

Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference
May 6, 2025 Following Work Session
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Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on May 6, 2025 Following Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:20 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, Atlanta** – Roberts Drive Speeding
2. **Alexander Somer, 1503 Treelodge Parkway** – Community Safety
3. **Geoffrey Levy, 220 Sandy Springs Circle** – William Payne House

V. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to amend the meeting agenda and add a proclamation presented by Mayor Rusty Paul. 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. **2025-090** Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025 City Council Work Session
April 15, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. **2025-091** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Approve Acceptance of a Permanent Drainage Easement from Terrianne L. M. Loudermilk and Robert V. Loudermilk, on Property Located at 7600 Nesbit Ferry Road in Land Lot 312 of the 6th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID #06-0312-0001-023-1) for a Stormwater System Improvement Project

Resolution No. 2025-05-044

- C. **2025-092** Request for Mayor and City Council to Approve Acceptance of an Agreement to Donate a Fee Simple Right of Way Deed; a Temporary Construction Easement; and an Easement for the Construction of Driveway from James Will Dennisson and Janet Claire Dennisson, as Trustees of the James Dennisson and Janet Dennisson Living Trust, on property located at 455 Mt. Paran Road in Land Lot 136 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID# 17-0136-LL-172-9); S-2186 Mt. Paran Road and Powers Ferry Road Sidewalk Improvements Project – Rebel Trail to Laurel Chase

Resolution No. 2025-05-045

- D. **2025-093** Request for Mayor and City Council to Approve Acceptance of a Purchase and Sale Agreement from Francis William Frament, III and Christina Dorman Frament of Temporary Construction Easement rights (with a Cost to Cure Payment) on that certain tract of land located at 3275 Spalding Drive (Tax ID # 06-0342-0002-015-0), in Land Lot 342 of the 6th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia for the S2184 Jett Ferry Road and Spalding Drive Sidewalk Project.

Resolution No. 2025-05-046

- E. **2025-094** Request for Mayor and City Council to Approve Acceptance of the Dedication of Permanent Easement for the Construction and Maintenance of Slopes, on Property Located at 7755 Jett Ferry Road in Land Lot 342 of the 6th District, Fulton County, City of Sandy Springs, GA (Tax ID# 06-0342-LL-097-1).

Resolution No. 2025-05-047

VII. Presentations

Mayor Rusty Paul read a proclamation recognizing 2025 National Water Safety Month.

Councilmember John Paulson thanked **Craig Sears, Greater Atlanta Water Safety Alliance (GAWSA)** for the proclamation to keep everyone safer.

Mayor Paul said this proclamation is very important. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

VIII. Public Hearing

- A. **2025-095** TA-25-1
Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Floodway Encroachments Standards of the Development Code in Sec. 9.5.3.E. to Allow for Encroachment of Fence Structures in Certain Circumstances

Michele McIntosh-Ross, Planning & Zoning Manager, presented a recommendation to amend the Floodway Encroachments Standards of the Development Code in Sec. 9.5.3.E. to allow for encroachment of fence structures in certain circumstances.

Sandy Springs' Development Code Division 9.5. exists to regulate the floodplains within City boundaries. The division is tasked with ensuring proper management of areas within the city that reside within the federally recognized Floodplain, such as the Floodway. Sec. 9.5.3. specifically regulates what encroachments are permitted within the Floodplain and how they are permitted. Further, Sec. 9.5.3.E. provides standards for encroachments into the Floodway.

The proposed amendment seeks to balance the need for protection of the Floodplain's critical areas, such as the Floodway and its beneficial uses, as well as the need for responsible planning of sites partially within the Floodway, with the common desire or need to demarcate property and boundaries with the establishment of structures such as fences.

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 Jody Reichel**, to amend Floodway Encroachments Standards of the Development Code in Sec. 9.5.3.E. to allow for encroachment of fence structures in certain circumstances.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked to what extent did you explore the impact of insurance implications?

Planning & Zoning Manager McIntosh-Ross said any insurance implications is taken care of with the certification requirement through FEMA.

Councilmember Kelley said the last time this was seen we discussed the possibility of seeing a picture, for instance to get an idea of what type of fence would be allowed.

Jesus Davila, Manager of Building and Land Development, said we want the design functionality to be on the professional engineer to provide sight specific information. If we provided some generalities to Council, this makes it difficult for us to stick to the point of this. Each site has unique circumstances and each has to be reviewed and analyzed by the engineer who then provides it to staff to determine if it meets the intent of the Code.

