

Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference
June 18, 2024 Following Work Session
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Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on June 18, 2024 Following Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:38 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. **Bill Griffith, 9580 Roberts Drive, Sandy Springs** - Roberts Drive Sidepath Proposal
2. **Theodore Davis III, 5230 Green Oak Court, Sandy Springs** - Office-to-Residential Conversions

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. **2024-144** Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2024 City Council Work Session
June 4, 2024 City Council Meeting
- B. **2024-145** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Acceptance of an Agreement to Purchase Real Estate in Conjunction with the Acquisition of a Permanent Drainage Easement on Property Located at 455 Hammond Drive in Land Lot 70 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID #17-0070-0002-008-0); S2-193 Hammond Drive Widening Project

Resolution No. 2024-06-76

- C. **2024-146** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Acceptance of an Agreement to Purchase Permanent Drainage Easement on Property Located at 445 Hammond Drive in Land Lot 70 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID #17-0070-0002-048-6); S2-193 Hammond Drive Widening Project

Resolution No. 2024-06-77

VII. Presentations

- A. **2024-147** Presentation of Matching Funds for the Springway Trail and Abernathy South Greenway from the Sandy Springs Conservancy

Jack Misiura, Chairman, Sandy Springs Conservancy Chairman, and Alexandra Allen, Sandy Springs Conservancy Development Committee Chair presented matching funds for the Springway Trail and Abernathy South Greenway from the Sandy Springs Conservancy.

Sandy Springs Conservancy Chairman Misiura thanked Council for their support of trails, green space, and parks in Sandy Springs, and staff for the efforts in helping to implement. It is an important part of the community and we are excited for the progress made.

Sandy Springs Conservancy Development Committee Chair Allen presented two checks to the City of Sandy Springs. The first for the Morgan Falls Connector Trail Segment 2E and the second in support of the Abernathy Greenway South Improvements.

Mayor Paul thanked the Sandy Springs Conservancy for their support in these and other projects for the City. The Conservancy has contributed dozens of projects around the community often having sole responsibility through the years, and before inception of the City. They have remained a faithful partner in helping the City, for example with parks, trails, and more. We are thankful for their contributions, work, dedication to the Sandy Springs community, and for the checks.

VIII. Public Hearing

- A. **2024-148** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Provide for the Adoption of a Budget, Its Execution and Effect for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending June 30, 2025
(Public Hearing 2)

Eden Freeman, City Manager, presented an ordinance to provide for the adoption of a budget, its execution and effect for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

City Manager Freeman said the culmination of the FY 2025 budget development presentation is an important milestone in the City's fiscal year budget process, and ultimately the adoption by Council. This has been an ongoing process and staff worked strenuously for about six months. Council has engaged in significant discussions with staff since the end of April for budget desires.

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FY 2025 Budget Calendar

Date	Item
March - April	Departmental Budget Meetings / Finance Review Phase
April	Senior Management / Mayor Review Phase
April 30, 4:00 PM	Budget Workshop 1
May 14, 4:00 PM	Budget Workshop 2
May 21, 3:00 PM	City Council Proposed Budget and Budget Workshop 3
June 4, 6:00 PM	First Public Hearing
June 18, 6:00 PM	Final Public Hearing and Budget Adoption

Everything included in this budget ties back to Council's adopted priorities.



These are details of the General Fund expenditures by department with the corresponding page number to the budget book. The numbers have not changed since the last discussion.

General Fund Expenditures
Revised FY 2024 vs Proposed FY 2025

Expenditures	2024 Revised*	2025 Proposed	Variance	% Change
City Council (page 4)	\$ 284,352	\$ 309,260	\$ 24,908	8.76%
City Manager (page 5)	\$ 1,144,465	\$ 1,690,610	\$ 546,145	47.72%
City Clerk (page 6)	\$ 640,936	\$ 654,600	\$ 13,664	2.13%
Finance (page 7)	\$ 3,218,066	\$ 3,898,880	\$ 680,814	21.16%
Legal (page 8)	\$ 1,601,143	\$ 1,497,700	\$ (103,443)	-6.46%
Information Technology (page 9)	\$ 3,853,108	\$ 4,402,200	\$ 549,092	14.25%
Human Resources (page 11)	\$ 914,826	\$ 1,031,900	\$ 117,074	12.80%
Facilities Management (page 12)	\$ 7,026,596	\$ 8,325,090	\$ 1,298,494	18.48%
Communications (page 14)	\$ 2,221,091	\$ 2,577,710	\$ 356,619	16.06%
General Administration (page 15)	\$ 3,455,363	\$ 3,919,558	\$ 464,194	13.43%
Municipal Court (page 16)	\$ 1,483,050	\$ 1,767,600	\$ 284,550	19.19%
Police (page 18)	\$ 29,688,684	\$ 31,573,100	\$ 1,884,416	6.35%
Fire (page 20)	\$ 18,667,467	\$ 20,429,300	\$ 1,761,833	9.44%
Emergency Management (page 22)	\$ 1,501,199	\$ 1,997,350	\$ 496,151	33.05%
Public Works (page 23)	\$ 15,136,532	\$ 15,181,129	\$ 44,597	0.29%
Fleet Management (page 25)	\$ 404,724	\$ 1,261,800	\$ 857,076	211.77%
Recreation and Parks (page 26)	\$ 4,293,709	\$ 4,767,945	\$ 474,236	11.04%
Community Development (page 28)	\$ 6,218,594	\$ 6,390,950	\$ 172,356	2.77%
Economic Development (page 29)	\$ 620,425	\$ 652,400	\$ 31,975	5.15%
Other Financing Uses (page 30)	\$ 40,893,501	\$ 42,787,862	\$ 1,894,361	4.63%
Total	\$ 143,267,830	\$ 155,116,944	\$ 11,849,114	8.27%

This is a summary of all our budgeted expenditures by Fund and this also has not changed since our last discussion.

FY 2025 Summary of Budgeted Expenditures by Fund

Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	\$ 155,116,944
Confiscated Assets Fund	\$ 35,000
Opioid Fund	\$ 150,000
Emergency 911 Fund	\$ 3,500,000
Tree Fund	\$ 709,186
Impact Fee Fund	\$ 30,000
Multiple Fund Grants	\$ 442,380
Community Development Block Grant Fund	\$ 3,530,889
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	\$ 5,250,000
Excise Tax on Rental Motor Vehicle Fund	\$ 100,000
TSPLOST I (2016) Fund	\$ 102,171,851 *
TSPLOST II (2021) Fund	\$ 136,248,670 *
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 74,459,227 *
Fleet Fund	\$ 1,770,000 *
Public Facilities Authority Fund	\$ 592,333,764 *
Performing Arts Center Fund	\$ 8,708,322
Stormwater Management Fund	\$ 4,349,276 *
Development Authority Fund	\$ 390,500
Total All Funds	\$ 1,089,296,009

* Multi-year Funds

In the last discussion there was conversation about an additional \$800,000 that remained in year-end estimated undesignated General Fund balance. The consensus of Council during those discussions was for that \$800,000 to be put back into our General Fund Balance Reserve, and that number is reflected. We have also increased the amount for the percentage of expenditures to 25.6% and that does not change our financial policy. The policy requires 25% is kept in the General Fund budgeted expenditures in our rainy day fund from year-to-year.

Projected Undesignated Fund Balance

June 30, 2023, General Fund Balance (per ACFR)	\$ 60,099,230.58
Add: FY24 Projected Revenues	\$ 137,146,465.96
Less: FY24 Projected Expenditures	\$ (134,891,267.55)
Subtotal	\$ 62,354,428.99
Less: Fund Balance Reserve (25.6% of Expenditures)	\$ (31,987,505.00)
Available Fund Balance	\$ 30,366,923.99
FY 25 Budget Use of Fund Balance	\$ (30,366,923.99)
FY 25 Capital Ballot	\$ (1,848,400.00)
YEAR END ESTIMATED UNDESIGNATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$ ---

We updated our Capital Projects Funding Summary to include the expenditures that have been made through the T-SPLOST Program, both T-SPLOST I 2016 and T-SPLOST II 2021. It is important to note that T-SPLOST numbers are actual expenditures, and we still have funds that are encumbered and are being spent, but it will take us a number of years. The amounts listed for the Capital Projects Fund and Stormwater Fund are actual transfers out of the General Fund to those funds each year going back to the City's incorporation. The sum total that has been returned in investments in our infrastructure in Sandy Springs since incorporation is now \$441,000,000.

