

Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on October 3, 2023 Following Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**II. Roll Call and General Announcements**

**Members Present:** Mayor Rusty Paul, Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Melody Kelley, Councilmember Melissa Mular, Councilmember Jody Reichel, Councilmember Tibby DeJulio, Councilmember Andrew Bauman

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Rusty Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Public Comment**

1. **Mary Ford, 5115 Timber Trail S NE, Sandy Springs** - Comment on Development Code Updates
2. **Susan Maziar, 5350 Timber Trail, Sandy Springs** - Gas Stations
3. **Bill Gannon, 505 Tanton Way, Sandy Springs** - No change for Gas Station

**V. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- A. **2023-277 Meeting Minutes**  
September 19, 2023 City Council Work Session  
September 19, 2023 City Council Meeting

**VII. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**VIII. Public Hearing**

There were no public hearings.

**IX. New Business**

- A. **2023-278** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Agreement with ARC for North Springs MARTA Station TOD & Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to enter into a grant agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission (the ARC) to accept federal funding for the North Springs MARTA Station Transit Oriented Development Plan (the TOD Plan) and Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study, as part of the 2023 Livable Centers Initiative Grant Program (the Grant Program).

The ARC's Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a grant program that incentivizes local jurisdictions to re-envision their communities as vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide improved access to jobs and services. The program funds both Catalytic studies focused on visioning plans and Tactical studies focused on studies that aid in implementing the vision. The current project solicitation closed on March 7, 2023. The ARC's 2023 priority areas are affordable/diverse housing, creative placemaking, green infrastructure, and smart city technology.

The City of Sandy Springs (the City) submitted a Tactical Study application on February 28, 2023 for the Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study for \$175,000.00 (consisting of \$140,000.00 in federal funding with a \$35,000.00 local funded match). The study would develop a concept for the Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor, between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive, that balances multimodal needs and identifies placemaking opportunities at the North Springs MARTA Station. In March 2023, the ARC requested the City expand the scope of the study to include a Transit Oriented Development Plan for the North Springs MARTA Station.

On June 13, 2023, the ARC awarded the City \$250,000.00, consisting of \$200,000.00 in federal funding and \$50,000.00 in local funding, for development of the North Springs MARTA Station Transit Oriented Development Plan and Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study. The funding amount awarded is greater than the original amount requested since the scope of the study was expanded.

Peachtree Dunwoody Road, between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive is a 1.75-mile, north-south connector street, connecting multi-family residential communities, single family home neighborhoods, the North Springs MARTA Station, Sandy Springs MARTA Station, and the Perimeter Center Improvement District (PCID). This corridor has a diverse mix of housing, and already has significant pedestrian activity but the corridor lacks pedestrian lighting and has minimal pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

The purpose of this study will be to identify the appropriate cross section(s) that will facilitate future mobility and align with the Perimeter Center LCI, MARTA Station Areas Small Area Plan, and Perimeter Small Area Plan's vision for a walkable, pedestrian friendly area. This study will also consider Peachtree Dunwoody Road as an appropriate option to continue the SR 400 trail northbound to Spalding Drive or identify other potential alignments for further consideration.

A Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) plan will build off the MARTA Station Areas Small Area Plan vision for the North Springs Station, taking into consideration MARTA's TOD guidelines and the implications of future Bus Rapid Transit service at this station. As defined in MARTA's TOD guidelines, transit-oriented development means development that is vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and genuinely integrated with transit. The TOD plan will reimagine how the MARTA-owned property at and near the



station, including acres of undeveloped land, can become an even greater asset to the community.

The study recommendations will guide the future alignment of the SR 400 trail, provide a roadway solution that best balances multimodal needs, and create a more inviting and vibrant transit station for current transit users, future transit users, and the surrounding community.

A local match of 20% is required for the LCI Grant. City Staff estimates the North Springs MARTA Station Transit Oriented Development Plan and Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study would total \$250,000.00 (consisting of \$200,000.00 in federal funding and \$50,000.00 local funding). The City currently has funds in Project No. T2401 that can provide the 20% required local match of up to \$50,000.00.

The City can choose not to enter into the Grant Agreement with the ARC and forego federal funding for this project. If the City does not enter into the Grant Agreement, the City can fund the plan with 100% local funds.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to enter into a grant agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission (the “ARC”) to accept federal funding for the North Springs MARTA Station Transit Oriented Development Plan and Peachtree Dunwoody Road Corridor Study, as part of the 2023 Livable Centers Initiative Grant Program.