Councilmember Kelley asked if there is a flood, will it be risky to have things piling up at the fence?

Manager of Building and Land Development Davila said this is the extra step in the ordinance that says analysis must be done to ensure free flow of water. We cannot dictate and design for all possible scenarios but, with that level of certainty, it is put on the professional in the field to show us it would be sufficient to let that free flow continue and diminish any kind of flood in that area.

Councilmember Paulson said the idea is to allow people that want partitions of some kind along their property to have them but not affect the stream flow. The no-rise requirement takes care of the problem of things piling up, if there is a way for something to pile up. Also, the posts need to be anchored so they do not come loose. This is a nice balance between the desire of some homeowners and the desire of the community to not have increased flood problems.

Councilmember Reichel said a lot of people get fences so their dogs do not get out. If the City is requiring them to be too far apart, then dogs can get out. Is there a certain distance that posts have to be?

Manager of Building and Land Development Davila said we do not want to design it for that specific

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individual. We let them provide that to us to determine if it meets the ordinance requirements. If that determination is made and, we require the minimum spacing of four feet, we may have the issue with free flow of water and, Staff is not in a position to dictate that without the engineer's analysis. The homeowner brings their specific circumstances to us and what they would like to do based on their engineer. With an actual structure, we want to put that back on the engineer to provide to the City.

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

Ordinance No. 2025-05-04

- B. **2025-096** ABL# 112399
Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Roswell 5345 LLC at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs GA 30342. The Applicant is Nazia Zaidi Alwaani for Retail/Package Wine and Malt Beverages.

Cori Holiness, Revenue Manager, presented a recommendation to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Roswell 5345 LLC at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs GA 30342. The applicant is Nazia Zaidi Alwaani for Retail/Package Wine and Malt Beverages.

Applicant submitted a completed application on March 20th, 2025 and has passed the background investigation.

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

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio said it is my understanding that the applicant has an outstanding violation for not complying with the City's process of beautification. This item should be tabled for thirty days to allow them to correct that situation before Council approves or disapproves this application.

(Main Motion) Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to defer Beverage License Application for Roswell 5345 LLC at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs GA 30342 to June 3. The applicant is Nazia Zaidi Alwaani for Retail/Package Wine and Malt Beverages.

Dan Lee, City Attorney, said this issue was raised by a councilmember Saturday evening and today there was a discussion with Staff about it. Currently, there is nothing that indicates this is out of compliance. The property has been cited before and the citation has been dealt with in court. At this time there are no outstanding citations against the property.

Councilmember DeJulio said that is not what I was told.

Mayor Paul said the investigation is done.

City Attorney Lee said all the details about the process the City has gone through to try and upgrade the gas stations and the automobile services places will not be provided but, they all were supposed to comply in August of 2024. The first review was in November of 2024 and it has been a moving target of all the different places as some had five, four, three or none. The chart in which the councilmember saw changes and, may have been an earlier one that indicated this property, was not in compliance or had an

outstanding citation. Staff does not indicate that they are out of compliance.

Councilmember DeJulio asked are they totally in compliance now?

City Attorney Lee said the City has had some difficulties in confirming what is and is not completely compliant.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if we do not know then who knows?

City Attorney Lee said that is a great question. For your purpose in this discussion, there is no indication from staff that they are not in compliance. An indication from a staff member that they are not in compliance would be concerning. This is a far cry from the due process right that an individual would have to process an application for an alcohol license. A list that somebody is out of compliance is just that, not an accusation. Under applicable law, in order to hold an accusation against an individual or deny them the right to have an alcohol license, there would have to be some sort of due process to convict that person of that accusation. From my review, there is not one in this place.

Councilmember DeJulio asked is it not due process to give them time to correct the situation, which may or may not exist?

City Attorney Lee said delaying it may not be.

Councilmember DeJulio said that is why I said delay to give them time to correct the situation.

City Attorney Lee said that is right.

Councilmember Paulson said it was my understanding there is an active notice of violation. If there is not, then then there is not any.

City Attorney Lee said a list which shows this property is not out of compliance as of that review can be provided to Council,

Councilmember DeJulio asked is there a notice of violation?

City Attorney Lee said no.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked are they currently operating under a temporary liquor license?

City Attorney Lee said yes.