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Fiscal Year	Capital Project Fund	Stormwater Fund	TSPLOST 2016	TSPLOST 2021	Total
2006	0	0	0	0	0
2007	6,180,936	0	0	0	6,180,936
2008	15,540,483	450,000	0	0	15,990,483
2009	29,152,474	1,800,000	0	0	30,952,474
2010	23,647,716	500,000	0	0	24,147,716
2011	14,900,001	1,800,000	0	0	16,700,001
2012	12,320,198	2,500,000	0	0	14,820,198
2013	26,571,822	2,500,000	0	0	29,071,822
2014	24,336,631	1,600,000	0	0	25,936,631
2015	29,428,429	1,750,000	0	0	31,178,429
2016	29,904,824	2,550,000	0	0	32,454,824
2017	15,723,455	2,500,000	387,041	0	18,610,496
2018	15,747,490	2,000,000	3,755,417	0	21,502,907
2019	15,695,325	1,500,000	7,772,568	0	24,967,893
2020	19,425,000	1,750,000	10,924,185	0	32,099,185
2021	4,052,500	1,225,000	7,042,842	0	12,320,342
2022	15,725,971	1,720,000	9,855,741	3,203,000	30,504,712
2023	22,208,780	1,905,000	11,167,174	3,571,198	38,852,152
2024*	21,612,811	2,160,000	7,594,493	3,403,664	34,770,968
Total	\$ 342,174,846	\$ 30,210,000	\$ 58,499,461	\$ 10,177,862	\$ 441,062,169

Capital Projects Funding Summary

*FY 2024 is projected
 CF and Stormwater -
 Transfers from General Fund
 TSPLOST 2016 and 2021 -
 Actual expenditures

Mayor Rusty Paul opened the public hearing.

Opposition

1. Bill Griffith, 9580 Roberts Drive, Sandy Springs

I would like to ask that you folks don't rubber stamp the budget without doing a deep dive into some of these numbers. Let me give you an example. The City Manager's Office increased 50% from last year but the number of employees hadn't changed. I think it's four, but the numbers have gone up 50%. I'd like to understand that if I was you. Secondly, the Emergency Management numbers have increased 33%, that's worth a deep dive into. Also the Fleet section increased 212%, the judges pay is up 50% from last year and to whatever extent the budget includes any spending on the Robert's Drive side path. You know where I stand on that. Anyhow I would encourage you to do a deep dive into some of these numbers and don't just rubber stamp the thing.

Mayor Paul thanked Bill Griffith for his comment. **Eden Freeman, City Manager** can explain some of this. We have gone through this budget carefully and we are not rubber stamping. If you followed our public hearings and meetings on the budget, you know that we have asked many questions about this budget, including many of the items you just outlined. When Council votes it will be the result of a lot of inquiry from this body.

City Manager Freeman said the budget book shows two new positions being added to the City Manager's Office. The staff count is increasing with the addition of a Grants Administrator, and a Director of Data Strategy and Analytics.

Mayor Rusty Paul closed the public hearing.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to provide for the adoption of a budget, its execution and effect for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

Councilmember Paulson thanked Bill Griffith for his comments. We have looked at this since April and it has been quite a bit of work and a hard task for everyone in the City. Thank you everyone for your efforts in putting this together.

Councilmember Andy Bauman said I am grateful to staff for their hard work. I do not agree with every line item in a \$155,000,000 budget of operating from the General Fund a \$1,000,000,000 budget, but this

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is a good budget, and we are the stewards of taxpayer money. We continue to do it with the same millage rate every year, delivering best-in-class police and fire services, paved roads, and some wants in addition to our needs. I am proud to approve this budget tonight.

Councilmember DeJulio said nineteen years ago our budget may have been in the \$60,000,000 range and now we are discussing a \$155,000,000 budget, plus over \$400,000,000 in capital expenditures which does not include this building. There is a reason that the budget numbers have gone up so much. Inflation is at the highest rate it has been in the last forty years. Though the rate is coming down, inflation in these past several years has not decreased. We reviewed this budget, and some things increased such as our emergency services, which more than doubled. We pride ourselves on our emergency services and to keep the best quality we have, we must compensate people fairly. This budget is fair and necessary to keep the level of services we expect. The City of Sandy Springs is a great city, but it takes money to run it. Also, remember we have never had a tax increase.

Councilmember Jody Reichel thanked Robert Griffith for his comment. Council appreciates citizen engagement. I spent a lot of time reviewing our budget as well as budgets of other cities such as Savannah, Roswell, and Alpharetta, to compare how dollars are being spent. Overall I am happy with the budget and appreciate staff's efforts.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said there will be a 30% increase in Court operations.

City Manager Freeman said there is an item on tonight's agenda to increase the hourly rate of the City's contracted Municipal Court judges.

Councilmember Kelley asked what about the 35% increase in Emergency Management?

City Manager Freeman said that was the increase in AMR's contract. There was a massive increase that Council approved at the last meeting.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the Fleet service gasoline for the Fleet Center?

City Manager Freeman said that is consolidating all gasoline charges across all departments into one. It is now in Fleet's budget instead of being in Police and Fire.

Councilmember Kelley asked why is there a decrease of 30% in Community Development? Should we expect a decrease in service?

City Manager Freeman said no. Funds decreased as they had one-time funds added last year for additional staffing, and some tools they needed.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the Tree Fund receiving a transfer of \$60,000 from the General Fund?

Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, said that is the 50% for funding personnel.

Councilmember Kelley said Economic Development has two employees.

City Manager Freeman said those are the two FTE's.

Councilmember Kelley asked who are the employees for Multiple Grant Fund?

City Manager Freeman said those are within the police department for the grant the City received last year from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the Violent Crime Reduction Grant.

Councilmember Kelley asked what is the City Trail Design mentioned under Parks and Recreation in Capital Projects?

City Manager Freeman said that is the ongoing fund. We are not allocating additional funds this year because we are carrying forward prior year funding.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the Morgan Falls Athletic Center Building included in the Morgan Falls Athletic Complex Improvements?

City Manager Freeman said that was an additional request and it was included as an enhancement from the from the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Kelley asked where does the Opioid Fund go?

City Manager Freeman said based on the conditions of settlements reached with the distributors and pharmaceutical companies, funds can only be used for opioid prevention programs. We are working with a staff team to develop a program to distribute those funds. It can only be used for purchasing of Narcan or awareness programs for example.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-06-10

B. **2024-149** TA24-0001- Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Development Code to Allow for Green Retaining Walls

Michele McIntosh-Ross, Planning & Zoning Manager, presented a recommendation of Text Amendment TA24-0001, an ordinance to amend the Development Code to allow for green retaining walls.

This text amendment proposal is minor in nature in that it only involves proposing an alternative acceptable material finish (non-invasive evergreen vegetation) for retaining walls. Generically referred to as a 'green wall', behind the vegetation, sound structural ground retention techniques are employed and required, often in the arrangement of welded wire form construction.

Staff believes that allowing evergreen vegetation as an option for retaining wall finish material is a sound option, particularly with the guardrails proposed, including that the vegetation must be noninvasive and only used in side and rear yards.

The wall construction requirements behind the material are not affected in any way by this proposal. The amendment only seeks to allow for additional aesthetic design options when considering options for retaining wall development.

Green Retaining Wall Examples



Text Amendment

Sec. 9.4.3.A.3. -

3. Materials

- a. **Material and Finish** All retaining walls must be finished with stucco, brick, or stone. No beveled modular block, plain unfinished concrete masonry units, or other similar materials are allowed.

Retaining walls may utilize alternative facing elements such as evergreen vegetation as approved by the Director. The wall must be located only in side or rear yards and be planted with native, non-invasive evergreen planting material. The plant growth must be at a minimum 50% of the wall's face prior to closeout of the permit, and maintained throughout all seasons.

Retaining walls which meet the description of Garden Walls below in Sec. 9.4.3.B.3. may also use cross ties, landscape timbers, or similar as a wall, material finish.

There being no public comment, **Mayor Rusty Paul** closed the public hearing.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve a recommendation of Text Amendment TA24-0001, an ordinance to amend the Development Code to allow for green retaining walls.

Councilmember Paulson said there was a project in January where the City's code did not allow for it. This is a good addition to the Code and it allows both cost savings and a vegetative solution which is much softer than solutions seen. Is there a minimum of 50% vegetative coverage at the time of permit close out and then it jumps to 100%?

Ginger Sottile, Director of Community Development, said the minimum is going to be a 50% coverage always.

Councilmember Paulson said a couple contractors were vetted to do this and think this is positive. Great job.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked what does it mean to maintain throughout all seasons? Are things not maintained in certain seasons?

Planning & Zoning Manager McIntosh-Ross said we are requiring evergreens so this coverage will be maintained throughout the seasons, and will not disappear during the winter, and will replenish during the spring and summer.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-06-10

IX. New Business

- A. **2024-150** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Accept and Purchase the Recommended Finalists for the FY 2024 Arts in the Open Sculpture Competition for Permanent Display in Various Locations in the City

Melissa Patterson, Committee Chair Art Sandy Springs Arts in the Open Sculpture Contest, presented a resolution to accept and purchase the recommended finalists for the FY 2024 Arts in the Open Sculpture Competition for permanent display in various locations in the City.

In 2018, the City began funding the Annual ArtSS Walk, Art Sandy Springs' annual Arts in the Open sculpture competition. Each year, nine sculpture finalists are selected from hundreds of entries from around the country. The works are displayed on the City Green at City Springs, creating an annually changing sculpture art gallery in the park. At the conclusion of each exhibit, selected works from the finalists are purchased and placed in permanent locations by the City.

This year, Art Sandy Springs would like to give the City *Caprice*, a stainless steel and bronze sculpture by Charles Pilkey with the proposed permanent location at the Abernathy Arts Center.