**Councilmember Reichel** asked how long will this study take? Is the City working with PCIDs and others studying the same area?

**Public Works Director Martin** said we are working with PCIDs, and with their coordination we have embraced this broader Livable Centers Initiative (LCI).

**Kristen Wescott, Public Works Transportation Unit Manager**, said the time frame is about 9 months and we are wrapping up.

**Councilmember Reichel** asked is the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service on SR-400?

**Public Works Director Martin** said yes. This is the BRT service envisioned with the expansion of express lanes northward from the North Springs MARTA Station. We now have two bridges under reconstruction in the City of Sandy Springs, both at Pitts Road and Roberts Drive overpass, to accommodate that future SR-400 express lane implementation.

**Councilmember Reichel** asked will there be input from residents during this 9-month study?

**Public Works Director Martin** said we envision Public Open Houses and stakeholder sharing is important and part of this process.

**Councilmember DeJulio** asked what are the boundaries this study will encompass?

**Public Works Director Martin** said Peachtree Dunwoody Road from Abernathy Road to Spalding Drive. That is a little over a mile and three quarters.

**Councilmember DeJulio** said a hold-up on Peachtree Dunwoody Road is south of Hammond Drive, down to Johnson Ferry, where there is construction under the bridge at I-285 and a hospital zone. Why is

this area not included in this study?

**Public Works Director Martin** said the focus with the LCI is place making in the one and three quarter mile stretch of Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Other LCIs may complement this.

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said it also ties together the two MARTA stations, from Sandy Springs Station to the North Springs Station. On the other sections of Peachtree Dunwoody Road, they were all included in previous studies, and we have the Perimeter Center LCI, which is what this is building from. In addition, a couple years ago was the Warranty Test Study in the medical district to look at safety and traffic operations around there. We have several recommendations from that previous effort folded into T-SPLOST.

**Councilmember DeJulio** said it seems like we are doing a lot of studies but not implementation. Did the City implement any recommendations from the studies?

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said the SR-400 Trail Project coming to the Perimeter at I-285 was from a planning study. Also, to connect with a side path to Sandy Springs MARTA station came from the plan. Currently one section is out for design, all the way to Hammond Drive, and that section is part of the T-SPLOST design. Separately in our transportation group we are doing small signal upgrades around the medical district, and those will be forthcoming.

**Councilmember John Paulson** said we are reimagining MARTA property, and they may have their own thoughts. Is MARTA involved in this discussion?

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said yes. They are one of our stakeholders. They already have Transit-Oriented Development guidelines for communities and around all their rail stations. Collaboratively between Public Works and Community Development, we will be working together, especially related to our previous comprehensive planning.

**Mayor Rusty Paul** said MARTA has a high-density plan and they anticipate everyone in that high density area will get on the MARTA train and go where they want. We have slightly different expectations of how many will get on the train and on the road. That has been a challenge and this grant will help us sort through some of this.

**Councilmember Melody Kelley** asked how is this planning exercise different from the Perimeter, Small Area and MARTA studies?

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said we have not taken a direct TOD study for the North Springs Station. There have been previous plan efforts, about ten to fifteen years ago, looking at Sandy Springs stations.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked are they outdated?

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said yes. We have an opportunity to think about how to engage and work in this corridor. We know about existing site traffic operation issues like bottlenecks for example, and we need to look at that. We need to look at the corridor. The City previously improved the intersection down at Spalding and Peachtree Dunwoody Road, but between that is an interesting and dynamic community of all different types of housing. We have this enormous asset on both ends, the North Springs MARTA Station, and the Sandy Springs MARTA station, and it is about how this all works together and become a dynamic place. There is a great opportunity for our City, with



our citizens, to think about how to improve from a transportation standpoint, and be a place where people want to come and stay.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked has the potential impact of our development code exercise and what may or may not be approved been considered?

**Public Works Transportation Unit Manager Wescott** said yes. We have a Project Manager in Community Development and Public Works to guide this effort.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2023-10-145**

- B.     **2023-279**     Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize City Staff to Apply for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program Grant to Partially Fund Construction of Trail Segment 2E

**Catherine Mercier-Baggett, Sustainability Manager**, presented a recommendation to apply for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program Grant to partially fund construction of Trail Segment 2E.