Mayor Paul said that license is valid until this body acts to give them a permanent license. There is no harm and they are able to conduct their business without the license while we take the opportunity to determine compliance.

City Attorney Lee said that is correct.

Mayor Paul said this item can be deferred without harm and staff can decide.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked are we setting a precedent by denying an application for an alcohol license because of a potential code violation?

City Attorney Lee said per the correction of Councilmember DeJulio this is being deferred not denied.

Councilmember Mular said understood. Is this the first time we are setting precedent?

City Attorney Lee said as **Mayor Paul** said, he is not being harmed.

Councilmember Mular asked when there is an alcohol beverage application, is the applicant informed of any potential violations on their property at that time, whether open, or do we do a review of the property?

City Attorney Lee said when someone applies for an alcohol license, it passes through most departments, including Zoning to determine if there is an issue with the property. This application went through those departments and was approved.

Councilmember Mular asked has the City in the past denied an application because there was an open code violation when it is going through the process?

City Attorney Lee said not to my knowledge and you are not denying this one.

Councilmember Mular this is hypothetical.

City Attorney Lee said not to my knowledge has it ever happened.

Councilmember Mular asked do we also look at whether this applicant is a tenant or the owner of the property?

City Attorney Lee said it is an LLC and the applicant may own the LLC.

Councilmember Mular said we have granted a temporary license. If there were code violation, would the applicant have been made aware of them during the process and, would they have been given time to remediate?

City Attorney Lee said yes. Generally, This process of policing the car places was handled differently. This citation was issued for not having a cover on the front of the dumpster. The fine was paid in court and the cover was added. Also, during this process, prior to this application, they gained a permit to revamp the entire store, approved by the City.

Councilmember Mular said a business owner is investing in the City. It is my understanding that when code enforcement is done we try to get compliance and not be punitive. They are not going to be harmed but, my concern is going forward, are we going to be punitive and punish potential small businesses and, perceived as not business friendly, when we should be working with them to be business friendly in this specific case.

City Attorney Lee said it would be an error to hold an accusation against a property owner as grounds for the denial of a right. To defer this is different but, as far as the policy of making certain that an applicant has complied with every aspect of their life in Sandy Springs, generally is a policy Council needs to decide. The active process that Staff goes through of contacting every department in the City to see if there is a problem, especially Police, Fire, and the Building Department, has been in place since the City was formed and goes on still.

Councilmember Mular said my concern is should this have unintended consequences, are we going to start looking at, from a policy perspective, anybody that comes in for a permit or business license. When departments change hands, they have a list of code violations. Do we not issue them a new business license or do we issue the business license?

City Attorney Lee said under the City's ordinances, you cannot get a business license if you are not compliant with the other ordinances. My review of this issue tonight is that the councilmember who brought this up, saw a list that was an earlier version. When this issue formally passed through the City's departments the current status indicates that there are no new violations. It was a timing issue that put us in this conversation.

Councilmember Mular said I am still concerned about being viewed as punitive and not business friendly.

City Attorney Lee said this is a deferral and the applicant already has a temporary license to operate.

Councilmember Andy Bauman said a councilmember wants to make a case for delaying this and, I agree with **Councilmember Mular** that this is punitive and harassment. We have staff that we either rely on or we do not. The report is that they have met the conditions that there are no active known cases. This is not business friendly. There is no actual harm that can continue business but, it is damaged reputation that the gentleman would have to come back here in another month potentially. I am opposed to this. If somebody makes those accusations and wants to speak to a reason for delaying this, I am open to hearing that but, right now I have no cause for that.

Councilmember Jody Reichel said the City is business friendly and has given convenience stores and gas stations seven years to come up to code. This is one of the ways we can enforce it because we are having a lot of problems enforcing it. The report from March was a foundation issue and there was a fine and, that is why I sent the message. I am still unclear whether they are up to code or not because we do not have a definitive answer.

Councilmember Paulson said **Councilmember DeJulio** the premise behind your original motion which I supported, it was your and my understanding that there was not an active notice of violation out. That was the basis for the deferment. If there is no active notice of violation, then I do not support deferring it.

Councilmember DeJulio said if there is no violation and no notice of violation then there is no reason for my motion and I withdraw it.

(Amended Motion) Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to approve Beverage License Application for Roswell 5345 LLC at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs GA 30342. The applicant is Nazia Zaidi Alwaani for Retail/Package Wine and Malt Beverages.

