

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 20, 2026 Following Work Session
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Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on January 20, 2026 Following Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comment

1. **Emmanuel Fialkow, 880 N Island Dr., Sandy Springs** – Sandy Springs Police Foundation
2. **Don Huffner, 9643 Roberts Dr., Sandy Springs** – Roberts Dr.

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. **2026-015** Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026 City Council Meeting
January 13, 2026 City Council Special Called Meeting

VII. Presentations

There were no presentations.

VIII. Public Hearing

There were no public hearings.

IX. New Business

- A. **2026-016** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Declare as Surplus Certain Property Owned by the City and Directing Disposal of the Same

Ericka Kelley, Purchasing Buyer, presented a recommendation to Declare as Surplus Certain Property Owned by the City and Directing Disposal of the Same.

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When the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sandy Springs were established, it allowed that under the supervision of the City Manager, the City Purchasing Agent should arrange and negotiate for the sale or otherwise disposal of all surplus equipment and supplies or real estate of the City or any using agency (Section 2-334. Purchasing Agent). Sandy Springs Purchasing Policy requires all Departments to report all surplus or obsolete goods to the Purchasing Agent; and that they be declared Surplus by Mayor and City Council.

The Surplus consists of goods from the following Departments as listed in Exhibit A:

1. Fleet
2. Police
3. Public Works

Upon review of the goods listed, staff recommends that they be declared Surplus and for the Purchasing Agent under the supervision of the City Manager to dispose of surplus property in a manner as is determined to be the most advantageous method of disposing 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 Frank Roberts**, to Declare as Surplus Certain Property Owned by the City and Directing Disposal of the Same.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked is 701 Morgans Falls Road another address for the police department?

Purchasing Buyer Kelley said yes.

Councilmember Kelley asked how will the street signage be disposed?

Purchasing Buyer Kelley said there are street signs in various conditions piled together. Public Works can provide more information on how they will be disposed.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-007

- B. **2026-017** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Donation of a Surplus K9 Vehicle to the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office

Andrew Spears, Captain, presented a recommendation to Authorize the Donation of a Surplus K9 Vehicle to the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office.

The Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office is located fifty miles north of Sandy Springs and is in a rural part of the state. Due to its rural location and proximity away from metro areas in the state, funding for the Sheriff's Office is limited. Due to their financial situation, the Sheriff's Office has expressed interest in receiving surplus items and vehicles from the City of Sandy Springs.

The SSPD has in its inventory a 2018 Chevy Tahoe vehicle (1GNLCDEC0JR34008). The vehicle is

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outfitted as a K9 transport vehicle and has reached the end of its service life. The vehicle needs a new transmission, which is estimated to be several thousand dollars. The outdated vehicle has been replaced with updated vehicles and this one is no longer needed to perform police department functions.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to Authorize the Donation of a Surplus K9 Vehicle to the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked what is the formal process for counties to request donations from the City?

Captain Spears said jurisdictions can make a request to the City for items. We also contact our partners that may be in need.

Councilmember Kelley asked are there many partners with smaller budgets?

Captain Spears said yes, in Georgia and connecting states.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-008

- C. **2026-018** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Award Fiscal Year 2026 Nonprofit Arts and Recreation Program Contracts and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreements

Brent Walker, Director of Recreation and Parks, presented a recommendation to presented a recommendation to Award Fiscal Year 2026 Nonprofit Arts and Recreation Program Contracts and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreements

The City of Sandy Springs (the "City") created a program (the "Program") to collaborate with duly organized nonprofit organizations to offer new programming or to expand eligible existing recreational programs targeted to underserved populations and low-income communities within the City. In previous fiscal years, the Mayor and Council allocated up to \$150,000.00 annually to the Program. Recognizing its value, the appropriation was increased to \$200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2026.

In previous years, two types of awards were offered: Category One awards for partial funding of the previous year's awards and Category Two awards for "new" programs. For this current award cycle, the City elected to simplify the process by removing the categories and allowing applicants to apply for a maximum of \$15,000.00 for either an existing program or a new program. Projects funded by this Program are intended to serve Sandy Springs' underserved and low-income populations.

On October 21, 2025, the City issued a Request for Proposals #26-013 ("RFP") to solicit responses ("Proposals") from qualified nonprofit organizations ("Offerors") to partner with the City's Recreation and Parks Department to provide programs and recreational activities for the benefit of underserved and low-income residents of the City. Each eligible nonprofit organization proposing and meeting the requirements of the RFP were allowed to request up to \$15,000.00 in funding. Proposals were due on November 19, 2025.

