

Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference
January 6, 2026 Following Swearing-in Ceremony
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Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on January 6, 2026 following the Swearing-in Ceremony, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

*Prior to calling the meeting to order, **Mayor Rusty Paul** recognized former colleagues **Councilmember Tibby DeJulio** and **Councilmember Andy Bauman** who were in the audience, and thanked them for their service to the Sandy Springs community.*

I. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

II. Roll Call and General Announcements

Members Present: Mayor Rusty Paul, Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Melody Kelley, Councilmember Melissa Mular, Councilmember Frank Roberts, Councilmember Mary Ford, Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the Pledge of Allegiance was done during the Swearing-In Ceremony and there was no need to repeat it.

IV. Public Comment

1. **Laura Kurlander, 234 Meeting Lane, Sandy Springs** - Agenda Item 2026-011. Opposition.
2. **Vladimir Shklonvsky, 4530 Jolyn Place, Sandy Springs** - Yesterday's Crash into Daycare Parking Lot

V. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

VI. Consent Agenda

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

- A. **2026-001** Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025 City Council Work Session
December 16, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. **2026-002** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Acceptance of the Deed for Dedication of Right-of-Way from JWC Mystic, LLC, on Property Located at 4784 Roswell Road (Roswell Road Frontage) in Land Lot 94 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID# 17-0094-0002-068-6)

Resolution No. 2026-01-001

- C. **2026-003** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Acceptance of the Deed for Dedication of Right of Way from JWC Mystic, LLC on Property Located at 4784 Roswell Road (Mystic Drive Frontage) in Land Lot 94 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs (Tax ID# 17-0094-0002-068-6)

Resolution No. 2026-01-002

VII. Presentations

There were no presentations.

VIII. Public Hearing

- A. **2026-004** ABL No. 28258
Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Starlight Lounge LLC, DBA Starlight Lounge & Grill at 8610 Roswell Road, Suite 690, Sandy Springs, GA, 30350. The Applicant is Aravind Doddapaneni for Consumption of the Premises for Wine, Malt, Distilled Spirits and one (1) additional bar.

Cori Holiness, Revenue Manager, presented a recommendation to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Starlight Lounge LLC, DBA Starlight Lounge & Grill at 8610 Roswell Road, Suite 690, Sandy Springs, GA, 30350. The Applicant is Aravind Doddapaneni for Consumption of the Premises for Wine, Malt, Distilled Spirits and one (1) additional bar.

This is a New Alcohol License for Consumption on the Premises Wine, Malt Beverages & Distilled Spirits and One (1) Additional Bar. The business is located at 8610 Roswell Road, Suite 690, Sandy Springs, GA, 30350. The applicant submitted a completed application on November 11, 2025 and has passed the background investigation.

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

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Starlight Lounge LLC, DBA Starlight Lounge & Grill at 8610 Roswell Road, Suite 690, Sandy Springs, GA, 30350. The Applicant is Aravind Doddapaneni for Consumption of the Premises for Wine, Malt, Distilled Spirits and one (1) additional bar. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- B. **2026-005** ABL No. 28289
Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License Application for 5345 Mobile Food Mart INC, at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA, 30342. The Applicant is Altamish Verani for Package Beer and Wine.

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Cori Holiness, Revenue Manager, presented a recommendation to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for 5345 Mobile Food Mart INC, at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA, 30342. The Applicant is Altamish Verani for Package Beer and Wine.

This is the Change of Ownership Application of retail / package wine and malt beverages. The business is located at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, Ga 30342. Applicant submitted a completed application on December 03, 2025 and has passed the background investigation.

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

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew Chinsky**, to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for 5345 Mobile Food Mart INC, at 5345 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA, 30342. The Applicant is Altamish Verani for Package Beer and Wine. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- C. **2026-006** ABL No. 28273
Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Beyond the Corner, LLC DBA Wagaya Groceries for 5975 Roswell Road Building D, Suite 237, Sandy Springs GA 30328. The Applicant is Takashi Otsuka for Package Wine & Malt Beverages.