Councilmember DeJulio said my request for the future is that Council receives better information about whether there are violations. As **Councilmember Reichel** said, the City has had trouble, especially with convenience stores, not abiding by a memo that went out to them. It may have been seven years ago, and they have had seven years to do it, and we have had trouble enforcing it. If it is by withholding licenses, as a means of forcing it, then we should consider that.

Mayor Paul said that is a reason I was concerned about the confusion Council had and maybe a deferral

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would allow these items to be cleared up and, there is no harm to the applicant. Council has followed through and I have no problem with that. Council needs to understand what flexibility it has when it comes to approving alcohol licenses where there are code violations or others. This is governed as much by state laws as by the City's ordinance. We do need to understand better what Council can and cannot do in relation to approving alcoholic beverage licenses going forward when there are suspected or proven, at least adjudicated violations.

Councilmember Bauman said **Councilmember Mular** reminded us that this ordinance just does not apply to convenience stores.

Councilmember Mular said that is correct. This could apply for all automotive uses along Roswell Road which is in excess of fifty.

Councilmember Bauman said we tend to pick on gas stations, some of which need to be picked on but, to pit our larger problem against somebody who is here in compliance does not seem to be justified. I am glad we made the decision.

Mayor Paul said it was more confusion over what flexibility Council had in this matter, whether it was a liquor store, automotive use and more. That is the reason I was willing to entertain the deferral.

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

IX. New Business

- A. **2025-097** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Budget Amendment to Adjust Funding of the current TSPLOST Project for PATH 400 and to fund a new CIP Project for further construction of PATH 400

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, and Allen Johnson, Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager, presented a recommendation to approve a Budget Amendment to Adjust Funding of the current TSPLOST Project for PATH 400 and to fund a new CIP Project for further construction of PATH 400.

The PATH 400 trail program has been under consideration and in design for several years:

- In FY2017, Project T0060 was established under the CIP Fund, initially funded by \$500,000 from the General Fund for the Design phase of PATH 400.
- Since then, several federal grant awards, plus additional allocations of City funding, were added for design work, right-of-way acquisition, and other pre-construction activities of the PATH-400 project.
- In FY2022, \$4,000,000 was allocated in the TSPLOST 2021 program to cover the expected grant match for the PATH 400 Construction phase; Project T0060 was then designated for PATH 400 pre-construction activities only.
- In FY2023, \$3,000,000 was added to Project T0060 in the FY2023 Budget Book as partial funding of the Construction phase in case the expected grant awards were less than needed.
- Because the \$3,000,000 allocation to Project T0060 was only partial funding towards an undefined need for PATH 400 construction, this \$3,000,000 has remained in Project T0060 as “unassigned” resources to be assigned later to specific tasks and phases of PATH 400 as the

needs were determined.

As cost estimates for PATH 400 construction were developed and refined, the available grants and local match funding under TSPLOST were recognized to be inadequate to construct the entirety of the path, so the project was divided into segments:

- Segments 1 and 3 were advertised for bid and are now under contract for construction, fully funded (including grants) under the TSPLOST program.
- The remaining Segment 2 was identified for future construction, pending the identification of additional funding sources.

Funding for the TSPLOST Construction phase included a \$750,000 grant from HUD in addition to other State-administered Federal grant funding; the other Federal grant funding for Segments 1 and 3 has been increased by \$640,000, allowing the HUD grant to be reallocated towards the Construction phase of the final Segment 2.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recognize PATH 400 as a project of regional significance. With that priority and emphasis, ARC has very recently offered \$18,000,000 of additional matching-grant funding to construct Segment 2. Although there are no current TSPLOST resources available for the new grant match, the \$3,000,000 currently allocated to Project T0060 is available to re-allocate to a new T-Project under the CIP Fund for construction of Segment 2. In addition, \$2,000,000 has been identified as available in Capital Contingency to fulfill the remaining grant match requirement for Segment 2.

A budget amendment has been prepared to 1) change the funding structure of PATH 400 Segment 1 and 3 Construction project under TSPLOST, and 2) add a new CIP project for PATH 400 Segment 2 Construction, funding with the relevant budget amount from Project T0060, Capital Contingency, and new and re-assigned grant funding.