Caprice

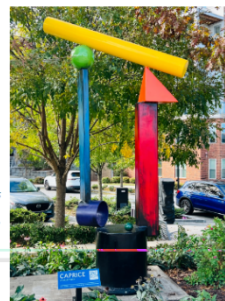
by Charles Pilkey of Mint Hill, NC

Material: Stainless Steel, Bronze

Dimensions: 11' X 6' X 3'

Suggested Location: Abernathy Arts Center

Artist Statement: "A work of whimsy... there are two kinds of artworks... those that offer escape from the world and those that protest the world's injustice. As the title suggests, *Caprice* is of the former type, an entertaining work of whimsy intended to provide temporary rest from the mad rush of modernity."



ARTSANDYSPRINGS

The recommended pieces for purchase include:

1. *Nesting*, a steel and driftwood sculpture by Richard Herzog (\$11,000), is proposed to be placed at Morgan Falls Overlook Park where many of the City's birding programs take place.

Nesting

by Richard Herzog of Athens, GA

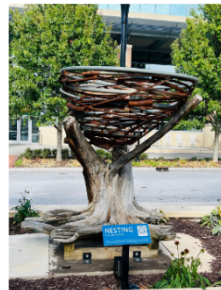
Material: Steel, Driftwood

Dimensions: 7' X 7' X 6'

Price: \$11,000

Suggested Location: Morgan Falls Overlook Park

Artist Statement: "My work explores botanical forms, the lack of interaction between man and nature, the artificialization of nature, and the patterning that occurs in nature. This sculpture talks about organization and the chaotic nature within natural and man-made forms."



ARTSANDYSPRINGS

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2. **UpCycle**, made of steel, bicycle wheels, and paint, by sculptor Joni Younkins-Herzog (\$4,600), is proposed to be placed along the trail at Abernathy Greenway South.

UpCycle

by Joni Younkins-Herzog of Athens, GA

Medium: Steel, Bicycle Wheels, Paint

Dimensions: 10' x 8' x 10'

Price: \$4,600

Suggested Location: Abernathy Greenway South

Artist Statement: "This artwork was inspired by recycling and the interesting variety presented by the difference of wheels. The concept was to repurpose older bicycles into a work of art that celebrated professional and amateur cycling, art, music, community, and recycling."



ARTS IN THE OPENINGS

3. **Flowing Arches**, painted steel by sculptor Matt Moyer (\$5,700), to be placed at Windsor Meadows Park.

Flowing Arches

by Matt Moyer of Columbia, MO

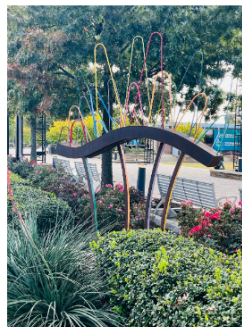
Medium: Painted Steel

Dimensions: 10' x 8' x 2'

Price: \$5,700

Suggested location: Windsor Meadows Park

Artist Statement: "This sculpture explores how different people and communities (the varied colored arches) are connected by bridges (the pylon-type legs) and rivers (the wave-like form)."



ARTS IN THE OPENINGS

The total to purchase the three recommended sculptures is \$21,300. Associated costs for installation, signage, etc. can be accommodated within the existing capital project fund (A0001).

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, seconded by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, to approve a resolution to accept and purchase the recommended finalists for the FY 2024 Arts in the Open Sculpture Competition for permanent display in various locations in the City.

Councilmember Bauman said our community is enriched by having an arts program whether sculpture or indoor art student competitions for example. This is not something the government can take on by itself. This is a great partnership and I appreciate what you and others do to bring color and life to the City of Sandy Springs.

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

Mayor Paul thanked **Committee Chair Art Sandy Springs Arts in the Open Sculpture Contest Patterson** for her presentation. I recall from a trip to Israel every village had a sculptures and the City of Sandy Springs can do that too. We appreciate you taking the concepts and have done a good job.

Resolution No. 2024-06-78

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- B. **2024-151** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Fix and Approve the Hourly Compensation Rates of the Judges Appointed to the Sandy Springs Municipal Court

Cheston Roney, Court Administrator, presented a recommendation to fix and approve the hourly compensation rates of the Judges appointed to the Sandy Springs Municipal Court.

The Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances gives the City of Sandy Springs’ (the “City”) City Council the power to fix the hourly compensation rate of Chief and Associates Judges appointed to Sandy Springs Municipal Court. Currently, the rates of pay for Judges appointed to the bench in the Sandy Springs Municipal Court are as follows:

Chief Judge	\$150.00 per Hour
Associate Judge	\$145.00 per Hour

City Staff believes that in order to remain competitive with other Cities and municipal courts in North Fulton County, it is important to compensate judges at rates comparable to other municipalities in North Fulton County. This would be the second time that the pay rate would be adjusted for the judges in Sandy Springs.

Staff recommends the following compensation for Sandy Springs Municipal Court Judges:

	Current Compensation Rate	Proposed Compensation Rate
Chief Judge	\$150.00 per hour	\$225.00 per hour
Associate Judge	\$145.00 per hour	\$220.00 per hour

Mayor Paul asked is this based on salary surveys for similar jurisdictions in the area?

Court Administrator Roney said it is based on salary surveys for the North Fulton cities which includes Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton, and John’s Creek.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve the hourly compensation rates of the Judges appointed to the Sandy Springs Municipal Court.

Councilmember Kelley asked how is it decided what type of tickets someone has to come to court for?

Court Administrator Roney said more serious traffic cases are set by the Chief Judge.

Donald Schaefer, Judge, Municipal Court said there are certain cases that are more serious, and could suspend your license. An offender may have the opportunity to pay online but if they do not, they receive a letter from DDS to suspend their license and they must come to court.

Regarding the discussion earlier about distracted driving, go to the legislature to have the law changed.

Councilmember Kelley asked is lapsed insurance given four-points?

Municipal Court Judge Schaefer said there are certain charges that suspend your license upon conviction and that is one. Someone would have to come to court to try and save their license.

Councilmember Andy Bauman said our court system would be better off with more judges like **Municipal Court Judge Schaefer**. Television judges do not compare and he is a marvel to watch.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-79

- C. **2024-152** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Approve Contract Award to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to Perform Engineering Design Consultant Services Related to the CDBG Connecting Sidewalks Project, Including the Northwood Drive Sidewalk and Pedestrian Crossing (T0033-8), the Long Island Drive Sidewalk (T0033-9) and the Hope Road Sidewalk (T0033-10) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to approve contract award to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to perform engineering design consultant services related to the CDBG Connecting Sidewalks Project, including the Northwood Drive Sidewalk and Pedestrian Crossing (T0033-8), the Long Island Drive Sidewalk (T0033-9) and the Hope Road Sidewalk (T0033-10) and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

The City of Sandy Springs (the “City”) plans to construct pedestrian improvements as a part of the City’s CDBG Program as identified in the current Consolidated Plan. The Project goal will be to improve pedestrian connectivity and access to transit in the CDBG target areas. Ultimately, the City desires to construct sidewalks to improve the network in the identified areas, build accessibility improvements, install pedestrian scale lighting and make other improvements to the existing sidewalk network. The three (3) target areas for this project are as follows: the Northwood Drive Sidewalk and Pedestrian Crossing (T0033-8), the Long Island Drive Sidewalk (T0033-9), and the Hope Road Sidewalk (T0033-10).

The required design services for each segment were separated into five (5) tasks, identified as follows:

Task 1: Survey

Produce ground run (2-foot contour interval) topographic survey of each segment’s project area; Locate utilities to Subsurface Utility Engineering (“SUE”) Quality Level B (QL-B) standard.

Task 2: Concept Design

Analyze each sub-project to identify any alignment, right-of-way, environmental, utility, trees, or property constraints; Prepare concept design using typical streetscape typical section; Initiate utility coordination; Prepare right of way plans, tree protection plans and lighting plans; Prepare retaining wall designs; Environmental coordination per NEPA requirements; Prepare tree protection and Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study; Prepare Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments: Coordinate Concept Field Plan Review.

Task 3: Design Development, Utility Coordination and Right of Way

Prepare preliminary design using City approved concept design; include utility initial utility coordination comments, roadway cross sections and driveway profiles; Coordinate Subsurface Utility Engineering to Level A quality at potential utility conflicts Initiate utility coordination; Stake proposed ROW dedications and easements. Prepare right of way plan revisions per property owner comments; Prepare

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final right of way plans, legal descriptions and restaking per final right of way plans; Prepare retaining wall designs; Coordinate Preliminary Field Plan Review; Submit plans for Community Development plan review.

Task 4: Final Design Phase

Prepare final design package, including construction plans, erosion control and prevention plans, utility relocation plans, retaining wall plans, tabulation and Special Provisions; Prepare Engineer's Estimate of Cost; Submit plans for Community Development permit approval.

Task 5: Public Involvement

Schedule and conduct public information open house meetings; Attend City Council work session meeting as required; Prepare presentation materials (maps and renderings).

Task 6: Post Design Services

Attend pre-bid conferences; Respond to bidder's questions; Tabulate bids; Attend pre-construction meetings; Perform 7-day erosion control inspections.