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The City formed a team of personnel ("Evaluation Committee") to evaluate submitted Proposals using the criteria set forth in the RFP and to recommend qualified nonprofit organizations to receive funds from the Program for specific eligible programs. The Evaluation Committee consisted of the following individuals:

1. Dabney Brand, Grants Administrator
2. Jane Jarrett, Program Coordinator
3. Erika Rose, Executive Administrative Assistant
4. Brent Walker, Recreation and Park Director

On November 19, 2025, the City received Proposals from the following eleven (11) organizations:

Art Sandy Springs, Inc.
Djoli Kelen, Inc.
Georgia Ensemble Theatre Company
Heal Thy Lineage, Inc.
Horizons Atlanta, Inc.
Inside Out Consulting LLC
Jump Start Gymnasium Foundation Nonprofit Corporation
LaAmistad, Inc.
Los Niños Primero, Inc.
Sandy Springs Arts Foundation, Inc.
Sandy Springs Mission, Inc.

The total request for funding totaled \$162,324.00.

Evaluation Criteria

Pursuant to Section 4 of the RFP, the City ranked Proposals according to the following criteria:

Criteria for Consideration (Category two) Weight in Evaluation

Providing creative programs to meet the needs of underserved, diverse, and low to moderate income Sandy Springs residents	40%
Impact (number of Sandy Springs residents served)	20%
Program performance measures	15%
Financial Reports	10%
Tenure of nonprofits	5%
Program partnerships (two or more nonprofits providing programs together)	5%
Matching funding	5%

Results

The Evaluation Committee members first reviewed the Proposals individually and then met as a group to discuss the Proposals and develop final recommendations. The following tables outline the Evaluation Committee's recommendations for the FY 2026 Program.

Nonprofit Organization	Program	FY2025 Total Award	Score	Recommended Award
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Los Ninos Primero Inc.	Provide performing arts and cultural programs for underserved middle and high school students. The year-round program will continue to deliver classes, workshops, and performing opportunities, to include drama, dance, music, and visual arts for over 400 low-income Latino residents.	\$15,173	98	\$15,000
Sandy Springs Mission Inc,	Provide tennis and baseball afterschool and summer camp programs to more than 400 low-income elementary and middle school students.	\$14,222	97.25	\$15,000
Horizons Atlanta Inc.	Provides a tuition-free summer learning and enrichment program serving 150 K–8 students annually. Scholars enroll after kindergarten and return each year through 8th grade, supporting long-term academic growth, social-emotional development, and family stability. Students gain an average of 6–8 weeks of reading and math growth each summer and build essential swimming skills, confidence, and readiness for high school and post secondary pathways.	NA	96.75	\$15,000
Art Sandy Springs Inc.	Provide an art camp scholarship program to strengthen the Sandy Springs community by increasing diversity, building social skills, supporting families, and fostering inclusion. Each weekly camp has a unique, creative theme and diverse art activities with different mediums are designed around each theme	NA	93.75	\$8,400
Georgia Ensemble Theatre Company	Partner with Sandy Springs Education Force to provide an after-school theatrical program for the spring semester of 2026 at SS Charter Middle School. Throughout the duration of the	NA	93.75	\$15,000

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	spring semester, teaching artists will teach the students the essential skills of theatre, using exercises and scene work to train students in voice, movement, and characterization. Students will then assist with the production of the school's spring show.			
La Amistad Inc.	Implement health and wellness programs for underserved, diverse, and low-to-moderate-income residents. These programs will provide accessible fitness, nutrition education, and mental wellness resources to promote healthier lifestyles for both adults and children.	\$14,308	93.75	\$15,000
Djoli Kelen Inc	Implement the Sandy Springs Cultural Arts Exposure & Education Initiative, a multi-week community program designed to provide immersive African and Diasporic dance, music, cultural history, and storytelling workshops for Sandy Springs residents. The project will incorporate classes, youth engagement activities, matinée performances, community demonstrations, and intergenerational cultural exchanges.	NA	88.75	\$15,000
Sandy Springs Arts Foundation Inc	Develop and implement “ArtBeat...Where Kids Sing, Dance, Create, and Imagine.” The exposition, held on February 7th at the Byers Theatre provides a platform for our public-school student artists, including those proficient in both the performing and visual arts.	NA	84.5	\$15,000
Heal Thy Lineage Inc	NA	NA	67	\$0
Inside Out Consulting LLC	NA	NA	0	\$0
Jump Start Gymnastics	NA	NA	0	\$0

The maximum amount available for funding is \$15,000.00 per organization. Most of the applicants requested this amount except Art Sandy Springs, Inc. which requested \$8,400.00. Djoli Kelen Inc also requested \$18,924.00, which exceeds the maximum award amount.