Cori Holiness, Revenue Manager, presented a recommendation to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Beyond the Corner, LLC DBA Wagaya Groceries for 5975 Roswell Road Building D, Suite 237, Sandy Springs GA 30328. The Applicant is Takashi Otsuka for Package Wine & Malt Beverages.

This is a New Alcohol License for Package Wine & Malt Beverages for 5975 Roswell Road Building D, Suite 237, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Applicant submitted a completed application on December 02, 2025 and has passed the background investigation.

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

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to approve Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Beyond the Corner, LLC DBA Wagaya Groceries for 5975 Roswell Road Building D, Suite 237, Sandy Springs GA 30328. The Applicant is Takashi Otsuka for Package Wine & Malt Beverages. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

IX. New Business

- A. **2026-007** Request for City Council to Elect the Sandy Springs City Council Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Rusty Paul invited Council to nominations for the election of mayor pro tempore.

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In the mayor's absence, the mayor pro tempore is tasked with assuming the duties and powers of the mayor, except that the mayor pro tempore shall continue to vote as a city councilmember and may not exercise the mayor's prerogative to vote in the case of a tie.

If the mayor pro tempore is absent because of sickness or disqualification, any one of the remaining city councilmembers, chosen by the members present, shall be clothed with all the rights and privileges of the mayor and shall perform the mayor's duties in the same manner as the mayor pro tempore.

Pursuant to Section 2-51, Mayor Pro Tempore, of Division 2, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sandy Springs, following the induction of the mayor and councilmembers, the city council, by a majority vote of the councilmembers, must elect a councilmember to be mayor pro tempore. The mayor pro tempore will serve for a term of four years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew Chinsky**, to elect **Councilmember John Paulson** as the Sandy Springs City Council Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- B. **2026-008** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Public Facilities Authority

Dan Lee, City Attorney, presented a recommendation to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Public Facilities Authority.

City Attorney Lee said Legislature adopted the Public Facilities Authority, and issued a legislative charter. It was created as a partner for the City of Sandy Springs to develop and facilitate the holding and development of infrastructure in Sandy Springs. This charter dictates that the members of Council serve as members of the Public Facilities Authority, and the mayor as the chairperson.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew Chinsky**, to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Public Facilities Authority. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-01-003

- C. **2026-009** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Contract Award to Sol Construction, LLC to Construct the Long Island Drive at Mount Vernon Highway Intersection Improvement Project 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 Sol Construction, LLC to Construct the Long Island Drive at Mount Vernon Highway Intersection Improvement Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract.

The City of Sandy Springs (the "City") has developed plans to construct new traffic signal infrastructure and other intersection improvements to include widening Long Island Drive, realigning the Arlington Memorial Park driveway to align with Long Island Drive, adding new sidewalks and crosswalks, and providing intersection lighting to improve visibility and traffic safety at the Long Island Drive and Mount

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Vernon Highway Intersection.

On October 21, 2025, the City issued Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) No. 26-017 seeking bids from qualified contractors to construct the Project. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting was held on October 29, 2025. The City received bids from six (6) contractors prior to the November 20, 2025, deadline:

Bidder	Bid
1-Sol Construction, LLC	\$ 769,719.00
2-Excellere Construction LLC	\$ 775,000.00
3-Ip Construction, LLC	\$ 796,907.25
4-Ohmshiv Construction, LLC	\$ 826,424.80
5-Backbone Infrastructure, LLC	\$ 874,000.00
6-Vertical Earth Incorporated	\$ 911,321.78

The engineer’s cost estimate for the work was \$1,116,942.20.

Upon review of the bids, Staff recommends that an award be made to the lowest, most responsible and responsive bid from Sol Construction, LLC in the amount of \$769,719.00.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts** to Approve Contract Award to Sol Construction, LLC to Construct the Long Island Drive at Mount Vernon Highway Intersection Improvement Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract.

Councilmember Mular asked why is the engineer’s estimate much higher?