The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) grant program is funded through the sales tax on sporting equipment. The amounts disbursed will vary between \$500,000 and \$3,000,000, with a required match of at least 25%. This is a refundable expenses program where the City will have to apply for reimbursement for all eligible spending.

The City of Sandy Springs is seeking maximum funding, \$3,000,000, for the construction of the Springway Trail Segment 2E. This segment will connect Segment 2A, currently under construction and also partially funded by a GOSP grant, to Colquitt Road at the Pitts Road bridge, via the Georgia Power transmission line and Fulton County Sewer easements.

Loop Trail 2 was identified in the Trail Master Plan as a priority for implementation. Upon completion, it will connect a number of existing and near-future assets, including Morgan Falls Overlook Park by way of Trail 2A and Big Trees Preserve, and will leverage the Roswell Road pedestrian crossing at Fulton County Annex and the improved Pitts Road bridge over GA-400.

The City contracted with PATH Foundation in December 2021 to develop documents for the design of Segment 2E. Those are nearing completion and the City is positioned for a quick groundbreaking.

The \$3,000,000 grant would cover 44% of the anticipated construction cost of \$6,700,000. The Sandy Springs Conservancy generously pledged a financial contribution of \$30,000 for this project. Approximately \$3,000,000 is available in Capital Project P0028, City Trail Design and Unassigned, that could be used to fund a portion of the City's match funding for the project. The Five Year CIP anticipates allocations for Trail Segment 2E in Fiscal Year 2025.

Approximately \$3,000,000 is available in Capital Project P0028, City Trail Design and Unassigned, that could be used to fund a portion of the City's match funding for the project. Should the grant be awarded, additional funding would be requested in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to fully fund the project.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to apply for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program Grant to partially fund construction of Trail Segment 2E.

**Councilmember Paulson** said the Conservancy had a lot of right of way donated with Segment 2A. Did the initiative for this corridor start yet?

**Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett** said yes. They are currently speaking to property owners to get letters of support for this grant application.

**Councilmember Paulson** asked is this helpful for Segment 2A?

**Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett** said yes.

**Councilmember Tibby DeJulio** asked does Segment 2E dead-end at Colquitt Road, or does it go somewhere else? It is difficult to read the print on the map.

**Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett** said this is taken from the Trail Master Plan. What we are proposing for the scope of this grant is to take Colquitt north to Pitts Road, and the Pitts Bridge will have pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Unfortunately, infrastructure is not on the other side of SR-400 yet. We are not looking at a complete loop as of now.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution No. 2023-10-146**

- C.    **2023-280**    Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Contract Award to Atkins North America, Inc. for Design and Other Services Related to the Morgan Falls Athletic Complex Improvements Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract

**Michael Perry, Director of Recreation and Parks**, presented a recommendation to approve a contract award to Atkins North America, Inc. for design and other services related to the Morgan Falls Athletic Complex Improvements Project and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

An initial park Master Plan exercise was conducted by Atkins and concluded in September 2021. The primary users of the park, Sandy Springs Youth Sports (SSYS) were present at milestone steps of the planning process and provided input relevant to the various programs which would be represented during design, when practical. Phase I recommendations were funded in Fiscal Year 2023. Improvement elements included overhead safety netting and netting materials for the baseball and softball fields, as well as an adjacent playground, replacement and new shade structures, and replacement bleacher seating. Work continues with the overhead safety netting component and shade material for two fields. The balance of Phase I work is scheduled to conclude in October 2023.

Phase II is a continuation of the overall Master Plan initiative to bring additional amenities to the park and its various sport league participants. SSYS has continued their engagement in the Phase II planning process and contributed its priorities to the City and design team for consideration. Phase II elements feature a premanufactured, 6,030 square foot metal batting cage structure with utilities, pitcher bull pens for six fields, addressing erosion issues with Field # 3, retaining walls at key locations, and water bottle



filling stations. Preliminary surveying and permitting will be a part of the Phase II design scope of work. Project construction is estimated at \$1,500,000.

Atkins North America's Scope of Services for the Project includes:

1. Survey and Data Collection for Final Design Development
2. Construction Documentation
3. Permit Coordination
4. Bid Assistance
5. Contract Administration/Construction Management

Total fees for design services shall not exceed \$222,500.

