message that each of the alarm companies would have to use, so they could not place a biased spin on any messages. It will be hard to reach the consumer in the media. The message will need to come from the alarm companies. If we could somehow have a consistent message created by the City, so that we know all of the alarm users are receiving the same message that would be wonderful.

Mayor Paul stated that would be violating the First Amendment. The government cannot require a company to relay a message to the public.

Council Member Burnett asked if the alarm companies are going to be doing business in the City, can the City have a requirement to ensure they are sending information to the consumers.

Mayor Paul stated any time you violate the First Amendment, you run into problems.

Council Member Paulson stated the City also has an obligation to try and communicate with our citizens about what we have done.

Mayor Paul stated the City can communicate with the citizens, but we cannot require the companies to carry out the City's message.

Council Member Burnett asked if the City can require the companies to give the City information on who they are providing services to.

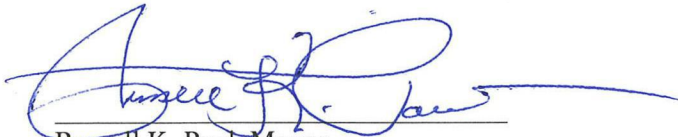
Mayor Paul stated that information is included when the alarm companies register with the City.

Council Member DeJulio stated City staff could create an informational letter and place it on the City website.

Director of Communications Kraun stated there is already information on the City website. As we generate more educational materials, those will all go on the website. That is why we came up with the idea of the public information meeting. If the alarm companies are there participating, there is a unified voice in what the ordinance means, and the changes the citizens need to ask of their alarm companies. The level of participation will depend on the alarm companies.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Date Approved: November 20, 2018



Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Michael D. Casey, City Clerk