Public Works Director Martin said the bids are good, and successful work has been done in the City with five of the six contractors, within cost and the scopes intended. The engineer may have overestimated the trend on transportation projects, statewide and regionwide in the last couple years.

Councilmember Mular asked what is the anticipated start date of construction?

Public Works Director Martin said it is about thirty to forty-five days to execute the construction contract documents and more, and will mobilize in about six weeks.

Councilmember Mular asked how long is the project?

Public Works Director Martin said about a year. We will perform horizontal construction, install signal gear, and have improvements at Arlington.

Councilmember Mular asked are there provisions for access to the memorial park, as well as the neighborhoods at this construction?

Public Works Director Martin said we will make provisions throughout the duration with the neighbors to ensure that they can access everything.

Councilmember Mular asked are there many utilities that need to be moved?

Public Works Director Martin said utilities will be moved as we are putting some roadway where there is none now.

Councilmember Mular said many residents are interested in this project. Let us get it done.

Public Works Director Martin said there have been consistent concerns for years there. With the first T-SPLOST project, a turn lane was added to improve the intersection, but it was not enough. Hopefully this intersection with a signal integrated into the rest of the signal system in the City Springs area will make the improvements needed.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-004

- D. **2026-010** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration to Approve Submission of an Application to the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture FY 2026 Contracts for Services Grant Program for the Support of the City's Signature Events and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement

William Haggett, Executive Director of the Performing Arts Center, presented a recommendation to Approve Submission of an Application to the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture FY 2026 Contracts for Services Grant Program for the Support of the City's Signature Events and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement.

In November 2025, the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture announced funding opportunities for the FY 2026 Contracts for Services funding cycle. Funding awards can range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for municipalities in Fulton County with a goal of increasing access to cultural enrichment through art programming scheduled between January 1 and December 31, 2026. In 2025, Fulton County awarded \$3 million in funding to support 172 non-profit organizations, public entities, and individual artists to provide services to residents, including art classes, workshops, residencies, festivals, exhibitions, concerts, and activities. The City initially received a 2025 award in the amount of \$10,500 and received a second award in the amount of \$17,000. This funding was utilized to fund portions of the City's Juneteenth Celebration as well as the Blue Stone Arts and Music Festival.

Funding is awarded for several priorities, including:

- Providing cultural access for the diverse citizenry of Fulton County with a focus on youth, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and populations and districts underserved through the arts.
- Encouraging the highest standards of artistic quality and excellence.
- Creating an environment that encourages the growth and development of arts organizations and individual artists.
- Fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors of Fulton County.

Fulton County expects all applications to be reviewed and selected by June 2026.

Since opening City Springs to residents in 2018, the City of Sandy Springs has enhanced community engagement and pride by providing a diverse range of free events. These events have played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community by offering educational opportunities, cultural enrichment, and entertainment. In the past several years, the number of events held have increased, drawing larger crowds and engaging more residents. The success of these programs has highlighted the importance of continuing to offer these services and expanding them to meet the growing demand.

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However, the financial demands associated with hosting these events have also grown. Costs have risen drastically over the past several years, and the need for additional resources to maintain the high quality of events has become more pressing. Two events, the Juneteenth Celebration and the Blue Stone Arts and Music Festival, attract thousands of attendees each year, serving as an important cultural celebration and attracting tourism, generating economic activity within our community. To ensure the continued success of these events, the City is seeking a \$50,000 grant to cover the increased expenses, especially those related to vendor contracts, and additional educational and art programming. The City plans to include the Juneteenth Celebration, Blue Stone Arts and Music Festival, as well as some new educational programming.

This grant will allow the City to maintain the quality and scale of the events while also ensuring that programming will remain free and accessible to the community, not only covering immediate increases in cost but also supporting the long-term sustainability of the Signature Event series as it continues to grow in both scope and popularity.

To participate in this program, the City will need to allocate the required \$50,000 match from the City's Performing Arts Center Fund to support these events in the FY26 budget.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to Approve Submission of an Application to the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture FY 2026 Contracts for Services Grant Program for the Support of the City's Signature Events and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement.