Upon review of the application submitted by Heal Thy Lineage Inc, staff determined that they did not provide adequate financial documentation to meet the requirements of the grant application. Therefore, no funds are recommended for award. Staff also determined that Inside Out Consulting, LLC and Jump Start Gymnasium Foundation Nonprofit Corporation are for-profit companies and are therefore disqualified from applying.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, to Award Fiscal Year 2026 Nonprofit Arts and Recreation Program Contracts and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreements

Councilmember Kelley asked what is the timeline when organizations will receive funding?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said after approval, Purchasing will draft and submit the contracts for signature. They will return to the City for processing and Finance will issue checks.

Councilmember Kelley asked will funds need to be spent by June 30?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said no. The programs are not just summer camps. Several programs are school programs in the fall semester and organizations have until Dec 15, 2026 to finish the program, and submit all reporting.

Councilmember Kelley asked how does the timeline for this year compare to last year?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said the RFP was out sooner this year compared to the prior year. We wanted funds to be received as quickly as possible so organizations can hire staff, buy materials, and more for the program.

Councilmember Kelley asked what is the barrier for possibly having a second round?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said this information can be discussed with city management and provided to Council.

Councilmember John Paulson said it is rare that the City has an excess of about \$90,000 in grant money. Has feedback been received from organizations that missed the opportunity to apply for funding?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said funding this year was \$200,000, compared to \$150,000, due to the number of applications we previously received. We wanted to get the RFP and funds out quickly due to the process with the programs. We notified organizations that received prior funding of the solicitation deadline but some missed the opportunity to submit.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said there should be a second round of funding for eligible non-profits with good programs. Also, Staff should consider providing more funds or a flexible cap for instance to avoid doing a second round of funding. How will Council be briefed on the performance of these non-profits?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said will return to Council next year with an update after the annual reports are finalized.

Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky said my support is also for a second round of funding. This is the best use of the City's money to invest in kids and support these wonderful non-profits. In the future, maybe this can be advertised via social media tools. Also consider soliciting feedback from grant recipients about what worked or could be streamlined in the future.

Dan Lee, City Attorney, said this expenditure may be labeled a grant, but it is a contract where parties must produce a quid pro quo in exchange for funding and payment made by the City, and there are compliance provisions. This is a bidding process and not just a request for funding.

Mayor Paul asked is this in order to be compliant with the gratuities clause of the Georgia Constitution?

City Attorney Lee said yes.

Councilmember Kelley said an email was sent to me from an organization on the day the solicitation was due to indicate their interest in grant programs. Thankfully they made the list of recipients. Is there an email distribution list for organizations that were not prior recipients?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said we partner with Civic Roundtable to post solicitations to organizations and to past applicants. We also hope that the information is spread through word of mouth, to receive as many applications as possible.

Councilmember Kelley asked can an alert be set-up in Bonfire, the procurement platform?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said you can register as a user and set-up an alert for what you want be notified about.

Councilmember Kelley asked as part of the contracts, is recognition of the City of Sandy Springs negotiated?

Director of Recreation and Parks Walker said it is usually done though not in the contract language.

Councilmember Paulson said my request is for Staff to return to Council with a plan for a second round of funding because the date changed.

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said the date was moved up at the request of the prior Council because of some confusion with folks wanting to get this out as early as possible. We can put out another round using the same criteria, if there is an interest in spending the remaining \$90,000. My recommendation is nothing should change other than to say, if you have received funding in round one, you are not eligible to apply. My concern is if we wait to bring a plan for Council, this will delay funds further because the application period should open for thirty days, as with this solicitation.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-009

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- D. **2026-019** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Supplemental Project Framework Agreement No. 1 to the Original Project Framework Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Design of the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project, S2105, PI 0019793 and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Agreement

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Approve the Supplemental Project Framework Agreement No. 1 to the Original Project Framework Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Design of the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project, S2105, PI 0019793 and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Agreement.

The original GDOT PFA for this project, dated November 13, 2023, was approved by Mayor and City Council on June 20, 2023 and provided \$960,000 in federal funding for preliminary engineering (PE) funds with a Local match of 20% (or \$240,000) to develop the project concept. The PFA included the cost of the concept development for the Project, which was awarded to Heath & Lineback, Inc on July 16, 2024.