There are adequate funds available for the described design services in Capital Project P2216.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve a contract award to Atkins North America, Inc. for design and other services related to the Morgan Falls Athletic Complex Improvements Project and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked does the \$1,500,000 project estimate include the \$222,500 for design services?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said yes.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked how many phases are in the master plan?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said this and future funding is a decision for Council. We are working from a master plan that called for an excess of \$10,000,000. We have tried to work with this based on elements that make sense and are the highest priority for the City of Sandy Springs.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked is the master plan available online?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said it is a public document and may be searchable.

**Councilmember Paulson** asked where is the batting cage building going to be on the site?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said it is behind the concession building. **John Boudreau, Program Manager, Atkins North America** is here and can answer technical questions on size and more.

**Councilmember Jody Reichel** said high schools are considering making pickleball a varsity sport. Is there room to add pickleball courts?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said not within this plan.

**Councilmember Reichel** asked is space available if we wanted to revisit the plan?

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said yes.

**Councilmember Andy Bauman** said as it relates to funding, our five-year plan includes further phasing

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of this. **Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer**, are funds available in our Capital Improvement Program (CIP)? Would it be possible to create branding for the park without spending a lot? What we are doing is significant and I am excited for Sandy Springs families, particularly on the northern part of the City. I am encouraging branding for this project to get benefit and positive feeling for work done. To **Councilmember Reichel's** point, are there opportunities to utilize the space during low periods of usage that could be overlayed on the existing uses?

**Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer**, said we budgeted \$1,500,000 for the project for FY 2024.

**Councilmember Bauman** asked are we currently in FY 2024?

**Chief Financial Officer Carlisle** said yes.

**Councilmember Bauman** asked does the CIP plan have any dollars anticipated in the future for the next four to five budgeting years?

**Chief Financial Officer Carlisle** said yes.

**Eden Freeman, City Manager**, said it is planned in the budget.

**Councilmember Bauman** said we cannot have it both ways. To **Councilmember Kelley's** question, there are envisioned dollars for this, and throughout the process we have told the community if things go according to plan, we said this is a priority to fund, in addition to this current year and future years. I am asking what does the five-year plan say? The information can be provided to me later if not available.

**Councilmember Kelley** said the master plan is not available through the search engine.

**Director of Recreation and Parks Perry** said we will follow up with Communications to make the plan available in an online search.

**Councilmember Bauman** said there should be physical display of this plan at the park to create excitement of what people can look forward to.

**City Manager Freeman** said it \$3,000,000 in 2025 and \$3,000,000 in 2026.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2023-10-147**

- D.    **2023-281**    Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of approval of Change Order No. 1 for Reedwick, LLC for Construction of the Public Safety Fiber Project T9520

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to approve Change Order No. 1 for Reedwick, LLC for Construction of the Public Safety Fiber Project T9520.

The City of Sandy Springs (the "City") awarded a contract to Reedwick, LLC in the amount of \$135,390.00 for construction of the Public Safety Fiber Project on March 24, 2023. On June 19, 2023, the City issued a "Notice to Proceed" for the Project allowing 240 days for the construction period, giving



the Project a completion date of February 13, 2024. Upon project mobilization, the contractor determined that the installation of fiber conduit could not be accomplished with directional boring due to the presence of solid rock. The contractor attempted directional boring with two different boring machines, in multiple locations, and was unsuccessful. An alternative method of installing the conduit was proposed using rock drilling, jack and bore. This method is more expensive and will require additional equipment, resulting in a change in the Project construction cost in an amount of \$39,098.00.

City Staff has reviewed the proposed method of installation, as well as the cost estimate, and has determined it is a reasonable cost increase to complete the Project. There is no anticipated impact to the Project duration, and the date of completion remains February 13, 2024.

There are sufficient funds in the T9520 budget to enact Change Order 1 in the amount of \$39,098.00 for a total project cost of \$174,488.00.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, to approve Change Order No. 1 for Reedwick, LLC for Construction of the Public Safety Fiber Project T9520.

**Councilmember Melody Kelley** asked was the original contract approved by Council?

**Public Works Director Martin** said the original amount of \$135,390 was within the City Manager's approval threshold.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked was the budget originally \$500,000 for the FY 2024 Public Safety Fiber Project T9520?

**Public Works Director Martin** said yes. This is the total budget amount for that project.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked is that amount applied across multiple projects or is it specific to this one?