Councilmember Kelley said my concern for FY 2025 is that the City did not receive the award until June, which made it challenging to use the funds. How can this be navigated for this year?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said we cannot control when the funder will make the award, but we will do our best to balance the existing appropriation with any awards received. Recall, we applied some funds towards that because it was specifically for that program.

Councilmember John Paulson asked is \$50,000 the match requirement for the City?

Executive Director of the Performing Arts Center Haggett said yes. It is an equal match.

Councilmember Mular asked will any reporting need to be done for how funds were used?

Executive Director of the Performing Arts Center Haggett said yes.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-005

- E. **2026-011** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Declare the Fulton County Development Authority Shall Not Operate Within the Jurisdictional Limits of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia Without Prior Consultation and Preliminary Agreeance by the Mayor of Sandy Springs on Any Proposed Inducement Opportunity

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Dan Lee, City Attorney, presented a recommendation to Declare the Fulton County Development Authority Shall Not Operate Within the Jurisdictional Limits of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia Without Prior Consultation and Preliminary Agreeance by the Mayor of Sandy Springs on Any Proposed Inducement Opportunity.

House Bill 155 (“HB 155”) establishes *O.C.G.A. §36-62-4.1*, which restricts the authority of county development authorities operating within certain highly municipalized counties. Because Fulton County qualifies under this definition, cities within its boundaries may adopt a resolution prohibiting the FCDA from acquiring or holding property or advancing tax incentive projects inside their jurisdictional limits unless the municipality expressly agrees to allow for such participation. Any projects approved or underway before January 1, 2026 remain exempt.

HB 155 provides an important safeguard. It ensures that development incentives and property transactions initiated by FCDA cannot occur within the City, without consent. This protects the City’s ability to manage growth, maintain alignment with adopted policies, and ensure development initiatives reflect community priorities.

The Resolution exercises this statutory authority; (i) It prohibits FCDA from purchasing, accepting title to, or engaging in property tax incentive projects within the City, unless the City has been consulted and has provided front-end approval; (ii) It authorizes the Mayor to offer preliminary agreement on inducement opportunities that appear consistent with the City’s interests, with a requirement that Council be promptly notified of any such discussions; and (iii) adopts the statutory effective date of January 1, 2026.

Recommended actions include adopting the resolution, preserving the exemption for pre-2026 projects, and directing the City Manager to notify Fulton County and the Fulton County Development Authority once the resolution takes effect. Approving this measure will allow the City to retain control over future inducement projects, ensure transparency with elected officials, and reinforce that development activity within city limits must support the City’s long-term vision and policy objectives.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Declare the Fulton County Development Authority Shall Not Operate Within the Jurisdictional Limits of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia Without Prior Consultation and Preliminary Agreeance by the Mayor of Sandy Springs on Any Proposed Inducement Opportunity.

Mayor Rusty Paul said the FCDA and Sandy Springs had an informal agreement where the FCDA would consult with the City before doing any inducements. They would inform the city manager, or mayor, or both, and the City would provide input on these projects. That has ceased to happen. Several times the City had no information about a project. At one point, the Development Authority had a policy that if a municipality had a policy, they would operate under that policy within that jurisdiction. This policy is still in existence presumably. To make this a requirement for them to do that, Council needs to approve a resolution to require them to consult with the City. Though the FCDA does not have zoning powers, their inducements have a real impact on the City’s land use policies, and the development within the community. The City’s only point of input on their projects is when they apply for permits and submit their plans. The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that the City is not just informed, but collaborated with before these projects are induced. Without this, we do not have a partnership.

Councilmember John Paulson asked does this apply to every individual potential opportunity?

Mayor Paul said yes.

Councilmember Kelley said the resolution does not explicitly state “Council.” My concern, as a councilmember that represents a district, is that one of these projects may or may not be right.

Mayor Paul stated my commitment is to consult with the councilmember in whose district the project occurs. This is important.