In April 2024, the City requested funds from the Atlanta Regional Commission (“ARC”) to cover the cost of the Right of Way Acquisition in the amount of \$3,092,000. This request was approved and the Specific Activity Agreement for the Right of Way will be sent at the appropriate time, if required. Additionally, in October 2025 the City requested additional PE funds from the ARC to cover the cost of the preliminary and final design required for the project in the amount of \$2,224,000.00. This request was also approved, and the Supplemental Agreement reflects that additional design funding.

	PE		ROW		CST	
	Federal	Local	Federal	Local	Federal	Local
Original PFA	\$960,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Approved Right of Way Funding			\$3,092,000.00	\$980,000.00		
Supplemental No. 1	\$2,224,000.00	\$556,000.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$3,184,000.00	\$796,000.00	\$3,092,000.00	\$980,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to Approve the Supplemental Project Framework Agreement No. 1 to the Original Project Framework Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Design of the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project, S2105, PI 0019793 and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Agreement.

Councilmember Kelley asked when will the public open house be held?

Public Works Director Martin said February 10, 2026.

Councilmember Kelley asked is there flexibility with the project?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. The open house will present concept plans as developed based on feedback from prior open houses, and based on current knowledge and current approach.

Councilmember Kelley asked will Staff discuss with the land owners?

Public Works Director Martin said we have been doing this. There was a meeting in August regarding the traffic signal, but there has been no progress reported to date from the developer.

Councilmember Kelley said the City should do what it can though at an impasse with the owners.

Public Works Director Martin said this may not be an impasse. They were informed at the meeting what the project could accommodate, and were given suggestions to research, to make relocated signal more feasible. To date, they have not done that.

Councilmember Kelley asked how much time do they have to respond?

Public Works Director Martin said there is not much time. Part of the challenge is the City must keep the project schedule with GDOT and maintain the commitment to expend the funds as proposed. Should opportunities arise, we can explore.

Councilmember Kelley asked do we have the first half of the year?

Public Works Director Martin said this information from the schedule is not available tonight but can be provided to Council.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-010

- E. **2026-020** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Change Order 1 for Additional Scope of Work and Associated Fees from BCC Engineering, LLC d/b/a Heath & Lineback Engineers Inc. for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Revised Contract Documents

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Approve Change Order 1 for Additional Scope of Work and Associated Fees from BCC Engineering, LLC d/b/a Heath & Lineback Engineers Inc. for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Revised Contract Documents.

The Mayor and City Council awarded the contract for survey and concept development services in the amount of \$1,149,303.13 on July 16, 2024. A Notice to Proceed (“NTP”) was issued on September 23, 2024. The original scope of work, dated May 29, 2024, included survey and concept development services for the Project.

On July 24, 2025, Heath & Lineback. submitted a change order request for additional funds in the amount of \$2,732,395.14 to complete design services for the Project, including preliminary design, final design, and construction phase services. Design support during the bid, award, and construction phase services, as well as design support during the bidding, award, and construction phases was also included.

Deliverables under Change Order 1 include the following:

- Preliminary Plans

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- Preliminary Public Information Open House
- Right of Way Plans
- Final Construction Plans, Specifications & Cost Estimate (“PS&E”)
- Construction Services Task

The schedule for the Change Order aligns with the Georgia Department of Transportation ("GDOT") Scheduled Let Date of February 2029.

The total proposed fee for this Change Order is \$2,732,395.14. With the approval of Change Order 1, the total contract amount will be \$3,881,698.27. Sufficient funds are available within the Project budget to support this work. An additional \$2,224,000.00 in federal funding was requested and received from the Atlanta Regional Commission in support of this Change Order.

Mayor Paul asked is GDOT expected to let this project in February 2029, three years before they start letting the contract?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. That is the scheduled construction let.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to Approve Change Order 1 for Additional Scope of Work and Associated Fees from BCC Engineering, LLC d/b/a Heath & Lineback Engineers Inc. for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Revised Contract Documents.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked is this a request for funding and not to determine what is in or out of scope?

Public Works Director Martin said this is the contract scope with Heath & Lineback Engineers.

Councilmember Mular said the diagram shows a spur that GDOT may build on the north side. When this is approved how will this have any bearing on the project coming on Roberts Drive?

Public Works Director Martin said for the public open house on February 10, the most current concept plan will be shared with the public for feedback. That concept plan shows a sidewalk only on Roberts Drive, not a sidepath. Information will be confirmed in the open house.

Councilmember Mular asked is this on the north side?

Public Works Director Martin said yes.