**Public Works Director Martin** said it is for this single project.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2023-10-148**

- E. **2023-282** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Approve Resolution Authorizing Contract Award to Site Engineering, Inc. to Construct the 7140 Hunters Branch Drive Streambank Stabilization Project

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to approve a contract award be made to Site Engineering, Inc. for construction of a stormwater drainage improvement project as it relates to the 7140 Hunters Branch Drive Streambank Stabilization Project, (the Project).

In 2022, the City of Sandy Springs (the "City") engaged an engineering firm to develop plans for stabilization and restoration of approximately 28 linear feet of eroded streambank along 7140 Hunters Branch Drive. The Project aims to protect the existing infrastructure and stabilize the eroded streambank area in a section of Marsh Creek, found during a 2022 study, and to bring the drainage system up to City

standards. The Project scope consists of:

- Regrade and stabilize 28 linear feet of eroded streambank
- Install slope armoring Flexamat
- Install Gabion type baskets for toe protection
- Plant live-stakes to establish vegetation
- Place rip rap stone at toe of slope

On August 9, 2023, the City issued an Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) 24-011 seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform construction services for the Project. Purchasing conducted a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on August 18, 2023. The following one (1) response was received by the September 14, 2023, deadline:

| <b>Company</b>                     | <b>Amount</b>       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Projected Estimate for the Project | \$122,482.59        |
| <b>Site Engineering, Inc.</b>      | <b>\$161,447.33</b> |

The construction budget for the Project is \$175,000.00.

Upon review of the responses, Staff recommends that award be made to the responsible and responsive quote of Site Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$161,447.33.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to approve a contract award be made to Site Engineering, Inc. for construction of a stormwater drainage improvement project as it relates to the 7140 Hunters Branch Drive Streambank Stabilization Project, (the “Project”).

**Councilmember Reichel** asked is this the only house affected by this project?

**Public Works Director Martin** said in this case it is near the City area and public entrance. It is also near the roadway here.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution No. 2023-10-149**

- F. **2023-283** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Consideration and Acceptance of a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Property Located at 424 Hammond Drive in Land Lot 71 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District of Fulton County, Georgia (Tax Parcel # 17-0071-0002-063-4); associated with the Hammond Drive Widening Project; Project Number S2193

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement for that tract of land lying and located in Land Lot 71 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, Fulton County, Georgia. The property owner is Jerri Lee Ready D’Oliveira, individually and Jerri Lee Ready D’Oliveira as Executrix of the Estate of Virginia Christine Abney Ready and the property is located at 424 Hammond Drive, Sandy Springs, Georgia, as shown in the attached exhibits.

This property is part of the Hammond Drive widening project (hereafter, the “Project”). In order to



construct the Project, fee simple rights are required over, under, and through the property located at 424 Hammond Drive within the City of Sandy Springs. City Staff has been in negotiations to acquire the property by purchase.

The property in question is a single-family residence built in the 1950's on an approximate half-acre lot. It is located along Hammond Drive in a predominately single-family residential area. City Staff has negotiated a Purchase and Sale Agreement wherein the City may acquire the Property for the purchase price of \$510,000.00. This property is not a likely candidate for a First Responder Lease-Out.

Purchase of the property has been budgeted in the T-SPLOST/S2193 Project Budget.

The City's failure to obtain title to this property would result in the City having to potentially modify the proposed Project, which would increase the cost of the project and delay the schedule of the project.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement for that tract of land lying and located in Land Lot 71 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, Fulton County, Georgia. The property owner is Jerri Lee Ready D'Oliveira, individually and Jerri Lee Ready D'Oliveira as Executrix of the Estate of Virginia Christine Abney Ready and the property is located at 424 Hammond Drive, Sandy Springs, Georgia, as shown in the attached exhibits.

**Councilmember Mular** asked why this is not a candidate for first responder lease out?

**Public Works Director Martin** said factors include the age and condition of the facility. Also, the amount of reinvestment the City may have to make it suitable for leasing out, which caps at about \$15,000.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution No. 2023-10-150**

### **X. Reports**

#### **A. 2023-284 Mayor and Council Report**

**Mayor Rusty Paul** reported the City is missing a bridge that went over I-285 along Mount Vernon Highway, and we had many conversations since it happened last week. I am thankful to **Russell McMurtry, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)** and his team for their efforts to figure out how to accelerate this bridge. This was everybody's concern. There are three challenges. The first is supply chain and the getting beams fabricated for the new bridge. It takes about six months to fabricate the steel and three months later it is torn down. It costs \$3,000,000 and it does not make sense to repair the old bridge. The best option is to accelerate construction to the bridge that was already under construction, east of the current bridge. The beams were supposed to be fabricated and delivered after the first of the year, and GDOT may be able to accelerate this and the construction thereof.