The City issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for Statements of Qualifications from Georgia Department of Transportation qualified engineering/ architectural firms to provide Engineering Design Consultant Services for the Project. The City solicited responses on two (2) occasions.

The initial advertisement was posted on November 29, 2023. Four (4) design firms were identified as plans holders; however, none participated in the December 15, 2023, pre-proposal conference and no proposals were submitted prior to the January 12, 2024 submission deadline. Since no responses were received from this solicitation the Public Works team requested the Project to be re-advertised.

On January 31, 2024, the City issued the second Request for Proposals ("RFP") for Statements of Qualifications from Georgia Department of Transportation qualified engineering/architectural firms to provide Engineering Design Consultant Services for the Project. One (1) Statement of Qualifications ("Qualifications"), from Kimley-Horn was received by the March 7, 2024, deadline.

Staff reviewed and evaluated the Qualifications by assigning a value for the following technical qualifications and requirements using the scoring criteria established in the RFP:

Qualifications and Requirements	Points
Project Manager, Key Team Leader(s) and Prime's Experience and Qualifications	30
Project Manager, Key Team Leader(s) and Prime Resources and Workload Capacity	20
Technical Approach	40
Past Performance	10

Proposals were evaluated by a committee of six (6) Staff members (the "Evaluation Committee"):

- Bill Lotz, CIP Project Manager
- Ko Seo, CIP Project Manager
- Bebe Lee, CIP Project Manager
- Richard Forbes, TSPLOST Right of Way Coordinator
- David Low, Senior Traffic Transportation Engineer

The Evaluation Committee reached the following consensus result:

Offerer	Consensus Score	Ranking
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.	85.75	1

Based on the scoring of the Qualifications, Staff determined that Kimley-Horn was qualified to perform engineering design consultant services and advanced Kimley-Horn in the selection process and requested a scope of work and fee proposal. On April 12, 2024, Staff conducted an interview with Kimley-Horn to refine the Project scope and reduce fees combining the survey and Project management tasks from each segment into one (1) project and removing tasks not necessary for the Project. Kimley-Horn presented a final scope and fee of \$730,490.00 on May 16, 2024.

Upon review of the qualifications, scope and fee proposal, Staff believes that the Response submitted by Kimley-Horn is in the best interest of the City and recommends that award be made to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$730,490.00. The current Project budget is \$3,000,000.00; the proposal from Kimley-Horn is within the current Project budget.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to approve a contract award to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to perform engineering design consultant services related to the CDBG Connecting Sidewalks Project, including the Northwood Drive Sidewalk and Pedestrian Crossing (T0033-8), the Long Island Drive Sidewalk (T0033-9) and the Hope Road Sidewalk (T0033-10) and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

Councilmember Bauman asked can the bid be put into context to understand what is expected in the \$730,490 contract award to Kimley-Horn and Associates, for example with hours worked?

Public Works Director Martin said the \$730,490 is roughly about 20% of the overall estimate for the entire delivery of these projects. There is expected right of way cost, utility relocation cost, and construction within.

Councilmember Bauman asked does the City have an on call program for these kinds of services?

Public Works Director Martin said yes, however for this federally funded program, the City is required to have a qualifications based selection for a consultant for this particular work and dollar. For T-SPLOST by contrast, we are not bound by federal regulations and on call designers are used. Also with the traffic signal design with modification to be made on Hammond Drive, on call traffic consultants will be used to do the work.

Councilmember Bauman does the City have any internal control for checks and balances to look at the cost of the project when there is a single bidder?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said yes, and included are reviews by Public Works, Finance, and me. We can reject this and go back to get some additional bids if that is what Council wants.

Councilmember Bauman said no. Was the received bid reviewed for not just the qualitative aspect, but to the cost?

City Manager Freeman said yes.

Councilmember Jody Reichel asked because this is CDBG was it considered to bring some of this work in-house, or must we have someone from outside?

Public Works Director Martin said the scope and complexity of the work does not lend itself to our current staff to perform. Out of about twenty TSPLOST sidewalk projects funded in TSPLOST 2021, nine are completed as of today. Collection began in 2022 for that program. We are in a good place now and moving projects forward. Thank you to the efforts of **Wesley Waters, Public Works CIP Unit Manager**, and the sidewalk design team, along with project managers providing oversight against an overall program budget of about \$10,100,000. For some projects within early completion we had to acquire survey to understand where the right of way and utilities were for example. That used a majority of cost for some smaller projects. Project management staff with consultant staff provided a not too labored study to come up with quick designs that went along with early completions of projects with the TSPLOST 2021 program budget. For the in-house design and smaller projects, we use a version of that and staff helps with the consultants. We still need the survey work as we do not have the capacity to do that.

For CDBG, I do not know if grant funds can be used against staff performing the work as there may be limitations. Research can be done and information will be provided to Council.

Councilmember Reichel asked can Council review what is ahead, and the past to see if it is cost effective to have our own designers to do the bigger projects?

Public Works Director Martin said from discussions with consultants that were potential contenders on this work, it did not seem to be enough work to warrant their exposure with federal rules for the size of work contemplated here. With the overall sidewalk program, we must ensure we find enough work throughout the life of a program to make an investment in staff who must be trained and augmented with surveyors, structural engineers, hydrologists, and more to make it worthwhile to pursue. There may be a minimum staffing size and we would need a program that could keep that staff gainfully employed while we pursue. Also to augment with surveyors is a significant cost within all this work and reduces dollars available to fund staff. We can explore this and provide information to Council.

Mayor Paul said because CDBG is a federal program you need people who are experts in delivering these kinds of projects. This is important because if every rule is not followed, the money can be taken back. Money has already been paid back to GDOT because one of the City's partners failed to follow all the rules. It is a very expensive lesson.

Councilmember Reichel asked what is the sidewalk measurement?

Public Works CIP Unit Manager Waters said it is approximately half a mile at two thousand feet.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked is City indemnified by people who are supposedly experts in the area, in case they miss these rules?

Public Works Director Martin said there is a standard of care we expect of our design professionals when hired that further insulates the City.

Mayor Paul said they also have to carry errors and omissions insurance and that would be where the indemnification applies.

Dan Lee, City Attorney, said the contractor brings a payment and performance bond that the errors and

omissions insurance covers.

Public Works Director Martin said with regulatory compliance for the GDOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects, there is regular access to good guidance. By contrast the CDBG program does not have a large staff and is not heavily engaged on advising us as we move through this. We rely on the consultant particularly when we reached a significant environmental milestone on the CDBG project now constructed on Roswell Road south of I-285. We sought help from the CDBG program staff and located their audit and inspection checklist but guidance was still skimpy.

Mayor Paul said it is a challenge to find out from their staff who the person is that understands all the nuances.

Councilmember Paulson said as a former engineer on projects, there is so much variation on the projects the City has. Larger companies can go into their pool of engineers and pull someone in and they work on a project until completed. For the next project, there may be another set of skills required especially to do the more complex projects. We will need all those resources in house and this may not be efficient. We should go slow in discussions of whether or not the City wants to be the engineer of record on some of these projects. There may be some basic projects that we can do and save some money, but you are paying for the expertise of some of these big companies.

We are spending 24% of the \$3,000,000 on this contract which does not include construction. Can the remaining monies cover the construction cost of this?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. The initial budget figures were built against all these elements of project delivery. Before staff acquired the design consultant, they scoped this work and looked at level of cost associated with construction cost, associated with right of way potential and more.

Councilmember Reichel said we are building half a mile of sidewalk and it cost \$730,490.00 for design. We should review the amount we are spending for sidewalks being built this year because we can probably hire one or two experienced engineers.

Public Works Director Martin said we can investigate this. The challenge will be getting the right skill-set on staff. The other challenge will be bringing someone that has those skills and keeping them gainfully employed with adequate design work to keep them in the position.

Mayor Paul said building sidewalks here is more challenging than it is in Dallas, Texas where it is flat to lay the concrete. If it is not designed to pour the concrete correctly, concrete could go down the hill. The projects that seem simple to everyone are more complex due to the geography we are trying to deal with, then it becomes plain why some of the City's sidewalk projects are more expensive.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said we should be mindful that the budget was just approved and not jump in to do an amendment for hiring staff. If we wanted to bring this forward, it probably should have been during the budget process.

Public Works Director Martin said there is no intention to propose this tonight.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-80

- D. **2024-153** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Approve Contract Award to AWP, Inc. d/b/a AWP Safety for Traffic Sign Maintenance, Traffic Control, Road Closure, and Special Events Services, and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to approve a contract award to AWP, Inc. d/b/a AWP Safety for traffic sign maintenance, traffic control, road closure, and special events services, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

On March 13, 2024, the City advertised its request for contractor qualifications (“RFQC”) for the Services. The deadline for submission of responses to the RFQC (“Responses”) was April 12, 2024. Staff reviewed Responses received and determined one (1) contractor to be qualified to perform the Services. On May 20, 2024, bids were solicited from one (1) contractor. The resulting bid is:

Firm	Bid
AWP, Inc. d/b/a AWP Safety	\$460,721.90

Upon administrative review of the bids and reference checks, staff recommends award be made to AWP Safety as the most responsible and responsive bidder in the amount of \$460,721.90 for Fiscal Year 2025, beginning July 1, 2024. After-hour/Emergency Response Services and Traffic Sign Materials are important aspect of this contract and are paid on an as-needed basis. Staff recommends a \$50,000.00 allowance be added to the contract for emergency/call-out services, and an \$100,000.00 allowance for materials which be added to the contract which would increase the overall contract amount to \$610,721.90.