Councilmember Mular asked are there any current projects that are exempted, besides the ones that lead up to the election cycle?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said the City has not received any communication from the FCDA.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-006

Mayor Rusty Paul apologized that each member of Council was not given a moment to share their thoughts during the swearing-in.

X. Reports

A. 2026-012 Mayor and Council Report

Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky said as we begin our next chapter of Sandy Springs, our community should be proud tonight. Over the last twenty years, we led the cityhood movement in metro Atlanta and built a new city from scratch. Our city shines as a beacon throughout the state of Georgia. This moment presents us with new opportunities. While we uphold our core functions—from public safety to street paving—we face questions like: what kind of city do we want to become? How do we resist complacency? How do we maximize our talented resources? How do we invest so that young families and seniors can thrive? And how do we sustain the next generation to move us forward? I cannot predict exactly how we will answer these questions, but a few principles will guide my approach over the next four years.

First, I will be deliberate in every decision. I will listen first, consider the facts and law of every issue, and vote with integrity based on what I believe is in the best interest of our city. Second, I will act with patience and humility. I will take my duty seriously without taking myself too seriously. Third, I will be collegial and respectful. We are literally neighbors. This only works if we work together, and if we disagree, we can do so without being disagreeable. Acting on these principles will enhance our service to Sandy Springs and role-model civility and good behavior.

I want to end with gratitude: to my wife, Allie—thank you for being an incredible partner every step of the way. To my kids: I am doing this for you. Thank you for being curious and excited and the best yard sign helpers. To my extended family and friends who are family, to my kitchen table cabinet, and anyone who showed enough interest in local government to vote—and to all those leaders who have come before us, including those in this room tonight—thank you for your trust, and I will do my best to further your legacy.

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Thank you also to Temple Sinai for the beautiful copy of the Lisbon Bible on which I took my oath of office. The work of building our city will never be done, but I am thrilled to do the work with everyone in this room as we keep striving toward our full potential.

Councilmember Mary Ford said I am honored to join the City Council for the City of Sandy Springs and to work with my fellow Councilmembers and Mayor Paul over the next four years. I recognize that my path to this seat up here is deep, with appreciations on several fronts.

First, to my neighbors who enthusiastically said, “Mary, we need you to run for Council,” and the support of Tibby DeJulio who said, “Mary, you’ll do a fine job.” So, thank you, Tibby, for that. I am also grateful for all of the programs that helped myself and others prepare for our arrival here—from Leadership Atlanta to Leadership Perimeter, the Sandy Springs Citizens Academy, and the Police Academy. Those preparations helped to deepen my appreciation for our city and my desire to serve. And finally, my deepest appreciation goes to my husband, Jay Shirley, who did all things during the campaign to help me get here and has committed to being supportive for the next four years.

I recognize that the citizens of our city are expecting a few things from me. First, they are expecting that we on Council maintain those things that make Sandy Springs special: commitment to public safety, protecting our neighborhoods, and having a very well-run city. Thank you to Eden and Staff that make that real for our citizens every day.

Looking to the future, I know that people are expecting me and this Council to do a couple important things. One is that we pursue appropriate economic growth for our city, and that that is done as part of our comprehensive plan—which will guide the next ten years of our city and will be a very important project for us to undertake, requiring lots of public input.

Thank you everyone for your support that has led me here, and I am looking forward to serving.

Councilmember Frank Roberts said thank you to all the folks who voted for me and supported me in this endeavor. I look forward to working with Councilmembers and all the members of Staff in City Hall. I am a believer that we can do a lot of good things for the City as long as we have good people working for it. I have worked with the City of Sandy Springs before, and I hope I will do a good job in this future that is coming up.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said thank you, Mayor, for this opportunity. I am grateful to be sworn in and represent District 3 for another term. Thank you to our residents for your trust, for your partnership, and for your faith in what we all can accomplish together. During the campaign, what I heard was very consistent: people care very deeply about Sandy Springs, and they want us to protect the city and what makes it special. Particularly, people said that they want strong public safety, a good quality of life, and vibrant neighborhoods.