This amendment requires action by Mayor and Council because the amendment creates a new project under the CIP Fund, total expenditures in the CIP Fund are being increased with the newly received grant funding, and the total amount of budget being shifted is above the City Manager's discretionary limit of \$200,000. As the project budgets to be shifted have already been allocated and transferred to the CIP Fund, and the grants being re-assigned have already been awarded, re-allocating these funds to a different project number would cause no current financial impact.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, seconded by **Councilmember Andy Bauman**, to approve a Budget Amendment to Adjust Funding of the current TSPLOST Project for PATH 400 and to fund a new CIP Project for further construction of PATH 400.

Councilmember DeJulio asked is there enough money to complete Section Two?

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said yes, as far as we know.

Councilmember DeJulio asked will it be all the way from the city limits to SR-400?

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said yes. Communications took videos of the section that is being completed now.

Councilmember DeJulio said you could see the work being done along SR-400 and, now I can tell people the City is doing all segments. When do you anticipate the completion of PATH 400 from the city

limits?

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said it depends on the bats, and this is one reason all the trees were dropped.

Mayor Rusty Paul said there is a collection of bats living in the right-of-way.

Councilmember DeJulio asked has anyone seen the bats?

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said there is a picture of it. That section is the same construction duration of about three years, and hopefully it takes two. They will get started a year after this section and, hopefully it will be done in four years or earlier. The extra time is left for a certain period because if a bat could use that tree, you cannot take it down. That is why all the work was in that section because the trees needed to come down before March 30. If not, the trees could not come down again until September October.

Councilmember Bauman said we have talked about this for years. This is a great project and it is transformative. The connectivity between communities and cities is what will propel our community to continue to compete for people of every age. I still dream of finding a way for folks to get connected from Chastain Park. We started Lark Forest Drive yesterday and, getting people to Chastain and then getting them from Chastain into Blue Heron. You can see the project when you are on SR-400 or MARTA train and going to and from the airport. Thank you to everyone involved.

Mayor Rusty Paul said this was a team effort. It was great day when I received notice from Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) that the City had been funded, to allow us to complete the project. It is a relatively small part of the trail network but, it is a key part. All of the regional trails come together here, whether this one goes down to the belt line, what is being done in Powers Ferry connecting us to the Cobb network, that goes to the Silver Comet Trail, to Alabama, then North. Like I-285 and SR-400 where everybody comes, with the trail network all of them are coming through Sandy Springs. This is a very important milestone. Staff ensured that the City qualified for it. The City is managed well financially and has the resources to match. This is not the first time the City has been able to take advantage of money needed to be allocated. The City was able to collect those funds and do important things in Sandy Springs. This was a big win for the City. Thank you everyone for your efforts.

Councilmember DeJulio asked how long is Segment 1, 2, and 3?

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said it is a couple miles and there are a lot of bridges and walls.

Mayor Paul said it costs more to build a trail than the interstate system did in 1956 when it started.

Public Works TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson said it is \$40,000,000 worth of construction when it is all done.

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

Ordinance No. 2025-05-05

B. **2025-098** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the

Donation of Surplus Fire Hose and a Forcible Entry Door Simulator to Lanier Technical College

Keith Sanders, Fire Chief, presented a recommendation to authorize the donation of surplus fire hose and a forcible entry door simulator to Lanier Technical College.

The Forcible Entry Door Simulator is no longer the type that personnel can use in training. The Fire Hose is over ten years old and does not meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements for the Firefighters' safety.

Upon review of the goods listed, staff recommend the items be declared Surplus and for the Purchasing Agent under the supervision of the City Manager to donate surplus property in a manner as is determined to be the most advantageous method of disposing of the goods, including transfer, donation, recycle, trade-in, and or sale.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio**, to authorize the donation of surplus fire hose and a forcible entry door simulator to Lanier Technical College.

Councilmember Paulson asked is it being given to Lanier Technical College as is and the City has no responsibility?

Chief Sanders said that is correct.

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

Resolution No. 2025-05-048

X. Reports

A. 2025-099 Mayor and Council Report

Mayor Rusty Paul said this is Public Service Recognition week where the City acknowledges the contributions of all the people, particularly from our team, that do so much for our community. This is a great opportunity to recognize them, and it will culminate this Friday with Employee Appreciation Day. Staff will be there and hopefully Council, to tell our employees how much they are appreciated for what they do for the Sandy Springs community.

The ribbon cutting for Springway Trails was this past week. It was very well attended and available to everybody.