The term of the contract resulting from this solicitation will be five (5) performance years, including one (1) base year and four (4) one-year renewal options contingent upon annual appropriation of funds by the City Council. The contract will terminate at the close of each fiscal year but will automatically renew absent any positive action by the City.

The proposed FY25 budget under Contractual Services is \$605,000.00 for these Services to award the contract for Services for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. There is currently a deficit of \$5,721.90 in the FY25 budget, so a budget amendment will be required to fund the services for the recommended contract.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to approve a contract award to AWP, Inc. d/b/a AWP Safety for traffic sign maintenance, traffic control, road closure, and special events services, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the City approving the contract amount of \$610,721.90 and not the amount of \$460,721.90?

Kristen Wescott, Transportation Unit Manager, Public Works, said for services starting July 1, it is their base bid plus our allowances of \$150,000. The total purchase order amount is \$610,721.90.

Public Works Director Martin said their contract services is the cost for their staff to work five days a week in the City of Sandy Springs plus be available for emergency call outs.

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Councilmember Kelley asked is the amount for five years?

Public Works Director Martin said it is for one year and is renewable.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-81

- E. **2024-154** Request for Mayor and City Council to Approve a Contract Award to Reedwick, LLC To Construct the Roswell Road/SR 9 at Lake Placid Drive Signal Project, and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to approve a contract award to Reedwick, LLC to construct the Roswell Road/SR 9 at Lake Placid Drive Signal Project, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

The City of Sandy Springs (the “City”) plans to reconstruct the signalized intersection at Roswell Road/SR 9 at Lake Placid Drive to bring up to current standards, replace the existing poles and strain construction with decorative signal poles and mast arms, provide fully accessible pedestrian signals at all approaches, and modify the signal phasing to add a protected pedestrian signal phase for persons walking across Roswell Road/SR 9.

On April 17, 2024 the City issued an Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) No. 24-064 seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform construction services for the Project. Purchasing conducted a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on April 30, 2024. The following three (3) responses were received by the May 20, 2024 deadline:

Bidder	Bid
Reedwick, LLC	\$358,043.00
Ohmshiv Construction, LLC	\$463,038.00
NGT Group, LLC	\$738,277.94

Upon review of the responses, Staff recommends that award be made to the lowest, most responsible, and responsive bid from Reedwick in the amount of \$358,043.00.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve a contract award to Reedwick, LLC to construct the Roswell Road/SR 9 at Lake Placid Drive Signal Project, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

Councilmember John Paulson said this is a significant difference. Did you return to Reedwick to ensure they have everything covered?

Public Works Director Martin said we have good knowledge on the level of effort associated with mast arm installations as we had many projects. Between other signal installations we have done, and the work history with Reedwick, we have confidence in the numbers.

Councilmember DeJulio said this is one of the busiest crosswalks in the City because an apartment complex is there, people are on foot, and more. When is this going to happen?

Public Works Director Martin said with Council approval, we will probably be in position for a notice to proceed in about thirty days. We will have long lead items on this project since it is mast arms and more. We will probably look at somewhere in the sixteenth week or better, for delivery of traffic signal gear especially the mast arms. Along the way, the contractor has to develop head crossings to get horizontal work done as well as prepare the foundations for those new arms that need to be installed. The total performance period overall may be about two hundred and forty days.

Kristen Wescott, Transportation Unit Manager, Public Works, said our experience with materials for signals has not recovered from supply chain issues during COVID. It is about six to nine months for some materials and some even longer. We ordered a pole base for example and it was about ten month for delivery.

Public Works Director Martin said Council will be provided with an estimated update on the performance period as this information is not available tonight. Generally it will be a long lead time for traffic signal gear materials.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-82

- F. **2024-155** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Rightsite Health Physicians, LLC to Provide On-site Telemedicine Services to Patients Through Existing 911 Providers

Patrick Flaherty, Section Chief, presented a resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Rightsite Health Physicians, LLC to provide on-site telemedicine services to patients through existing 911 providers.

The Sandy Springs Fire Department has seen a steady increase in the number of non-life-threatening calls for service through 911 activation. These calls increase the strain on the 911 system by utilizing resources and equipment that are then not available for higher acuity 911 calls.

Sandy Springs Fire Department has been in discussion with Rightsite Health Physicians to provide online telehealth consultation to patients that have activated 911 for non-life-threatening emergencies. Rightsite Health will provide the following services.

- On-scene video telemedicine consultation with patients. Patients will be assessed by on-scene Sandy Springs EMS personnel and make a determination as to whether a patient's condition is non-emergent. If such a determination is made, EMS Personnel will offer patients the option of either proceeding to the Emergency Room or to have an immediate telehealth visit and evaluation with one of Rightsite's board certified ER physicians. If the patient chooses the telehealth visit, EMS activates the process using any device (Agency or patient) with a camera and internet connection.
- Rightsite can advise that 911 transport of the patient is not necessary keeping valuable resources available in the City of Sandy Springs.

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- Rightsite can arrange for alternative transport to Doctors Offices, Urgent Care Clinics, or Emergency Rooms, via Lyft or Uber.
- Rightsite can assist with scheduling primary care physician appointments, medication refills, or scheduling consultations with specialists.
- Rightsite will Interface with our Community Paramedicine program to assist patients who frequently utilize 911 for non-emergency reasons to facilitate access to programs and resources to prevent the need to utilize 911.

Not a Good Fit:	- Chest pain over 45 years old - Unable to ambulate - Severely abnormal vitals	- Motor vehicle accident - Pain interfering with exam/evaluation - Stroke/CVA symptoms	
Good Fit for RightSite:	- Simple infections - Palpitations - Dehydration	- Nausea/Vomiting - Dizziness - Headache	- Asthma - Bronchitis - Malaise
Great Fit for RightSite:	- Anxiety symptoms - Extremity injuries - Toothache	- Can't get an appointment with PCP - Prescription refill - Sprains and strains	- Cold/flu symptoms - Non-specific viral symptoms - COVID
EXCLUSION CRITERIA	1. Threat to themselves or others 2. Chief complaints that may be related to pregnancy 3. On hospital property		

The Sandy Springs Fire Department is committed to providing the best, and most appropriate, care for the citizens and visitors to Sandy Springs. The only option available to traditional 911 activation is transportation to a local emergency room. Many times, this is not the most appropriate resource for the patient. In partnership with Rightsite, Sandy Springs Fire Department will be able to provide virtual access to physicians immediately upon arrival on scene and can make sure that the patient is receiving access to the care that best suits their situation. The contact places no financial burden on the City of Sandy Springs. Rightsite will bill patients' insurance or Medicare/Medicaid directly. Patients that are uninsured will not be billed for consultation.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Rightsite Health Physicians, LLC to provide on-site telemedicine services to patients through existing 911 providers.

Councilmember Paulson asked for more information on the cost for the service.

Section Chief Flaherty said there is no cost to the City. Patients will be billed through private insurance as if it were a telehealth health visit with their physician. If they do not have insurance or Medicare, there is no cost for the services provided and they will not be refused if they do not have means of payment. Rightsite has an associated beneficiary act that helps cover the cost for those patients who may not have insurance.

Councilmember Paulson asked does the City's first responders call Rightsite upon arrival at the incident?

Section Chief Flaherty said that is correct. The 911 call would be classified as normal, and we would send all units as we do every day upon our providers arriving on scene. If it meets the criteria that Rightsite can help with, we contact our physician through telehealth through the existing equipment that we already have in the trucks, for example iPads and iPhones, and allow them to speak directly with a

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physician. About 30% of weekly EMS calls are classified as non-life-threatening, non-acute calls, and those patients generally do not require an ER visit. Under current state law, an ambulance can only go to an emergency room. On-site telemedicine services allows someone to speak with a licensed Georgia physician directly who can determine whether an emergency room is appropriate, or if there is an alternate level of care. This can be calling in a prescription to their existing Pharmacy, working with their personal physician to be seen by a specialist, transferring them to urgent care, and provide alternative transportation to get them to those locations. The average ambulance bill can be about \$2,000 plus associated ER fees, and this is a significant financial burden.

Councilmember Paulson asked do they provide 24-hr services?

Section Chief Flaherty said yes, they are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Mayor Paul said in discussion about our ambulance service contract, alternative methods to avoid unnecessary transports to the ER were discussed. This is a component of that agreement which will help reduce the City's cost as well as taxpayers for providing ambulance service.

Councilmember Reichel asked can someone call Rightsite and not have an ambulance come?

Section Chief Flaherty said this is the first part of the implementation of the program. The second part would move Rightsite into the Dispatch Center for certain types of calls, for example someone with a sore throat. Before sending units, we could transfer them to an ER physician who could recommend whether a 911 response is appropriate.

Councilmember Reichel asked when will this be done?