Looking ahead, I am focused on four main areas—of course things come up all the time—but:

- Public safety: continuing to invest in our emergency response, including our two new fire stations and the major renovation to one that we have planned.
- Completing City Springs Phase 2: done right and shaped with community input.
- The North End redevelopment: done with clear standards and infrastructure to support it.

- Continued expansion and improvements to parks, trails, and recreational amenities so our families have more places to gather, play, and stay active.

Thank you to our city Staff for everything that you do for our community, and I look forward to working with the Mayor, my new Council, my current returning Councilmembers, and city Staff to deliver results—to keep Sandy Springs moving forward. And I am really excited about this term. I think we have an opportunity to do a lot of really great things.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said entering into another four years of this work, one of the broader challenges I have been genuinely concerned about is how to avoid political inertia—how to ensure that my service does not drift into stasis. Fortunately, I happen to represent a part of this city where there is still a great deal of work to be done. District 2, I know you will keep me busy, and I want to take this moment to thank the many residents, neighborhood leaders, and community partners who have helped shape what I view, quite frankly, as a clear mandate going forward.

A little over four years ago, in December of 2021, the City approved the new zoning district for the North End Mixed-Use District. It was intended to incentivize private commercial development at three sites along the northern Roswell Road corridor. That action was quickly followed in 2022 by a rezoning application for what was described as a mixed-use development. At that time, there was a sense of momentum finally building in the North End.

Here we are four years later, and there has been no movement. That reality has sharpened my focus.

My priority in this next term is not simply restarting one development on one site, but advancing a holistic vision for a vibrant North End—one that aligns private investment with economic development tools and with strategic public investments such as the next segment of our Springway Trail, updated design guidelines, Fire Station 1, and the Roswell Road / North End Boulevard project at the same time.

I am acutely aware of our transportation safety challenges similar to what was highlighted in public comment. That is why the intersection of Trowbridge and Roswell Road remains a priority, and why we will continue advocating for its inclusion in a future TSPLOST referendum.

I enter this new term committed to moving our city and my district forward deliberately, collaboratively, and with a sense of urgency, while remaining grounded in the voices of the communities that I represent.

Thank you all for the trust you have placed in me. And thank you to my daughter, Kiara.

Councilmember John Paulson said every Council I have served with has had challenges—a variety of challenges. They are all different. And as the City is now in its twenty-first year, there are new challenges that we are going to face that we did not face before. That is all part of a city being not necessarily mature, but more mature than when we first started.

We have a new fire station coming, and other things that are mentioned. There is a lot going on in this city as there always is, and I believe the next four years are going to be the same as it has been. I believe in this Council, and I believe this Council is up to the task. I look forward to working with all of you in the future. Let us continue to make Sandy Springs an even better city than it is today.

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Mayor Rusty Paul said I had some people here tonight who worked very hard for me during the campaign and some of them left, and I wish I had said thank you then. But we are going to get everybody back together before too long, and I will have an opportunity to do it then.

This is a great community. It is a great city—great people. That is what makes it great: people who care passionately about their community. I think all seven of us saw that during the last several months of campaigning, as we went from neighborhood to neighborhood. What struck me was the real passion that residents have for this community, which puts an extra responsibility on all of us to live up to their aspirations.

And I know we will do that. We wake up every day trying to make things better—to try and achieve the goals that the people have set out for us. I am looking forward to it. I am excited about the new colleagues that we have. We will miss some of the old colleagues who have been around for a while and decided to go do something else with their lives. I think we are on the threshold of some exciting times in Sandy Springs, and I am looking forward to it.

B. 2026-013 Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

XI. Executive Session

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, 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, Frank Roberts, Mary Ford, Andrew Chinsky

Nays: None

The Executive Session began at 7:04 p.m.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, 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, Frank Roberts, Mary Ford, Andrew Chinsky

Nays: None

The Executive Session ended at 8:20 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