I attended the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Legislative Policy Council Board of Directors meeting. We discussed development and redevelopment. There has been some frustration and this is some of the problems the City has. It is clear that this has become more of a statewide issue. Hopefully in June when we meet, they will add this to the economic development policy of GMA. We need some transferable tax credits to help stimulate downtown development in situations like we faced, where we cannot put money into the pot because of the gratuities clause but, if we had transferable tax credits to stimulate downtown development then those would be transferable and be sold like movie tax credits to

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help finance some of these things. It has been added to the proposed policy changes at GMA and that will be a focus on their legislative agenda. This is to get some more tools for the City to do some of the things that need to be done here. It will not be a lot of money and, I envision about \$100,000,000 with each city that applies and is successful in getting it, being kept around \$5,000,000 or maybe less. It adds a bit of cash to the process. These projects may be on the cusp and the City cannot write the check but, through transferable tax credits, we might be able to do that.

There was an opportunity for me to speak at the Memorial Day for Weber Academy and it was very moving. They honored Amit Man, a woman who was murdered in Kibbutz Be'eri, a place I visited last year. She was a medical assistant tending to the wounded in Kibbutz and was shot in the clinic. The bullet marks could be seen on the wall but, more poignant was the phone call that was recorded as she called her family to tell them that she was going to die and, to say goodbye. You did not need to speak Hebrew to know the emotion that young woman was going through and the fear in her voice. It is one of the most heart-rending situations I have ever been in because I was there and saw the aftermath of it. It was amazing how Weber Academy honored her.

The City had the water hearing and everything has been filed and we are waiting for the judge to render a decision. The City's legal counsel did a fantastic job and presented a closing statement and suggested the order the judge sign. Hopefully, in the next week or two, we will hear from the judge about his decision. No matter what happens, it is going to be appealed but, at least this is the first time we have had an opportunity to get our case heard before a judge. That is an important milestone. It has been over twenty years working on this and now to have this hearing and hopefully move us a step or two closer.

The president's budget has been released and it hits cities and local governments hard. One of the recommendations is the end of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. There are many things in that budget that will have an impact on the City. Sandy Springs is an entitlement city and have Section 108 loans which is paid off by the annual appropriation. I will have a conversation with Congressman McCormick about saving CDBG and, at least allow the appropriations to go forward until the City paid off the loan. The City has a contractual agreement with the federal government and, for them to change that at this point would be unfair. The president's budget has a lot of impact on local government and we need to be following that very closely.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said currently showing in Byers Theatre is Beautiful: The Carole King Musical and everyone is encouraged to see it.

This past Saturday I visited the City of Brookhaven's Lynwood Park Community Day and am happy to have them as partners this year for the City's Juneteenth celebration.

Congratulations to my local Toastmasters club. One of our members is a district champion for their speech and many Sandy Springs residents are members of that club.

A few weeks ago, I attended an amazing event by Los Ninos Primero called Dia del Nino. They are a fabulous non-profit organization.

Thank you to Leadership Perimeter, Sandy Springs Together, and Keep North Fulton Beautiful for creating the Beyond the Bin bulk recycling event. I did not realize how much of a need there was for that service. It was very well done.

Councilmember Andy Bauman said I attended a National Council of Jewish Women's event last week

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where Dr. Amanda Cohn was honored in District 6. She worked for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, Sheri Labovitz was also an honoree.

On Sunday morning and evening, I met with Ilay David, the older brother of Evyatar David, currently held hostage in Gaza after being kidnapped while attending the Nova Music Festival. He is one of a couple of dozen remaining living hostages of men aged from their late teens to their fifties who are healthy but, become the most likely candidates to be held for the duration and not get out. This is a heart-wrenching story in talking with Ilay. His brother and his brother's good friend were brought to the transfer of hostages in February to witness the release and, in a cruel propaganda video, were filmed begging for their release but returned to captivity. That is cruel, inhumane, and psychological torture. This has the attention from media and political class both in Israel and the United States. There are a lot of deep connections in this community to Israel. I have worked with contacts to potentially get an interview at CNN. Ilay met with Senator Jon Ossoff on Sunday night and is meeting again with him in Washington on Thursday to elevate the stories to see if the administration both here and in Israel will work to bring these hostilities to an end and return the hostages. That was a very moving opportunity that I am still trying to process and just wanted to share with the community.

B. 2025-100 Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

XI. Executive Session

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

Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman
Nays: None

The Executive Session began at 7:31 p.m.

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

Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, Tibby DeJulio, Andrew Bauman
Nays: None

The Executive Session ended at 8:21 p.m.

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 8:22 p.m.