Section Chief Flaherty said we are currently working on the legal aspect and hope to have it implemented as soon as possible.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-83

- G. **2024-156** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Lease Agreement between the City of Sandy Springs and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for Police Portable Two-Way Radio Equipment, Accessories and Services for the Sandy Springs Police Department and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement

Dan Nable, Major, presented a recommendation to approve a lease agreement between the City of Sandy Springs and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for police portable two-way radio equipment, accessories and services for the Sandy Springs Police Department and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

The City of Sandy Springs (the "City") Police Department currently operates 211 portable two-way radios (Motorola Solutions APX 6000 and APXNext) on the North Fulton Radio System and is a member of the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (NFRRSA). In 2023, the City engaged in the request for proposal process to replace 211 portable two-way radios, which were set to reach the end of life at the end of December 2023.

On November 21, 2023, the City issued a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) No. 24-013 seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide equipment, accessories, services and pricing required to replace 211 portable radios. The city sought a turnkey solution, that will incorporate all needs into the existing infrastructure. Purchasing conducted a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on December 13, 2023. The following two (2) responses were received by the January 10th, 2024, deadline:

- L3Harris Technologies, Inc.
- Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Proposals were evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of the following four (4) members (“Evaluation Committee”):

- Craig Chandler, Deputy Chief of Police
- Dan Nable, Major
- Micah Patrick, Director
- Nick Smith, Technology Sergeant

Section 4 of the RFP identified the criteria on which the City would base evaluation of Proposals. Proposals were evaluated in two (2) components: Technical Proposal and Cost Proposal. The Evaluation Committee used the following criteria to review Proposals and to determine if Offerors would be invited for formal interviews and presentations to clarify Proposals.

Technical Proposal criteria were as follows (more fully described in the table below):

1. Schedule and Statement of Work
2. Project Personnel
3. Similar Experience
4. Cost Proposal

Utilizing all criteria stated, Technical Proposals were scored and ranked by individual members of the Evaluation Committee in accordance with the following:

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CRITERIA	WEIGHT IN EVALUATION	POINTS
Schedule and Statement of Work	Include a schedule and work plan in sufficient detail to determine how each task shall be accomplished. The work plan should describe how the Offeror proposes to complete the Project, shall be sufficiently detailed to highlight the effectiveness of the Proposal and should spell out how this work can be performed in a cost-effective manner. A schedule for timely completion of the scope of services shall be included.	30% 30 points possible
Project Personnel	Provide information on the Project Manager and personnel to be assigned to this Project for the Offeror as well as any subcontractors. Personnel should have experience necessary to complete the requirements of the Project.	30% 30 points possible
Similar Experience	Demonstrate that the Offeror and personnel have experience and expertise with the subject matter and have demonstrated performance of work that is similar in type and scope to the Project. The Offeror shall submit a minimum of three (3) projects of similar scope completed in the last five (5) years. Include project description, location, cost, status, and client contact information. The projects should reflect offeror's experience in two-radio deployments to government municipalities	30% 30 points possible
Cost Proposal	A Cost Proposal shall demonstrate competitive and innovative pricing sheet that incorporates all direct and indirect costs associated with the Project. The Cost Proposal shall be provided in Bonfire.	10% 10 points possible
	TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	100 POINTS

Following individual Proposal review and scoring, the Evaluation Committee members met as a group to discuss the Proposals. Below is the final scoring:

	Schedule and Statement of Work	Project Personnel	Similar Experience	Cost Proposal*	TOTAL
Offeror	/30 pts	/ 30 pts	/30 pts	/10 pts	/100 pts
L3 Harris	24	24.75	19.59	10	78.25
Motorola Solutions	26.25	28	28.5	6.13	88.88

**The cost proposal for L3 Harris includes the per radio subscription for the Mission Critical Push to Talk (MCPTT)*

Cost Proposal criteria were as follows:

1. Reviewed for reasonableness and realism against the City's independent assessment following evaluation of Technical Proposals.
2. The calculation rates the gives the proposer with the lowest cost the maximum number of points

Cost Proposals submitted by the two (2) Offerors were as follows:

OFFEROR	L3 Harris Technologies, Inc.	Motorola Solutions, Inc.
5-Year Lease Agreement	\$1,099,294.08	\$1,794,444.00

Upon review of the proposals and information gathered through interviews on February 20, 2024, with both offerors, the City moved forward with testing the portable radios from Motorola Solutions, Inc.

The following considerations and factors were important in selecting Motorola Solutions:

1. The NFRRSA infrastructure supports the Motorola Solution with no redundancy needed for backend equipment and connectivity. Additional costs from other offerors may include servers, firewalls, and engineering costs.
2. Location tracking through the proposed LTE solution will switch over automatically, no manual transition is required of the law enforcement personnel if the radio goes out of range.
3. Training can be conducted through computer access; personnel would not have to travel and can be coordinated as part of work schedule.
4. The City incurs no charges for hardware that is picked up and delivered for repair during the warranty period.
5. Motorola offers multiple avenues of customer service for technical support, device support, and a Call Management Center.

Based upon evaluation of the Proposals in accordance with the criteria and process described in the RFP, the Evaluation Committee has determined that the Proposal submitted by Motorola Solutions, Inc. represents the best for the Police Department and the best value two-radio solution for the City; therefore, the Evaluation Committee recommends contract award to Motorola Solutions, Inc.

The proposed lease amount is \$1,794,444.00 over five (5) years. The year one proposed amount is \$358,888.80 and has been budgeted in the FY25 proposed budget expected to be enacted on June 18th at the budget adoption meeting.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to approve a lease agreement between the City of Sandy Springs and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for police portable two-way radio equipment, accessories and services for the Sandy Springs Police Department and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

Councilmember Kelley asked will this return to Council annually for the next five years?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said it would be included in the budget.

Councilmember Kelley asked will Council see an item like this every year?

City Manager Freeman said you will see it like the Axon contract item. It will be included in Technical Services for the Police Department.

Councilmember Kelley asked is the City committed to five years?

City Manager Freeman said it is subject to annual appropriations.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio said we had a conversation about the backlog of some things the City has been ordering, and our contract may end this year. Will all these new radios be delivered on time?

Major Nable said what ends this year is the service life of our current radio. After December 31, we will not be able to get these current radios repaired or replaced. About four units were used for testing and evaluation in the last few months, and Motorola has not indicated that there is going to be any supply chain issues in getting these radios to us in a timely manner.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-84

- H. **2024-157** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a New Masters Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

Dan Nable, Major presented a recommendation to approve a New Masters Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

The City of Sandy Springs (the “City”) has worked with Axon since 2008 and the Police Department uses Axon as the supplier for our body-worn cameras (173), in-car cameras (143), TASER 7 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) (170) and provider of Axon Evidence our cloud-based digital evidence management system. In January 2021 the City entered into our existing Axon agreement, Officer Safety Plan 7, and services will end January 2026.

The Police Department is requesting termination of our existing agreement upon completion of year four, July 15, 2024, of five and is requesting to enter into a new five-year agreement with Axon. Our intention is to enhance our current system by acquiring the TASER 10, an enhanced and more effective, more precise platform for de-escalation, as well as expanding our capabilities through the addition of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) services to our current Fleet 3 in-car cameras. Additionally, we are seeking to expand our current Axon ecosystem with cameras in the interview rooms in our new police headquarters, integrate Response to Resistance Reporting, and upgrade our consolidated storage for both Axon data and 3rd party data. Axon has recently acquired Fusus, Inc., a public safety real-time crime cloud solution whom we have had a productive relationship with for the past fifteen (15) months under a three-year agreement. Lastly, we are seeking to consolidate all active Axon contracts, including Fusus Inc., into a new comprehensive agreement with annual renewal over five-year period.

The agreement shall provide for the purchase amount not to exceed \$4,696,731.38 to be paid over five (5) years. The original proposed amount for year one (1) was \$926,012.91. Still, the Year 1 contract cost increased to \$992,679.58, of which \$926,012.91 is budgeted in the FY2025 proposed budget, expected to be enacted on June 18, 2024, at the budget adoption meeting. The technical services account will have enough budget for the cost of Year 1, and we will revisit the technical services account in FY2025 if a budgetary need should occur.

The Mayor and Council can choose not to approve the new Axon Master Services and Agreement and the Sandy Springs Police Department can continue year five under the existing Axon Officer Safety Plan 7 agreement.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve a New Masters Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

Councilmember Reichel said I am a runner and almost get hit by people turning right on red because they are not coming to a full stop. Have you heard about full-stop cameras?

Major Nable said that is not familiar but we will be glad to research it.

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Councilmember Reichel said this is used to take pictures for cars that are not stopping completely, and several cities are using them.

Major Nable said it may be similar to an automated red light camera and we will check on this.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said there are four cameras for the interview rooms at the new HQ. Does the cost get tagged to the overall cost for the new building?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said no, they are included in this because of the ongoing maintenance that will be covered through the continued contract with Axon.

Councilmember John Paulson said this contract goes from \$926,012.91 to \$992,679.58, but the separate charge for Fusus is not going to be separate anymore. Is that rolled into the new number?

Major Nable asked are you referring to year one being different than two, three, and four?

Councilmember John Paulson said yes.

