

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 6:40 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Council Members present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman were present.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Attorney

1. **17-363** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances to Promote Adoption of Rescue Animals

Assistant City Clerk Kelly Bogner gave the Proposed Ordinance to Promote Adoption of Rescue Animals PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member John Paulson asked about PetSmart and from where must they receive the animals if they choose to sell them.

Assistant City Clerk Bogner asked if he was referring to PetSmart or Petco.

Council Member Paulson responded yes.

Assistant City Clerk Bogner stated if one of those stores decided to open a section of their store to sell animals, they would have to partner with a rescue organization or animal care facility. PetSmart and Petco do hold pet adoption events, usually outside of the store.

Council Member Paulson asked if that is considered selling an animal.

City Attorney Dan Lee stated the ordinance will state if an animal is sold, it has to be a rescue animal from a recognized rescue facility. The pet store will not be allowed to obtain an animal from a puppy mill or a breeder.

Council Member Ken Dishman stated he strongly supports this ordinance. There are currently no businesses in Sandy Springs that fit this description. This ordinance will not disenfranchise anyone. The Petco near Whole Foods does partner with Fur Kids and holds adoption events. This issue hits close to home, because one of his daughters has a passion for this issue. His family recently adopted a dog from Fulton County Animal Services. The benefits outlined by Assistant City Clerk Bogner are important to the City.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated he also supports this ordinance. We are specifically stating it needs to be an adoption organization. He asked if this would preclude the Fulton County Animal Services or if they are considered a rescue organization.

City Attorney Lee responded they are considered a rescue organization.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated the animal pet stores in Sandy Springs do have adoption days on Saturdays at least once or twice a month. He asked if the ordinance would preclude them from selling animals at times other than those rescue days.

City Attorney Lee stated it will not. It will preclude the stores from selling animals that are not from rescue organizations.

Council Member DeJulio asked if the pet stores could go to a breeder and buy animals and then sell them in the City.

City Attorney Lee responded no.

Council Member Sterling stated the rationale behind this is if we take away the profit, then we are working towards getting rid of the puppy mills. The mills have dogs that are being abused and housed in horrible conditions.

City Attorney Lee stated that is the issue. Approximately, 350,000 dogs and cats were euthanized in Georgia last year. This is a way for the City to be responsible for the animals we have in the City and not bring in more animals, especially those that come from puppy mills.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he has had English Setters his whole life, but he always goes to a reputable breeder. This ordinance is a good idea. He has three dogs at his house right now, one is his daughter's, who is visiting from out of town. All of the dogs are rescue dogs.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the November 21st City Council meeting.

Public Works

2. 17-364 Draft North Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan (NFCTP)

Transportation Planner Kristen Wescott stated last summer the company preparing the North Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan began partnering with all the North Fulton cities. All of the cities contributed funds for a matching grant with the Atlanta Regional Commission. Kimley-Horn was hired to create the plan. This draft looks to the year 2040 and at opportunities for the cities to make recommendations for the future. Surveys were taken and travel GPS data was examined.

Project Manager Cristina Pastore for Kimley-Horn gave the North Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Ken Dishman commented that because of the parallel effort around the Fulton County transit plan, she has made assumptions that might occur. It seems there will be dependencies on what happens on the transit side that will impact different approaches for some of the other projects. He asked what other assumptions remain.

Project Manager Pastore stated she discussed connection activity centers and identifying transportation improvements to connect those centers. There has been a lot of conversation about the GA400 corridor specifically. We know a little bit about what might be happening there and reinforcing the GA400 corridor from a transportation improvement perspective. There are some opportunities for sidewalks and trails. Once we know where some of the transit stations may be, focusing the effort on trying to improve multi-modal access is really important. There is flexibility built in with the Level 2 and Level 3 programs. The City will have flexibility on where those connections will be based on what is learned from the transit plan.

Council Member Dishman stated projects in other jurisdictions are probably going to have more of an impact on Sandy Springs.

Project Manager Pastore stated transit is a big factor in Sandy Springs, probably more than in other cities. In terms of other transit improvements, the conversations on possibly extending the GA400 rail line have a very meaningful impact in the City.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he had an opportunity last week to sit through the preliminary presentation from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on the transit plan. He believes it will integrate very well with what he has seen this evening. There was a lot of public support for rail, more than people anticipated. He believes the City will be briefed on the ARC plan within the next thirty days or so.

Project Manager Pastore stated she has closely coordinated between the two projects. At the last round of public meetings there was a joint public meeting, because transit is a component of the larger CTP.

Mayor Paul stated during his Mayor's report this evening he will discuss a meeting that will be held tomorrow. The Mayors of the cities located along I-285 will start discussing transit on an east/west line as well.

Council Member John Paulson asked about the Fulton County study and if they are going to adopt the plan presented this evening. He would not like it if the City adopts this plan and the County then comes out with something different.

Project Manager Pastore stated Kimley-Horn is deferring any specific transit recommendations to the County's plan. They are not making specific transit recommendations besides high level policy recommendations. They want to make sure they are in sync with the County's planning effort. There is still time to make additional modifications to the plan, if there are new advancements with the transit master plan. They know the specifics of movement along some of the corridors and the types of technology, but where the stations might be located is further out. If there any additional comments, please contact her.

Mayor Paul asked that the Council Members take the opportunity to obtain feedback from their constituents, so they know that planning is in process.

Project Manager Pastore stated this is not the transit master plan. If they are interested in specific transit recommendations, they need to follow the Fulton Transit Master Plan and those recommendations will be incorporated into this document.

3. 17-385 Field Services Contract Update

Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman gave the Field Services Contract Update PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling asked if staff knows why there is such a huge difference in the bids for the citywide mowing services.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated he does not know.

Council Member John Paulson asked if staff spoke to the bidders and are they standing by their original bid numbers.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes. Yellowstone Landscape is providing the City's current greenspace mowing.

Council Member Paulson stated on the interchange slide he did not see the Northridge Road interchange.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated that section may be included in the Recreation and Parks greenspace portion of the contract. Some of the detailed planted areas are included in the R&P greenspace. The interchanges on the slide are not planted heavily, so they are mowed and litter is picked up. For those that are landscaped heavily, staff wants a higher level of service.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with the Field Services Contracts.

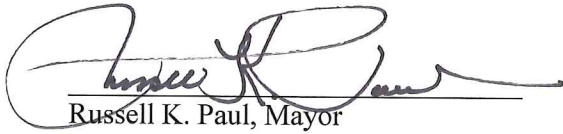
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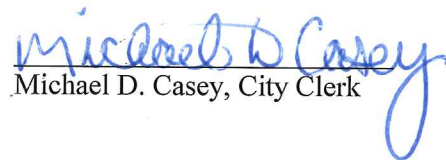
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There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Date Approved: November 21, 2017


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Michael D. Casey, City Clerk