Councilmember Mular asked is there currently a sidewalk on the south side?

Public Works Director Martin said no. The new concept plan is not there yet by virtue of the open house, to share information and gather comments.

Councilmember Paulson said this project is about one hundred feet off Roswell Road to accommodate the change of how you exit Roberts Drive. Council’s decision has no bearing on what happens to the rest of Roberts Drive going east.

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Public Works Director Martin said that is correct. The open house functions to receive feedback and we make recommendations from there.

Councilmember Paulson said the public may not be in favor of a sidewalk on the north side of Roberts Drive. Looking forward to the meeting on February 10.

Councilmember Kelley asked is it customary to have a change order and not rebid in this type of situation?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. It is a subsequent award of the task order and there is no change to the scope of the project. It is a continuation of the project. ARC and GDOT have reviewed and support this.

Councilmember Kelley asked does \$2,700,000 fall within the estimate of what it should cost?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. We also negotiated the fees associated with the \$2,700,000 in the change order.

Mayor Paul said when the original bid was made, there were a lot of details they did not have.

Public Works Director Martin said there may be possible adjustments to details as we move forward.

Mayor Paul said as GDOT gave more information on their plans, the City is adjusting the contract that was awarded. At the time of the award, it was anticipated that these changes would occur?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. We expect further changes as the project advances. This is the life of a major federal project.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-011

- F. **2026-021** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of an Infrastructure and Capital Investment Application for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment to a Local Funding Match

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Authorize the Submission of an Infrastructure and Capital Investment Application for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment to a Local Funding Match

The ARC periodically opens a call for projects to award federal funding to projects for inclusion in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The last ARC project solicitation was in 2024. The current project solicitation opened on December 1, 2025 and closes on January 23, 2026.

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The City of Sandy Springs received multiple rounds of federal funding for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard project (S2105, FN-352, PI 0019793) in prior TIP Solicitations. It received \$960,000 in Planning and Engineering funds in 2022 and \$3,920,000 in Right-of-Way funds in 2024. The proposed project will improve safety and mobility for all users on Roswell Road between Dunwoody Place and the Chattahoochee River. This project will make improvements to the Dunwoody Place/Roswell Road intersection, add a new signalized intersection between Roberts Drive and Dunwoody Place, create a connector road between Roberts Drive and North River Parkway, install a landscaped, raised median along Roswell Road, install pedestrian lighting on both sides of Roswell Road, and install a 10 to 12-foot-wide multi-use path with landscaped buffer on the east side and a 6-foot wide sidewalk with a landscaped buffer on the west side of Roswell Road. The raised median will divide northbound and southbound traffic and implement access management improvements to increase corridor safety and operations.

The City is seeking funding through the 2026 ARC TIP Solicitation for Utility and Construction work phases of the project.

This project will improve mobility and safety of the northernmost segment of Roswell Road in Sandy Springs in efforts to assist in the revitalization of the North End to create a more walkable, livable community for residents. The City has undertaken several efforts recently to encourage reinvestment in the north end of Roswell Road and enhance the quality of life for Sandy Springs residents. One key takeaway from these planning efforts is the importance of the City investing in the infrastructure along the corridor to make the area more walkable and safer for all who travel in this area.

The proposed project has been included in several of the City's adopted plans, including the Trail Master Plan (2019) and the Transportation Master Plan (2021). This project is also part of the City's 2021 Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) program.

In order for the City to expedite the project, staff recommends seeking funding through the 2026 TIP Solicitation. GDOT has been involved in the current project development.

Staff has prepared a cost estimate for funding of \$16,530,000.00. In order for the City to be eligible for federal funding, it is required to fund a minimum of 20% or \$3,306,000.00 to match the federal funding request of \$13,224,000.00. The City has sufficient funding for the local match in the TSPLOST program budgeted under project S2105.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to Authorize the Submission of an Infrastructure and Capital Investment Application for the Roswell Road North End Boulevard Project to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment to a Local Funding Match.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked will this grant application be alignment neutral for what will happen in the future on Roberts Drive, and the City will not be set into whatever is put forth in the program?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. The City will still need to meet the scope and intent of the North End Boulevard Project. There is a beginning and end point that was defined with GDOT and ARC. We may need to adjust in time but there will be no compliance issues.

Councilmember Mular asked will this bind the location on the north or south side?

Public Works Director Martin said not at a concept level.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-012

- G. **2026-022** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation to Fund a Concept Development Study of Improvements to Northside Drive between Interstate North Parkway and New Northside Drive and to Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation to Fund a Concept Development Study of Improvements to Northside Drive between Interstate North Parkway and New Northside Drive and to Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match.

The ARC periodically opens a call for projects to award federal funding to projects for inclusion in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The last ARC project solicitation was in 2024. The current project solicitation opened on December 1, 2025 and closes on January 23, 2026. It includes the opportunity for jurisdictions to apply for concept development studies, a key step in early project development required before a project can be fully designed and constructed.

The need for operational and safety improvements on Northside Drive between Interstate North Parkway and New Northside Drive was identified in the Powers Ferry Transportation Study in 2024 as a short-term project. The study produced a preferred alternative for Northside Drive which provides comprehensive transportation infrastructure to make driving safer and provide facilities for walking and bicycling. Other recommended improvements include signal upgrades, safety improvements to improve lighting, and treatments to discourage wrong-way driving. There are existing sidewalk gaps that can be included in the scope of the study if funded.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation to Fund a Concept Development Study of Improvements to Northside Drive between Interstate North Parkway and New Northside Drive and to Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match.

Councilmember Chinsky said this presentation mentioned the Powers Ferry Transportation Study is done. For this application, is the \$1,100,000.00 estimate for the study only?

Public Works Director Martin said correct. This is about concept study and getting early design work started.

Councilmember Chinsky asked will this study in addition to the previous studies position the City for more federal funds in the future?

Public Works Director Martin said yes.

Councilmember Chinsky asked what is the timeline?

Public Works Director Martin said first ARC must decide if they will support funding the study. Then there will be framework agreements with GDOT and more. It is about five years from initial dollars to execution assuming challenges.

Councilmember Chinsky said the large hill constructed at Old Powers Ferry will come to where this sidepath will hopefully be, and it will connect residents to the Chattahoochee River area. This can be prioritized since it may come in about five years. How does this fit in with the scoring system already in place?

Public Works Director Martin said that project does not score highly in comparison to other projects and one challenge is that it is expensive. However, there are some related gap fill considerations, it builds connectivity, and more.

Councilmember Mular asked what is the plan if the City does not receive money from ARC for this project and others?

Public Works Director Martin said we will look for other funding sources and programs available, but we expect ARC to support this study.

Mayor Paul said the study is the first step in the process of getting approved by ARC as they must answer to GDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

Public Works Director Martin said we consider all available money as their requirements shift in determining a good candidate within the City's overall transportation program.

Councilmember John Paulson asked is this in sync with the list of recommended T-SPLOST projects for this year?

Public Works Director Martin said in May we will need a proposed T-SPLOST program. We can create some flexibility but voters need to understand what improvements they are voting on.

Mayor Paul said there were previous situations where federal funding came available when we had T-SPLOST projects, which frees T-SPLOST to shift to other projects. We can do both and make adjustments based on how that reality evolves.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-013

- H. **2026-023** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to Produce a Concept Development Study for Peachtree Dunwoody Road Improvements between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match

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William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to Produce a Concept Development Study for Peachtree Dunwoody Road Improvements between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match.

The ARC periodically opens a call for projects to award federal funding to projects for inclusion in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The last ARC project solicitation was in 2024. The current project solicitation opened on December 1, 2025 and closes on January 23, 2026. It includes the ability for jurisdictions to apply for concept development studies, a key step in early project development required before a project can be fully designed and constructed.

The need for operational and safety improvements along Peachtree Dunwoody Road Improvements between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive was identified in the Transportation Master Plan in 2021. The North Springs MARTA Corridor Study, completed in February 2025, included a preferred alternative concept layout for the corridor as well as potential development ideas for the MARTA North Springs Station site.

The concept layout produced in the North Springs MARTA Corridor Study includes adding a 12-foot-wide sidepath along the west side of roadway and a 6-foot wide sidewalk on the east side and optimizes existing rights-of-way. This proposed sidepath will provide those who walk and bike a safer and more comfortable travel way between the North Springs MARTA Station and area residences and businesses. The proposed concept includes intersection improvements at six intersections along the corridor. The next step in moving this project forward is to undertake a thorough concept study. A concept study will assess project deliverability risk and assess possible environmental, community, and right-of-way impacts and prepare the project for preliminary engineering.

Staff has prepared a cost estimate for funding the study of \$2,000,000.00. In order for the City to be eligible for federal funding, it is required to fund a minimum of 20% or \$400,000.00, to match the federal funding request of \$1,600,000.00.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to Authorize the Submission of a Grant Application to Produce a Concept Development Study for Peachtree Dunwoody Road Improvements between Abernathy Road and Spalding Drive to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-01-014

- I. **2026-024** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Roberts Drive Sidepath Phase 1 Infrastructure and Capital Investment Grant Application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a recommendation to Authorize the Submission of a Roberts Drive Sidepath Phase 1 Infrastructure and Capital Investment Grant Application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and

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Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match.

The ARC periodically opens a call for projects to award federal funding to projects for inclusion in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The last ARC project solicitation was in 2024. The current project solicitation opened on December 1, 2025 and closes on January 23, 2026.

The entire Roberts Drive Sidepath project (S2123) limits are Roberts Drive, between Roswell Road and Dunwoody Place. The City has completed a scoping study and based on that study, will pursue the project in two phases. The first phase will connect Dunwoody Place to just south of Summer Crossing. GDOT has constructed a sidepath on the south side of Roberts Drive as part of the Roberts Drive Bridge Replacement over SR 400. Phase 1 of the Roberts Drive Sidepath will construct the improvements between Dunwoody Place and Island Ferry Road and include a mid-block crossing just south of Summer Crossing. The City is seeking right-of-way, construction and utility work funds for Phase 1 of the Roberts Drive Sidepath project through the 2026 ARC TIP Solicitation.

The Roberts Drive Sidepath Phase 1 project will add a 12-foot-wide sidepath along Roberts Drive from Island Ford Park to Dunwoody Place. The sidepath will provide those on foot or bike a safer, separated path to connect residences, Sandy Springs Middle School, MARTA bus stops, and trails adjacent to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Over 2,500 residents live adjacent to this section of the proposed path in Phase 1. It will add pedestrian facilities where sidewalk does not currently exist.

The proposed project has been included in a number of the City's adopted plans, including the Bicycle, Pedestrian, Trail Plan (2014), the Trails Master Plan (2019), the Transportation Master Plan (2021), and Sidewalk Master Plan (2024).

The City's TSPLOST revenue will provide sufficient local match for the project. As such, staff recommends seeking right-of-way, construction and utility work funding through the 2026 TIP Solicitation.

Staff has prepared a cost estimate for funding of \$2,250,000.00. In order for the City to be eligible for federal funding, it is required to fund a minimum of 20% or \$450,000.00, to match the federal funding request of \$1,800,000.00. There are sufficient funds in TSPLOST to provide the local match.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Authorize the Submission of a Roberts Drive Sidepath Phase 1 Infrastructure and Capital Investment Grant Application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Solicitation and Make a Commitment of Local Funding Match.

Councilmember Paulson said people coming west on Roberts Drive are unaware of the high bridge and the line of sight is not very good coming from east to west. As part of this project, can this be signalized so that the people pulling out from Pride Place know if a car is coming?

Public Works Director Martin said **Councilmember Kelley** identified the same challenge months ago. Once the project is implemented, safety will improve at this intersection. Driver awareness is needed for drivers existing Pride Place and not a stop and go signal. We will consider other tactics and strategies.

Councilmember Paulson asked can this be funded with the project?

Public Works Director Martin said the City has other accounts if it cannot be funded within this scope.

Mayor Paul said we can commit to creating a solution but it depends on the grant criteria for what is funded.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked is this for Phase 1 only?

Public Works Director Martin said yes.

Councilmember Mular asked when will Phase 2 resume?

Public Works Director Martin said the studies are complete as contracted with the consultant. Feedback has been received and we will consider if we should revive this phase.

Councilmember Mular asked was a readout received from the feedback at the public open house in October 2024?

Public Works Director Martin said we have consolidation of all comments from that open house.

Councilmember Paulson said please provide this information to Council.

Councilmember Mular said it will be great to have this and for the new councilmembers. When this phase is picked up, it will be its own sub-project and go through the normal public open house and more.

Public Works Director Martin said yes. It will be another project for consideration. We will complete a concept study and reference other studies.

Councilmember Mular said a lot of that study was a desktop study and the next iteration would be more in the field study.

Public Works Director Martin said there were no surveyors on the ground taking measures and more as a part of that initial Roberts Drive Sidepath phase.

Mayor Paul said the City may not receive all funding but we must ask for it. The City has received money from ARC as a result of having the resources to execute these projects.

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

Resolution No. 2026-01-015

X. Reports

A. 2026-025 Mayor and Council Report

Mayor Rusty Paul said the City hosted its 21st annual MLK Life and Legacy Family Experience Event celebrating the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was a great program for families and this was the largest crowd the City had. Thank you Staff for your efforts in a phenomenal event.

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The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Cities United Summit 2026 is planned for this weekend, but inclement weather is anticipated. GMA must assess to determine if the meeting should happen.

Eden Freeman, City Manager, provided a weather update:

We are actively watching the system that has rapidly become a very large system with the potential to have significant impacts in the City of Sandy Springs, and further into the Eastern Seaboard. This is a different storm than what the City is used to. We plowed snow for the first time in Sandy Springs during Winter Storm Cora, but if this storm comes the way it is forecasted, we will not be doing any of that because half inch to three inches of ice is expected. Furthermore, the temperatures will not be warming up enough on Sunday and Monday to have significant thawing. The storm is currently forecasted to impact our area midday on Saturday into the evening. We are coordinating with the Performing Arts Center to determine if Saturday's planned performance needs to be rescheduled. We also begun inter-departmental coordination efforts. The Fire Department was testing all of their chainsaws to ensure there was enough fuel and oil to use them, because if we get more than a half inch of ice, trees will be falling. Georgia Power confirmed they are preparing and our representative assured me that they had a coordinating call today, and will be sending out a communication to all of their stakeholders tomorrow. We will provide an update when possible. Everyone is encouraged to register for Everbridge alerts at sandyspringsga.gov. Assuming this storm hits and that we activate our Emergency Operations Center, we will send out periodic updates to Council to communicate with folks. We anticipate convening our emergency operations team later this week once we have more certainty on what the winter weather will look like. In the meantime, folks can begin to plan ahead and think about stockpiling things in their home to make sure they have flashlights, batteries and alternate heat sources.

Mayor Paul said if the City gets three inches of ice, power lines will be down all over, and trees will fall in large numbers. The biggest challenge will be preparing to be without electricity for an extended period with frigid temperatures, and making sure you have the ability to stay warm. Take precautions accordingly and ensure you have the supplies and resources to withstand a few days of possibly being without electricity. It is going to take a while for Georgia Power to get everything restored. Sandy Spring Police and Fire will be out looking to secure the homeless, and they do a great job in times like this to make sure these folks are taken care of to the fullest extent possible. It is important that we all plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Councilmember Mary Ford thanked Staff for their efforts in planning and executing the renaming of Windsor Meadows Park to Tibby DeJulio Park. It was a beautiful sunny day for such a ceremony and former **Councilmember DeJulio** appreciated it.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said **Councilmember Melissa Mular** and myself are excited to take a new six-hour training addressing homelessness at GMA's conference on Friday. The new classes are amazing because a lot of people from city council are there and bring a wealth of knowledge and wisdom.

Mayor Paul said the state recognizes that homelessness is a problem, and the governor allocated \$50,000,000 towards homeless grants in the proposed budget. That is the first allocation of state funds for local governments to deal with the challenges of homelessness, and we appreciate it. GMA is also taking advantage of this new focus to help cities learn how to better manage some of these challenges.

Councilmember Kelley asked does the City have warming stations?

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Eden Freeman, City Manager, said the City does not have shelter services, but the lobby of City Hall would be available if there is staffing at the front desk,. The City is partnering with religious institutions who may have an assembly hall available. More information will be provided to Council later this week.

Mayor Paul said during Snowmageddon in 2014, many churches, synagogues, and more establishments in the City opened their doors to people who were stranded. Once the ice comes, it will be challenging to transport people to a shelter. We will also encourage local nonprofits to help the City deal with some of these challenges. We encourage everyone to get everything done and get to where you need to be before midday Saturday.

Councilmember Kelley said last week Inspire Brands acknowledged the members of the City's Juneteenth Planning Committee. Their annual MLK Day event included a dialogue with their CEO, Paul Brown. Thank you to those who were able to attend. Also, I was honored to attend the City of Brookhaven's 10th annual MLK Day celebration at Lynwood Park historic community. These different types of MLK events are appreciated where during the day, Sandy Springs had a great family friendly event and at night Brookhaven had a dinner that featured a keynote speaker.

B. 2026-026 Staff Reports

1. November 2025 Unaudited Financials

Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the November 2025 unaudited financials.

The City is at 41.67% of the fiscal year. Revenues are at 63.45%, and expenditures are at 37.23% of the budget. In the packet are bank account balances as of November 30, 2025 and lists all accounts at the City. Also in the packet is the three-year view of interest earnings in the Georgia Fund 1 and Truist bank accounts, and a five-year trend of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). The City achieved 100% of the budgeted property taxes for the fiscal year.

XI. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

XII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.