Major Nable said we have only used a third of what we committed to with the Fusus contract. If we cut it off now and get the invoice for the part we used, the part that we still owed Fusus will now pay to Axon, which accounts for that difference in year one.

Councilmember Paulson asked does the \$992,679.58 also include separate Fusus money that would go on top of \$926,012.91?

Major Nable said we already obligated to Fusus and we are putting it in the Axon contract now instead of this separate Fusus.

Councilmember Paulson said years ago while visiting my son in Seattle, there was a stop-on-red camera at an intersection, and they work well.

Mayor Paul said it probably will come under the rubric of red light cameras. The Georgia General Assembly has had a bad habit of starting and stopping the allowance of red-light cameras, and I am not not sure whether we are started or stopped at this point in history.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-85

- I. **2024-158** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of the City of Sandy Springs General Liability Insurance Renewal for FY 2025

Eden Freeman, City Manager, and **Bob Saville, President, Saville Public Entity** presented a recommendation to approve the City of Sandy Springs General Liability Insurance Renewal for FY 2025.

City Manager Freeman said staff has worked with Saville Public Entity to provide a proposal with the best price possible for the City's general liability insurance. This process started about two months ago and the culmination of the City's policies and rates for next year are included in the document. These

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numbers are also included in the FY 2025 budget.

Saville Public Entity President Saville said we work with hundreds of government municipalities and the City’s renewal has been one of the easiest to deal with. The City of Sandy Springs is in good standing compared with nearby municipalities that are not run the same way. In the spreadsheet, pricing is important but the terms and conditions are also very important. There are a few changes, for example the major carrier for the general liability automobile law enforcement and public entity has changed to Ascot Insurance Company, as the previous carrier is having some marketplace challenges. Also deductibles increased for the City’s ladder trucks from \$5,000 to \$10,000. One big change is not on the carrier, but on the term and conditions of the property insurance and it has become difficult to obtain. The other significant change this year is we increased the cyber security insurance limit to \$10,000,000 from \$5,000,000 because of what the City has done to procure the limit. There are not many other changes besides this, and though the marketplace is not stable, there is a lot of stability in this program.

City of Sandy Springs
Property Casualty Coverage Summary (2024-25)

COVERAGE	2023-24 EXPIRING	2024-25 PROPOSED	CARRIER	2023-24 EXPIRING LIMITS	2024-25 PROPOSED LIMITS	2023-24 EXPIRING	2024-25 PROPOSED	2023-24 EXPIRING	2024-25 PROPOSED
GENERAL LIABILITY	\$11,174*	\$14,800	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	Each Event Limit/General Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Products & Completed Work	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Personal Injury	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Each Person Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fireworks/Explosive Device	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000				
Crime Liability and Physical Damage	\$3,873	\$4,899	Global Aerospace (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	11 Drivers - No Physical Damage	0%	0%	\$1,000
EMPLOYER BENEFITS LIABILITY	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	Each Wrongful Act/Total Limit			
Workers	\$6,787	\$10,801							
AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY**	\$11,778	\$12,129	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist (Uninsured)	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000				
AUTOMOBILE PHYSICAL DAMAGE**	\$182,977	\$184,495	247 Units, 17 Trailers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	All other vehicles	\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000
Comprehensive Collision	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Fire Trucks	\$5,000 / \$,000	\$10,000 / \$10,000	\$10,000 / \$10,000
Third Car Physical Damage	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000
Garage Keepers Liability	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000	\$5,000 / \$,000
LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY	\$187,892	\$188,350	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	Each Wrongful Act Limit/Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Line of Duty Death Benefits	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000 / \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 / \$1,000,000	# of Employees	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
PUBLIC ENTITY MANAGEMENT LIABILITY	\$70,780	\$77,217	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	Each Wrongful Act Limit/Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
EMPLOYER PRACTICES LIABILITY	\$120,911	\$120,704	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000	Each Wrongful Offense Limit/Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Non-History Defense	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$50,000/\$10,000	\$50,000/\$10,000	Each Wrongful Offense Limit/Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
EREC Hearing Defense	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$10,000/\$50,000	\$10,000/\$50,000	Each Wrongful Offense Limit/Total Limit	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Backstage Coverage	Included	Included	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$50,000	\$50,000	# of Employees	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Police Force Civil (2022 Claims-Indy Policy Term)	Claims-Indy	Claims-Indy							
EXCESS LIABILITY (General Liability Only)	\$47,148	\$47,374	Ascot Ins Co (A-13)	\$4,000,000/\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000/\$4,000,000	Excludes Sexual Abuse			
Workers	\$707	\$1,421							
CRIME	\$2,787	\$2,834	Arch Ins Co (A-14)	\$500,000	\$500,000	Per Loss	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Employee, Computer & Funds Transfer Fraud	Included	Included	Arch Ins Co (A-14)	\$500,000	\$500,000	Per Loss	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
India Premises (Theft & Securities)									
PROPERTY	\$178,129	\$188,731	Transfers	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	Maximum Deductible Limit (MOL) for a single loss	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Building Total Losses	Included	Included	Transfers	\$773,653,479	\$100,000,000	Building Total Limit - Policy Rating Basis	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Boiler & Machinery	Included	Included	Transfers	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000	See proposal for specific limits and deductibles			
Wind & Heat/Damage	Included	Included	Transfers	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000		\$10,000	0%	\$10,000
Utility Service Coverage	Included	Included	Transfers	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000		\$25,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Flood	Included	Included	Transfers	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	See proposal for covered flood zones/ind in MOL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Earthquake	Included	Included	Transfers	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	Included in MOL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Computer & ERP Equipment	Included	Included	Transfers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Included in MOL	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Computer Equipment - Scheduled	Included	Included	Transfers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Included in MOL	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Emergency Equipment	Included	Included	Transfers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Included in MOL	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Law Enforcement Assets	Included	Included	Transfers	\$13,000 / 187,000	\$13,000 / 187,000	Included in MOL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
COVER LIABILITY (Claims Made Form)	\$4,100	\$4,400	Transfers (A-13)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Privacy, Network Security or Media Wrongful Act	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
EXCESS COVER LIABILITY (Claims Made Form)	\$14,312	\$14,312	Palmetto and Surplus (A-13)	\$10,000	\$10,000	Cyber Crime	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
EXCESS COVER LIABILITY (Claims Made Form)	Included	Included				See Proposal for all limits and terms			
UNIQUE MEDICAL COVERAGE	\$5,403.52	\$10,241.50	Strata American	\$250,000/\$1,000,000	\$250,000/\$1,000,000	Each Wrongful Act Limit/Total Limit	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
						See Proposal for exclusions and terms			
TOTAL PREMIUM	\$1,519,423	\$1,722,647							

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve the City of Sandy Springs General Liability Insurance Renewal for FY 2025.

Councilmember Bauman thanked **Saville Public Entity President Saville** for his presentation and for his service at the state level. Is the City affected by the tort reform issue in Georgia and uniquely bad around the state?

Saville Public Entity President Saville said yes, it is affecting everyone.

Councilmember Bauman asked would that issue appropriately be on our radar screen? What is the magnitude of how this issue is affecting this renewal? Can you provide a percentage that is putting this market into such volatility?

Saville Public Entity President Saville said it is hard to say how much impact is on the City of Sandy Springs.

Councilmember Bauman asked would it be uniquely liabilities?

Saville Public Entity President Saville said yes, probably more premises liability because the City is protected by statute on the maximum liability for auto and this provides a buffer. The City's cost per auto compared to a commercial entity without the statute protection that municipalities have, is paying much more.

Councilmember Bauman asked is the City setting aside the deductible/self-insurance component of these policies? What are we spending on deductibles and has that been adjusted to account for some of the increases?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said generally those come from the City's contingent accounts because we do not have as much as many other municipalities, but we can get a full accounting of the last three years.

Councilmember Bauman said I am interested and maybe for next year's budget. The total insurance cost is not just premium and it is what you end up paying. In the private sector you can choose to self-insure because it reduces your premiums, but you better be setting aside money. I do not know what the situation is as it relates that.

Saville Public Entity President Saville said we are cognizant of this and my last conversation with **City Manager Freeman** was on this topic. That is new to us but not to the industry. We are working on this for next year.

Councilmember Bauman said more often than not, people tend to think about our risk above policy limits. The bigger question is how much you are paying on the deductible side/self-insurance component.

Saville Public Entity President Saville said the good news for Sandy Springs is many of the City's buildings including City Hall are what we refer to as highly protected risk (HPR). There is very little occurrence of smaller claims, and it will be big if there is one, but the manner of construction is very wise.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-86

- J. **2024-159** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Amend the City of Sandy Springs Purchasing Policy

Rusty Paul, Mayor, presented a recommendation to amend the City of Sandy Springs Purchasing Policy.

The current inflationary trends have caused an increase in City project costs, making the existing purchasing thresholds defined in the Purchasing Policy insufficient to properly execute projects. Updating these limits ensures the City Manager can manage routine expenses efficiently and effectively, allowing projects to progress in a timely manner.

Spending approval thresholds for the City Manager are currently set at amounts equal to or less than \$150,000. Increasing the City Manager's spending threshold to \$200,000 is appropriate in light of current economic conditions and operational needs, will provide adequate oversight in project spending, and will allow projects to move forward expeditiously.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to amend the City of Sandy Springs Purchasing Policy. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2024-06-87

- K. **2024-160** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Fourth Amendment to the Existing Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek for the Activation of the Joint Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Authority and the Provision of 911 Communications Services, and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Amendment

Dan Nable, Major presented a recommendation to approve the Fourth Amendment to the existing intergovernmental agreement between the cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek for the activation of the Joint Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Authority and the Provision of 911 Communications Services, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment.

In October 2008, the City of Sandy Springs and City of Johns Creek (Participating Cities) entered into an IGA to create and activate the Joint Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Authority (operating as "ChatComm") for the provision of 911 communications services in the Cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek. The original IGA established a five-year term, commencing on November 1, 2008, and ending on July 1, 2014. The IGA was renewed for an additional five-year term in 2014, and again in 2019. Since then, the Cities of Dunwoody and Brookhaven have joined ChatComm as subscribers, paying a monthly fee for call-taking and dispatching.

Given the concurrent negotiations related to emergency medical services provision and the support of management and public safety officials from both Cities for continuance, it was determined that it was best to focus on and conclude the emergency medical services negotiations first. With the final agreement reached related to emergency medical services, the ChatComm IGA is ready for consideration. The amount estimated for fiscal year 2025 is \$3,500,000.00.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember Jody Reichel**, to approve the Fourth Amendment to the existing intergovernmental agreement between the cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek for the activation of the Joint Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Authority and the Provision of 911 Communications Services, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment.

Councilmember John Paulson asked what was the dollar amount last year?

Major Nable said that data is not available this evening, but the amount for FY 2025 is \$3,500,000.

Mayor Paul said every time you make a phone call or pay your phone bill, there is a line item that includes the 911 fee to help offset the cost of operating this facility.

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said we have seen some growth here and are currently in the process of working on the new budget for Chatcomm. This does not take effect until September 1. While the IGA is on the same fiscal year, the contract with IXP to provide the service expires on August 30. We will be discussing more about that over the next few weeks before we bring that forward. **Major Nable, Toni**

Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, and I had a good conversation with IXP about their proposed budget cost for the next five years because we like to project these costs out over a five-year period, and we do not have those surprises. We are also looking at the level of service that is received by the member cities which is John's Creek and Sandy Springs, as well as the subscriber cities which are Dunwoody and Brookhaven. There will need to be some rebalancing for the contributions that come from some of the cities, but we are working through that. More information will be provided to Council in a couple of weeks.

Councilmember Paulson said that is fantastic. What did the City pay for this last year?

Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, said the City's partition was \$ 3,410,000.

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

Resolution No. 2024-06-88

X. Reports

A. 2024-161 Mayor and Council Report

Mayor Paul said I spent seven days in Israel and it was an eye opening, heartbreaking, and moving trip to a very troubled part of the world. Many know we have a sister city relationship with a cluster of communities in the north and I got together with some of those people while there. Though I was in a more dangerous part of Israel, I had the opportunity to go into the Gaza area and heard sounds of war as we were within two miles away of the site where the greatest massacre was occurring. I talked to survivors, family members, families of hostages, mayors, and city officials, in cities like Sderot and Ofakim, who were underreported from the impact of the October 7 attack on their communities. Walking through the streets of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv you would not know that a war was going on, but if you talk to people, it is clear they are very concerned, but are also determined to protect themselves. The Israeli government is under a lot of pressure internationally to ceasefire and pressure internally until the job is done.

The first attack on the two cities that lost police officers and firefighters was at the Police Headquarters where officers were shot upon arrival after being called in. A video shows a rocket propelled grenade fired at point-blank range into a vehicle carrying a firefighter reporting to work. People were told if driving and hear sirens to get out of the car and lie down because the shrapnel goes up, not horizontal. The videos showed people doing exactly what they were told to do but were shot as they laid on the ground. In one situation, a mother realized what was happening and grabbed her child and started running, but she and the child were shot. I talked to family members living in a beautiful kibbutz community of about a thousand people. Everybody had an identical house with terracotta roofs, and though small, it was a beautifully landscaped agricultural area. Virtually every house was burned, often with the occupants inside. I saw walls with grenade fragments and high caliber rifle bullet holes that turned houses into a killing zone. Wounded people were taken to the medical center, but only a dentist and a nurse were able to treat them. There was an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier there until he ran out of ammunition, and a recording of a nurse calling her family to say goodbye. You could hear the gunshots that ended her life.

We saw a video of the leader of Hezbollah and an Israeli intelligence agency had intercepted a conversation. We just raised almost \$500,000 for the hospital in Nahariya. Hezbollah's first move is to

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come across the border and go into Nahariya and take control from the North and build a wall across, and everybody north of this line will be human shields. They have unequivocally stated what their strategy is.

In the next couple weeks, we will hold a forum in this room where photographs will be shown, questions will be answered, and the community can engage in a dialogue.

On a happier report, I am extremely proud of the hard work that **Councilmember Melody Kelley** and her team have done for tomorrow night's Juneteenth celebration hosted held in Sandy Springs.

We have the Fourth of July Stars and Stripes Fireworks Celebration coming up which is one of the highlights of our summer. There is concert this Friday and most of Council will be at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention this weekend.

Councilmember Melody Kelley thanked **Mayor Paul** for his remarks. I visited five cities to invite them to Juneteenth but have not spoken about it in Sandy Springs. Please accept my apologies. I want to give you a sense of what we have planned for tomorrow. Juneteenth is our newest addition to the signature event series and for the first event we have quite a bit in store. This year's event will be tomorrow, Wednesday June 19 instead of the weekend, but it is the actual nationally recognized holiday. We will be leveraging three spaces on our City Springs campus. We are going to be in the Performing Arts Center for a production from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, in Byers Lobby, and there will also be activities on the City Green. The lobby is partially set up as a digital arts exhibition if anybody wanted to check it out. I asked **Eden Freeman, City Manager** about six or seven months ago if we could find support to take a cohort of high school students and train them through a series of workshops on iPads to learn the skill of digital art and build pieces. What you see in the lobby are pieces that these students have built over the past three months. Each piece of art has an augmented reality component built in which means that it comes alive when you put a camera on it with a certain phone app. Outside on the Green is not your typical festival experience. There are a series of educational opportunities and if you have never heard of Juneteenth or been celebrating it your whole life, we have something for you, as well as all the typical activities such as music and face painting.

I want to acknowledge all the people involved for the past eight months:

William Haggett
Anna Nikolas
Charles Sharper
Shervoski Moreland
Antwan Sessions
Tasha McCall
Raquel Gonzalez
Michelle McIntosh-Ross
Jody Reichel
Sequoia Hanneman
Christan Poret
Chanae LeGrier

There were also a range of sponsors that I am very fortunate to have. I hope to see everybody tomorrow evening on the Green at 5:00 pm.

Councilmember Andy Bauman said I was in DC on similar business related to Mayor Paul being in

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Israel. Thank you for representing the City of Sandy Springs there. I was there in my personal capacity but while there I did have occasion to visit both of our U.S. Senate offices. I had a chance to say hello to some folks as a councilmember. It was good to see people that we have been dealing with on grants and are responsive to, and people in our district. I also met a member of the Canadian Parliament. He was a speaker there and saw that I was from Atlanta. We had a conversation, and he was very familiar with Sandy Springs. He has a relative who may have been the head of The Epstein School and knew Representative Esther Panitch. He has been here, and I invited him back. There were about eighty or ninety people from Atlanta including about fifty from Sandy Springs who are all happy residents. It is always good to be representing the City of Sandy Springs and getting the great feedback.

Mayor Paul said there is some good news. I received notice today from Galilee Medical Center that with the money the City raised, they completed the purchase of a million-euro biplane imaging system, and the purchase of an advanced maxillofacial CT scanner. They are attaching plaques to both to thank the City of Sandy Springs and the people involved for their contribution.

City Manager Freeman said there are two introductions. First, I am thrilled to welcome Carter Long. She is our new Communications and Public Relations Director and came to Sandy Springs most recently from the Lou Hammond Group where she served as President of the Atlanta Office. Carter Long has been with the City for seven days and this was her first Council meeting. We are excited to have her and look forward to her work with the City of Sandy Springs for several years to come. I am also excited to welcome a special person tonight who is participating in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Senior Fellowship Program. It is a partnership with the US Army. Christopher Theil serves as the Director of Plans, Training mobilization and Security at Fort Meade outside of Annapolis, MD. He is here for a five-day intensive to learn about Sandy Springs and how we operate. We are one of fourteen cities and counties across the country that were chosen for this program this year, and the City of Sandy Springs is the only one in Georgia. We are excited to have Christopher on site all week.

B. 2024-162 Staff Reports

1. April 2024 Unaudited Financials

Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the April 2024 unaudited financials.

The City is ten months into the fiscal year and at 83.33 % of the budget year. Revenues are at 103.59% and expenditures are at 77.55% of the budget. The overall departmental expenditures are trending between 33% and 87% and are being managed as expected.

XI. Executive Session

The was no executive session.

XII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