Second, there are to be three water lines that would move across the new bridge. To accelerate that, they need to put those water lines into a steel casing. They believe that the bridge would hold the extra weight

on the one beam that is not damaged, but the challenge is being able to get that casing across the bridge safely, because you cannot put equipment on it or do a lot of work on it. They are meeting with the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management to figure out how they can do that. I was told if those obstacles can be overcome, they can accelerate the construction of the new bridge much earlier than the July date that was discussed and created tremors across the whole community, including me.

Even with acceleration of the supply chain, there are challenges to be able to do it, and we are not going to be able to do it as fast as the I-85 bridge that burned a few years ago because of getting the materials. It will require some weekend work, which requires closing additional lanes on I-285 over the weekend and complicates the traffic getting off on the surface streets. It is a very complex process, but Commissioner McMurray and his team have been communicative and forthright with me and staff about the challenges ahead. They understand this is a major arterial that carries a tremendous amount of traffic and had to be shifted to other roads such as River Valley, Heard's Ferry, and Abernathy, which are experiencing unprecedented levels of congestion as a result. Moving in that area is going to be a challenge for months.

The morning rush to get students to the three schools in that area adds a huge number of vehicles. I am encouraging parents to put your kids on school buses because that will take a tremendous amount of pressure off those roads. If buses are not an option, form multi-family carpools to take kids to school in one trip. Though this is not the solution, it is helping. It is three miles from my house to this building and generally takes me about seven to ten minutes, but it is now a thirty-minute trip. We will have to leave early, anticipate long lines, and have patience because that is the only way we are going to get through this.

Thank you to the citizens for understanding the City and GDOT are doing everything possible to remedy this situation. There are a few people including me, who are frustrated and expressed that, but most people appreciate the information. The reaction of the community has been phenomenal, and this shows what a wonderful Community we have here.

There were a couple festivals this weekend, the Bluestone Festival, which is a music and arts festival and is the resurrection of the old Sandy Springs Heritage Festival and the City topped this off with the Wine Festival on Sunday. People were excited and talked about what a marvelous weekend it was in the City of Sandy Springs. After all the challenges of dealing with the bridge outage, and traffic issues, our residents deserved having a good weekend and some fun.

The United States Conference of Mayors is in metro Atlanta this week and is hosted by **Andre Dickens, Mayor, City of Atlanta**. It is focused on P3, a subject that Sandy Springs knows a lot about. I listened to many Mayors talk about their challenges and how they are working to get private sector investment into their communities, and I will present to them tomorrow about how we have used P3. I talked to them today about the origins of the City, and how we had outsourced all of our services at the start, and there is interest in how we have done it. I am excited to present to Mayors from across the country, the City of Sandy Springs' story as well as our plans for across the street.

**Councilmember John Paulson** said the Sandy Springs Festival historically had been put on by Heritage Foundation, a private entity, and this is the first time this has been a City event. Thank you to the City's staff for your efforts with this challenge. It was a fantastic event.

**Mayor Paul** praised **Anna Nikolas, Director Signature Events, Performing Arts Center**, and staff for their efforts with this and other events and activities, and doing it in about three months.

**Councilmember Tibby DeJulio** thanked **Eden Freeman, City Manager**, and staff, for the efforts and



pulling this off in a short period of time. Excellent work. This is what we envisioned for the City of Sandy Springs. It was a pleasure to see families and children having a great time.

**City Manager Freeman** said the praise goes to our staff. We have an amazing group here and I will share this feedback.

**B. 2023-285 Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

**XI. Executive Session**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to recess from regular order and enter executive session for the purposes of real estate and litigation discussion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0**

**Yeas:** John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman

**Nays:** None

The Executive Session began at 7:32 p.m.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, to adjourn the executive session and return to regular order. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0**

**Yeas:** John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman

**Nays:** None

The Executive Session ended at 7:58 p.m.

**XII. Adjournment**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

**Approved:** October 17, 2023



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk