

**Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES**  
**Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference**  
**June 16, 2026 Following Work Session**  
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**Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on June 16, 2026 Following Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.**

**I. Call to Order**

**Mayor Rusty Paul** called the meeting to order at 7:09 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. **Theodore Davis III, 272 Summer Drive, Sandy Springs** – Pre-Approved Housing Plans

**V. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, 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. 2026-162 Meeting Minutes**

June 2, 2026 City Council Work Session

June 2, 2026 City Council Meeting

- B. 2026-163** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve and Accept a Temporary Construction Easement, from Christopher Hopkins and Christa Hopkins on Property Located at 1188 Hope Road Lying in Land Lot 363 of the 6<sup>th</sup> District, (Tax ID #06-0363-0004-012-9) Fulton County, City of Sandy Springs, Georgia, in Relation to the T0033-10 CDBG Hope Road Sidewalk Project

**Resolution No. 2026-06-089**

- C. 2026-164** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve and Accept an Agreement to Purchase Fee Simple Right of Way from The Link Counseling Center, Inc., on That Certain Tract of Land Located at 348 Mt. Vernon Highway (Tax ID #17-0071-0004-004-6) in Land Lot 71 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia in Relation to the TS191 Johnson Ferry Road and Mount Vernon Highway Improvements Project

**Resolution No. 2026-06-090**

**VII. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**VIII. Public Hearing**

- A. **2026-165** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Provide for the Adoption of a Budget, Its Execution and Effect for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 (FY 2027)  
Second Public Hearing

**Eden Freeman, City Manager**, presented an Ordinance to Provide for the Adoption of a Budget, Its Execution and Effect for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 (FY 2027).  
Second Public Hearing

This is the final proposed FY 2027 budget for the City of Sandy Springs which began in January 2026. This budget is based upon the City's millage rate of 4.731 mills, which remains unchanged since the City's inception, and no tax or fee increases are included. There is a total budget of \$1,089,000,000 and a General Fund of \$170,393,242 which fully funds the City's operations for FY 2027 and supports the work of 664 employees who provide exemplary service to Sandy Springs residents.

Thank you to **Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, Kristin Byars Smith, Assistant City Manager, Keith Sanders, Assistant City Manager, Michael Hietter, Budget Manager, Tonya Yarbrough, Budget Analyst, Caroline Galvin, Executive Project Manager** and all department heads for their efforts in completing this document.

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

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Adopt the 2025 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Ordinance No. 2026-06-012**

- B. **2026-166** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update

**Michele McIntosh-Ross, Planning & Zoning Manager**, presented a resolution to Adopt the 2025 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update.

The Annual Financial Report has been adjusted to reflect the fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 beginning balances, impact fees collected, and accrued interest for each public facility type. The Work Program was updated to show changes in estimated costs for specific Public Safety and Road Improvements projects and to include sub-projects of intersection improvements, as listed in the Community Work Program chapter of the Capital Improvements Element ("CIE") adopted October 18, 2016.

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All local governments that utilize an impact fee system under the Georgia Development Impact Fee Act (GDIFA) must include a CIE in their comprehensive plans and update the CIE portion of their plan annually. The City of Sandy Springs is required to approve an annual update to the CIE and Short-Term Work Program by June 30, 2026. The CIE Annual Update was prepared in accordance with the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements, and on April 21, 2026 the Mayor and City Council approved a resolution to transmit a draft for regional review. Staff received final approval from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on May 15, 2026, with the recommendation to proceed to formal adoption.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Adopt the 2025 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2026-06-091**

**IX. New Business**

- A. **2026-167** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the City of Sandy Springs General Liability and Other Risk Policies Insurance Renewal for FY 2027

**Elizabeth Awbrey, HR & Risk Management Director**, and **Mike Royal, Partner, Partners Risk Services**, presented a recommendation to Approve the City of Sandy Springs General Liability and Other Risk Policies Insurance Renewal for FY 2027.

Staff, working with Partners Risk Services, LLC, has conducted market research and an extensive inventory of current City assets and liabilities to provide the attached proposal. The premiums described in Exhibit A of a Resolution will be funded through the City's General Fund as approved for Fiscal Year 2027. Sufficient funds have been included in the proposed budget. The increase to the premium is 5.59% with some increases in deductibles that are consistent with trends experienced by peer municipalities in the Atlanta region.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky**, to Approve the City of Sandy Springs General Liability and Other Risk Policies Insurance Renewal for FY 2027.

**Councilmember John Paulson** asked was the Milton case factored into this insurance evaluation?

**Partners Risk Services Partner Royal** said although most of the case was settled, it was reopened and returned to Supreme Court.

**Dan Lee, City Attorney**, said the case went to the trial court in Fulton County, to Court of Appeals then to the Supreme Court which overturned. The biggest problem was expanding the roadway which diminished the area of sovereign immunity. The case is back in the Court of Appeals solely on the issue of whether there is enough evidence for a nuisance, which cities can be sued but counties cannot. The Supreme Court's analysis and the records indicate there was no evidence of a nuisance. This should not be an issue in the City's insurance next year.

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**Councilmember Paulson** said there is uncertainty in the insurance markets, and it is good most of the case is settled.

**Partners Risk Services Partner Royal** said also with tort reform legislation there is a calming effect of the insurance marketplace.

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

**Resolution No. 2026-06-092**

- B. **2026-168** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve a Renewal to the Existing Agreement with American Facilities Inc. for Housekeeping and Janitorial Services and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract

**Dave Wells, Director of Facilities/Capital Construction and Building Operations**, presented a recommendation to Approve a Renewal to the Existing Agreement with American Facilities Inc. for Housekeeping and Janitorial Services and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract.

Since January 2019, the City has used American Facility Services, Inc. (“AFS”) for housekeeping through a piggyback procurement based on the City of Alpharetta’s competitively awarded contract. The City Manager first executed a five-month agreement on January 28, 2019 for \$114,750.00, followed by Council approval of a consolidated citywide contract on December 17, 2019 for \$36,525.00 per month. which remained in effect through June 30, 2023. This contract was amended in April 2020 to temporarily reduce fees due to COVID-19 and in March 2022 to add the Bluestone Building and expand Recreation and Parks services.

In 2023, staff recommended extending the contract effective July 1, 2023 at \$461,436.00 annually (or \$38,453.00 per month) with two additional one-year renewal options, citing AFS’s consistent, high-quality service and maintenance of the original 2019 pricing structure. The City is using the piggyback method for the updated consolidated proposal from a competitively bid contract awarded by the City of Alpharetta to AFS. The Alpharetta contract states that Contract No. 22 117 was based on Alpharetta’s Request for Proposal dated March 24, 2022 and AFS’s proposal dated April 28, 2022. The Alpharetta agreement was executed in June 2022, authorizes services beginning July 1, 2022, and has a five year term through June 30, 2027.

The City’s Purchasing Policy permits the City to acquire goods or services through governmental agency contracts and through competitively established cooperative or collaborative purchasing contracts when deemed to be in the best interest of the City. The policy also defines piggyback procurement as a form of intergovernmental cooperative purchasing in which another public entity competitively procures and enters into a contract that allows other public purchasing units to purchase from the selected vendor under the same terms and conditions.

AFS has provided housekeeping and janitorial services to the City since 2019 and has demonstrated satisfactory performance under the existing agreement. The City of Alpharetta’s contract was competitively procured, remains active through June 30, 2027, and supports the City’s requested FY27 renewal term. Based on AFS’s performance history, the competitive basis of the source contract, and the City’s ability to use piggyback procurement under the Purchasing Policy, staff finds that renewal of the updated consolidated proposal is in the best interest of the City. Under the contract proposal, the monthly

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amount would be \$51,787.00 with a total budget annual cost of \$626,444.00. There are sufficient funds in FY27 proposed budget.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, to Approve a Renewal to the Existing Agreement with American Facilities Inc. for Housekeeping and Janitorial Services and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract.

**Councilmember Paulson** said the piggyback agreement with the Alpharetta ends next year. Will Sandy Springs have an independent agreement?

**Director of Facilities/Capital Construction and Building Operations Wells** said yes.

**Mayor Paul** said American Facility Services has done a phenomenal job for the City of Sandy Springs.

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

**Resolution No. 2026-06-093**

- C. **2026-169** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Change Order Three to the Existing Contract with Backbone Infrastructure, LLC as it Relates to the Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project (Project No. S2187) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to Approve Change Order Three to the Existing Contract with Backbone Infrastructure, LLC as it Relates to the Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project (Project No. S2187) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents.

Mayor and City Council awarded the construction of the Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project to Backbone Infrastructure, LLC in the amount of \$1,692,376.00 on September 17, 2024. Notice to Proceed for construction was given January 6, 2025.

There have been two (2) previous change orders: Change Order One, in the amount of \$140,375.00 was approved by the City Manager on June 23, 2025, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,832,751.00. This change order also extended the construction contract by ninety (90) calendar days. This change order included the work associated with temporary lane realignment to allow all lanes to stay active during the construction of Wall #2. Change Order Two in the amount of \$58,198.10 was approved by the City Manager on March 2, 2026, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,890,949.10. This change order included additional quantity to cover overages for paving items, which were funded by the Paving Program (T3000). This change order also included adding water quality inspections to comply with the requirements of the EPD permit, undercutting earthwork to construct Wall #2, and sewer service line conflict resolutions.

Change Order Three is submitted for approval for the following additional costs:

*Additional Granite Wall Cap (\$19,995.03)*

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Granite wall caps were not shown on the Project details for two (2) stone-clad parapet walls. The contractor was directed to add the caps to the walls to match the turn-up walls on the Project. This addition resulted in an overage of the granite wall cap contract quantity.

*Additional Class B Concrete Pavement Widening (\$9,570.60)*

Unexpected field conditions were encountered. The existing shoulder was uneven and did not have an existing gravel base as was expected. To ensure a smooth and functional joint between the pavement widening and the existing pavement, the existing substandard pavement was sawcut at the edge of travel lane. This additional material resulted in an overage of the Class B Pavement Widening contract quantity.

City staff and the project design consultant agree that the addition of the above items was necessary to deliver the Project in alignment with other City infrastructure Projects and were necessary to adhere to the requirements to provide an adequate roadway base. Final acceptance of the Project was given to Backbone on January 20, 2026. The Project has been completed, and no additional time is required. The total proposed fee for Change Order Three is \$29,565.63. This Change Order will bring the total value of change orders for the Project to \$228,138.73. The total construction contract value will be increased to \$1,920,514.73. Sufficient funds are available in the TSPLOST Project S2187 to fund this work.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Approve Change Order Three to the Existing Contract with Backbone Infrastructure, LLC as it Relates to the Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project (Project No. S2187) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents.

**Councilmember John Paulson** said thank you **Public Works Director Martin** and team for your efforts in completing this project.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.  
**Resolution No. 2026-06-094**

- D. **2026-170** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and Cobb County, Georgia for the Restriping of Powers Ferry Road at the Powers Ferry Road Bridge Approach

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and Cobb County, Georgia for the Restriping of Powers Ferry Road at the Powers Ferry Road Bridge Approach.

Powers Ferry Road traverses both Cobb County and the City of Sandy Springs, and the bridge over the Chattahoochee River at Powers Ferry Road at the City/County limits is scheduled for bridge maintenance activities in 2026 by the Georgia Department of Transportation in coordination with Cobb County.

In 2023, Sandy Springs developed an updated roadway striping plan for Powers Ferry Road between the Chattahoochee River to Northside Drive which was undertaken with roadway resurfacing in April 2024. The resulting striping removed one (1) westbound through lane and reallocated roadway space for bicycle lanes and left turn lanes. The Powers Ferry Mobility and Implementation Plan (2024) recommended bicycle/pedestrian improvements on the bridge to better accommodate non-motorized travel on Powers Ferry Road.

With the planned maintenance project (M006531- Interstate North Parkway and Powers Ferry Road at 2 Locations in Cobb - Bridge Rehab), Cobb County, Sandy Springs, and the Georgia Department of Transportation have proposed modification to the roadway striping on the Powers Ferry bridge over the Chattahoochee River to remove one (1) westbound through lane on the bridge and restripe Powers Ferry Road to two (2) travel lanes with on-street bicycle lanes east and westbound. In addition, Cobb County has proposed adding a new bicycle ramp from the westbound Powers Ferry bicycle lane to its off-street shared-use path just west of the bridge and a new pedestrian crossing in Cobb County, west of Riverbend Club Drive.

The resulting roadway cross-section on the Powers Ferry bridge over the Chattahoochee River includes two (2) five-foot bicycle lanes and two (2) eleven-foot vehicular lanes. The proposed restriping in Sandy Springs will occur west of the driveway at 6700 Powers Ferry Road and provides enhanced mobility, accessibility, and safety for those bicycling on the Powers Ferry Road bridge and increases the separation between vehicle traffic and those walking on the narrow sidewalks on the existing bridge.

The proposed project is scheduled to start in late July 2026.

**Motion and second.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky**, seconded by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and Cobb County, Georgia for the Restriping of Powers Ferry Road at the Powers Ferry Road Bridge Approach.

**Councilmember Chinsky** said this is low cost but potentially high impact, and exciting to see. You can get to the Battery from City Hall on sidewalk, except in two places. One is outside of Arlington Cemetery and the other is west of this bridge. Will there be any additional crosswalks or ways for pedestrians to get from the south side of this path to the north side trails? Can the City request Cobb County to add extra sidewalk on their side of the line?

**Public Works Director Martin** said there are no additional crosswalks planned but hopefully there are improvements we can render there. We can also partner with Cobb County to see what the possibilities are.

**Councilmember Chinsky** said many residents walk across the bridge to the river. There should be a crosswalk that lights up so that people can safely get to the north side of the street.

**Kristen Wescott, Public Works Transportation Unit Manager**, said that is a part of their plan for the west.

**Mayor Paul** asked will the work affect the bridge itself?

**Public Works Director Martin** said no. The work is maintenance and repair.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.  
**Resolution No. 2026-06-095**

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- E. **2026-171** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Contract Award to Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc. for Guardrail Replacement and Maintenance Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract

**William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director**, presented a recommendation to Approve Contract Award to Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc. for Guardrail Replacement and Maintenance Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract.

In March 2021, the City engaged an engineering firm to develop plans for replacement of guardrail that does not meet Georgia Department of Transportation (“GDOT”) standards in multiple locations throughout the City. Following that effort the City initiated a guardrail replacement program to address identified deficiencies. Initial construction work was completed under a prior contract; however, nine (9) locations remain that require upgrades to meet current GDOT standards.

To continue this effort, the City issued a new Invitation to Bid (ITB 26-040) to establish a contract for guardrail replacement and maintenance services. This contract will support the completion of the remaining nine (9) locations identified in the original engineering plans and provide ongoing city-wide guardrail maintenance and repair services over a five (5) year term. On February 19, 2026, the City issued an Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform the Services. On April 1, 2026, the City received the following two (2) bids in response to the ITB.

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid</b>
Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc.	\$951,063.40
Reynolds Fence & Guardrail Inc	\$1,445,473.80

Staff evaluated the bids received and determined that Gracie Gray Contractors Inc. submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid. Accordingly, staff recommends award of the contract to Gracie Gray Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$951,063.40. Funding for guardrail replacement and maintenance services is available within the T-7500 Guardrail Replacement Program Account.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to Approve Contract Award to Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc. for Guardrail Replacement and Maintenance Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2026-06-096**

- F. **2026-172** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Submission of an Application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services FY 2026 Technology and Equipment Program for the ChatComm Backup 911 Emergency Communications Center Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement

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**Forrest Bohannon, Police Major**, presented a recommendation to Approve Submission of an Application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services FY 2026 Technology and Equipment Program for the ChatComm Backup 911 Emergency Communications Center Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement.

When the City Hall complex opened in 2018, space was identified to accommodate a backup emergency communications center. Since that time, the City has completed the new Sandy Springs Police Department and Municipal Court Headquarters complex. During the planning process, the City determined that consolidating critical public safety and municipal operations within a centralized campus would provide greater operational efficiency, improved coordination during emergencies, and enhanced resiliency. As a result, the proposed backup communications center is now planned for the new headquarters facility rather than the original City Hall location. The proposed project will establish a backup emergency communications center at the Sandy Springs Police Department and Municipal Headquarters to support ChatComm's primary emergency communications facility. The backup center will provide continuity of operations in the event of a disruption, outage, natural disaster, cyber incident, or other emergencies affecting the primary communications center.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office administers the Technology and Equipment Program (TEP), which provides funding to state, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and related entities for equipment, technology, and interoperable communications systems that enhance public safety, emergency response, and operational effectiveness. The program supports projects that improve law enforcement effectiveness, information sharing, interoperability, and emergency communications capabilities.

In April 2025, the City of Sandy Springs submitted a funding request through the Congressional Directed Spending/Community Project Funding appropriations process to the offices of Rep. McCormick and Rep. McBath for the build-out of the backup emergency communications center. The project was subsequently included in the Congressional Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act on January 23, 2026, making the City eligible to apply for funding through the FY 2026 COPS Office Technology and Equipment Program opportunity.

ChatComm serves as the emergency communications center for Sandy Springs and three neighboring jurisdictions, providing critical 911 call-taking and emergency dispatch services. As public safety agencies continue to rely on increasingly sophisticated communications technologies, ensuring continuity of operations has become essential to maintaining uninterrupted emergency response capabilities. ChatComm's primary communications center is located approximately four miles from the new Sandy Springs Police Department and Municipal Court Headquarters. While the existing facility effectively serves Sandy Springs and its partner jurisdictions, maintaining a geographically separate and fully functional backup center is critical to ensuring continuity of operations during emergencies, natural disasters, cyber incidents, utility failures, or other disruptions affecting the primary communications center. The separation between facilities provides operational redundancy while allowing emergency communications services to continue uninterrupted should the primary center become unavailable.

Currently, ChatComm's backup communications capabilities are limited and rely on only two dedicated communications lines between facilities. During a major emergency, regional crisis, communications outage, or other critical incident, there is a possibility that dispatch personnel could experience difficulties reaching or transitioning operations to the backup location. This creates a vulnerability within the region's emergency communications infrastructure that could impact the continuity of 911 and dispatch services when they are needed most. The proposed backup center will provide the infrastructure necessary for dispatch operations to continue with minimal interruption should the primary communications facility

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become unavailable. Grant funding will support the design, buildout, acquisition, installation, integration, and implementation of the backup emergency communications center. Eligible expenses include communications technology, dispatch equipment, network infrastructure, workstations, connectivity systems, furniture, and other components necessary to establish a fully operational backup facility. Funding will support both the physical construction and outfitting of the center as well as the technology required to ensure seamless continuity of emergency communications operations.

The project will improve system resiliency, strengthen interoperability among public safety agencies, enhance emergency preparedness, and ensure continued delivery of 911 and dispatch services throughout the ChatComm service area. By addressing current limitations in backup communications capabilities and creating a fully operational secondary communications center, the City and its public safety partners will be better positioned to maintain essential emergency services during critical incidents while reducing operational risk and enhancing service reliability for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The City has been approved to receive \$3,031,000 in federal funding through the Congressional Directed Spending/Community Project Funding Program. This application to the COPS Office TEP program is a required step in receive the funding to support the development of the ChatComm Backup 911 Emergency Communications Center. The grant program does not require a local match or cost-sharing contribution.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Approve Submission of an Application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services FY 2026 Technology and Equipment Program for the ChatComm Backup 911 Emergency Communications Center Project and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2026-06-097**

- G. **2026-173** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to Board and Provide for the Housing of Inmates at the Alpharetta Jail, and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Same

**Norman Vik, Police Major**, presented a recommendation to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to Board and Provide for the Housing of Inmates at the Alpharetta Jail, and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Same.

In response to the closure of the City of Smyrna's jail services, the City negotiated a new intergovernmental agreement with the City of Alpharetta for the booking, detention, and housing of Sandy Springs inmates at the Alpharetta Jail Facility located at 2555 Old Milton Parkway. The agreement is effective July 1, 2026, and continues through June 30, 2029, unless earlier terminated in accordance with its terms.

Under the agreement, Alpharetta will book, identify, house, supervise, and provide normal inmate maintenance services for the City's inmates, including sanitation, food, clothing, property storage, 24-hour detention staffing, and routine on-site medical care at no additional charge. Alpharetta will also continue fingerprinting, photographing, and creating booking records through its records management system and may provide or arrange emergency transport to local healthcare facilities when necessary. The City remains responsible for transporting its inmates to Municipal Court, ensuring first appearance compliance,

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conducting GCIC/NCIC warrant checks before release, providing hospital security when inmates are off-site, and paying the costs of off-site medical treatment. The agreement also preserves Sandy Springs' right to use sufficient space within the Alpharetta jail for bond hearings, first appearances, inmate interviews, and similar needs, and it provides audit rights over fees and expenses billed under the agreement.

The agreement requires the City to pay the City of Alpharetta an inmate holding fee of \$165 per inmate for each calendar day an inmate remains detained. In addition, Sandy Springs is responsible for off-site medical costs incurred by its inmates, which creates a variable expense component beyond the daily detention rate. Based on the assumed average daily population of 13 inmates, the projected cost of the Alpharetta option is approximately \$64,350 per month and \$772,200 annually, excluding any off-site medical costs that may arise. Appropriate funding for this agreement is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, subject to Mayor and Council's approval.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia and the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to Board and Provide for the Housing of Inmates at the Alpharetta Jail, and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Same. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2026-06-098**

- H. **2026-174** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the First Amendment to RedSpeed Agreement for the Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device Program for School Zone Speed Enforcement

**Michael Lindstrom, Police Major**, presented a recommendation to Approve the First Amendment to RedSpeed Agreement for the Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device Program for School Zone Speed Enforcement.

In 2021, the City of Sandy Springs and RedSpeed Georgia, LLC entered into a Professional Services Agreement for an automated traffic enforcement safety device program focused on school zone speed enforcement. The original agreement established an initial term through June 30, 2022, with up to four additional one-year renewal terms by agreement of the parties, and it authorized RedSpeed to provide a system that included installation and maintenance of camera equipment, warning signs, violation processing, mailing, web access, call center support, and related back-office functions, while assigning the Sandy Springs Police Department responsibility for program oversight and control of disputed notice proceedings.

Equipment was installed near Riverwood International Charter School and North Springs High School in February 2025, with warning notices issued initially and full enforcement beginning March 2025. As presented to Council in October 2025, the automated devices operate only on school days, with the school zone signs flashing from 7:20 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., during which the 25 mph school zone speed limit applies, while the 35 mph speed limit applies during the general hours of instruction from 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the system is programmed with an 11-mph enforcement buffer before a citation is generated. State law establishes a \$75 civil monetary penalty for a first violation and \$125 for a second violation, with each potential violation reviewed by a Sandy Springs Police Department officer before a citation is issued.

During the recent Georgia legislative session, several revisions regarding automated school zone

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enforcement were presented. These changes included more clearly defined operating hours aligned with school zone activity, strengthened signage and advance notice requirements to improve driver awareness, and updates to citation issuance procedures, including timing, content, delivery standards, and a requirement for a voter referendum should the City wish to continue the program after the end of any contract in effect on June 30, 2027.

The current agreement with RedSpeed expires on June 30, 2026. To continue the City's school zone speed enforcement camera program beyond that date, an amendment to the agreement must be executed to extend the term from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and to revise the agreement so it more clearly aligns with current and forthcoming requirements of Georgia law governing automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones.

As drafted, the amendment would also clarify that the program is limited to school zone speed enforcement, require RedSpeed to implement legal compliance changes at its own cost, strengthen records and compliance documentation requirements, revise fee language to reflect the lawful electronic processing fee cap effective July 1, 2026, and address future referendum requirements that may apply to any renewal or continuation beyond June 30, 2027. Under the original agreement, RedSpeed is paid a 33% service fee for each paid violation, with an optional LPR module that would add 2% fee, and is also authorized to charge, collect, and retain electronic processing fees of up to \$25.00 per violation, which are not remitted to the City. The proposed amendment does not change RedSpeed's 33% service fee. It does, however, reduce the allowable electronic processing fee to a maximum of \$10.00 per violation, effective July 1, 2026, unless a lower amount is required by law, and it prohibits late fees, surcharges, convenience fees, and similar add-on charges unless expressly authorized by law. The proposed amendment includes three one-year options to renew after June 30, 2027, with a 30-day notice of termination. It also requires RedSpeed to work with the City to install additional signage as the City may require, to ensure visibility.

Program data to date indicates that the cameras have identified speeding violations in the two active school zones while also showing signs of behavior change among motorists. RedSpeed's June 2026 summary reports a 94% reduction in speeding violations from the initial traffic study baseline and states that 93% of violators in spring 2026 did not receive a second citation; City payment records also show 7,832 paid citations and \$604,642 in total revenue received through the 2025-2026 school year.

Based on City revenue records for the 2025–2026 school year period (February 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026), the school zone speed enforcement program generated approximately \$604,642 in total revenue from paid citations. Applying the percentage defined in the original agreement to the 2025–2026 school year revenue, roughly \$211,600 would be attributable to RedSpeed's service fees, with approximately \$393,000 remaining for the City's legally authorized public safety purposes. State law restricts the use of net school-zone camera revenue to law enforcement or public safety purposes, such as police and traffic enforcement activities, pedestrian and school-zone safety improvements, and related public safety initiatives, and prohibits use of these funds for unrelated general government operations.

**Motion One.** A motion was made by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, seconded by **Councilmember John Paulson**, to Approve the First Amendment to RedSpeed Agreement for the Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device Program for School Zone Speed Enforcement.

**Councilmember Ford** said safety is a top priority for the City of Sandy Springs. Council receives feedback from constituents about their concerns with speeding, and the data behind this program shows that it is effective for reducing speed and increasing safety.

**Meeting of the City of Sandy Springs City Council – SUMMARY MINUTES**  
**Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference**  
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**Councilmember Paulson** said the City's ideal goal should be to not receive any dollars because nobody is speeding. This may not happen but the more that can be done to reduce speeding, the safer everyone will be.

**Councilmember Melody Kelley** said my vote will be against this contract renewal. I value most measures to protect vulnerable pedestrians. This exercise began around March 2025, and I perceived it to be a pilot. Over the past year, I developed a negative opinion around automatic ticketing in general. Just because it is effective does not mean it is the right mechanism. Automatic ticketing is a blunt instrument and relies heavily on punishment. Instead of prevention, drivers are being penalized. Traffic calming and other law enforcement measures that address speeding in every other part of the City cannot work in these school areas. I also developed a skepticism that deterrence tied to profit models are effective in the long term. For instance, if the City gets to zero, there will no longer be cameras because there will no longer be profit to support having the cameras. Then the cycle begins again. This does not work in the long-term if the aspiration is to get to zero or minimal speed.

Of the paid citations, \$604,642 in revenue was received through the 2025-2026 school year. What is the total amount if all tickets were paid?

**Major Lindstrom** said we can gather this data and provide to Council. There are different factors to consider. For instance, people cited more than once, and now information can be forwarded to the state for suspension of registrations. If officers used lasers, someone can be cited for going one mile per hour in the school zone, there will be points on their license, and they must pay the ticket. The Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device Program for School Zone Speed Enforcement is the same without putting points on licenses. Educational classes provided by the Police Department over the years have not worked. The goal of this program is for people to slow down in a school zone.

**Eden Freeman, City Manager**, said the City has not received \$604,642 in citation revenues. The contract states the City receives 65% and Redspeed receives 35%. The City has received about \$393,000.

**Councilmember Kelley** said towards the end of Budget Workshop II, the presentation referenced over \$1,000,000 worth of tickets issued for two high schools.

**City Manager Freeman** said this is the current amount that has been paid.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked what is next? The City has two private schools in conversation, and there is a mechanism to vet whether they can get cameras. Theoretically any school that qualifies can have these cameras.

**Major Lindstrom** said correct. We have no research on which school is next, but we receive complaints in these school areas. Our goal is just to ensure that these areas are safe.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked how will the City approach expansion?

**Major Lindstrom** said we will approach as we did with RedSpeed and determined that North Springs and Riverwood were the schools that we wanted to utilize. An extensive study was done to assess where most infractions were taking place during the times when school is in session, and those schools had the most violators.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked is it correct that on July 1, 2026, a new state law will require the City to only enforce an hour before and an hour after school.

**Dan Lee, City Attorney**, said no. It requires an ordinance from the City to set the hours of the operation.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked for my colleagues who are approving this item, is the plan to only enforce an hour before and an hour after school?

**Mayor Paul** said your question is inappropriate as that is not before this body now, and is not a germane issue for the subject being discussed tonight.

**Councilmember Kelley** asked does the agreement have anything to do with enforcement?

**Mayor Paul** said no. That is a separate issue and not relevant to this item.

**Councilmember Kelley** said my colleagues are encouraged to consider an hour before and an hour after and to always have the lights on.

The referendum will not be required until 2027 and the question should be on the ballot soon. If there is a question of cost, we should consider the amount of money made from these cameras and factor that in.

**City Attorney Lee** said one purpose of this amendment is to match what the City does with RedSpeed and what the police department deem as needed to enforce traffic laws in Sandy Springs. The legislature has been inconsistent with how to use the evidence from these cameras. Historically in Georgia, speed limits in a designated school zone have always been lower. Also, the radar police use in their cars is licensed by the state, and there are rules that they must comply. One is there cannot be a ticket for going less than ten miles an hour unless you are in a school zone. With this law, that is relaxed and lighter on the driver. It is not a blunt instrument. It is a civil action that is an attempt to limit the speed in these delicate areas. Of the traffic stops in Sandy Springs, about 41% result in a warning and is an incredible statistic. There is confusion with the contract with RedSpeed with what is controlled by the statute, and some contest in the previous law. After July 1, Council can decide what hours these cameras will be operated.

**Councilmember Melissa Mular** asked if approved tonight, based on the structure for the renewal, when would the City be required under the new law to have a voter referendum?

**City Attorney Lee** said a voter referendum is not required unless a new contract is created after July 1.

**Councilmember Mular** said this will be a three-year with a renewal.

**City Attorney Lee** said if after the three years a new contract is wanted, then it must be a voter referendum. The City can terminate the contract within sixty days. If it is terminated and you want to change it, a referendum is necessary because you ended the contract.

**Councilmember Mular** asked regarding adding schools, would the contract need to be amended, or can that be based on what is already there?

**City Attorney Lee** said it is covered in the contract. However, the City's charter states that if the Police Department determined those schools need to be added, Council will decide.

**Councilmember Mular** said the cameras are not operating outside of the time they are set up to operate. How is the data stored? Is it encrypted with hacking prevention?

**Major Lindstrom** said flock cameras are there and are like other flock cameras in the City. Data security information is not available tonight. The data belongs to the City and is there for sixty days.

**City Attorney Lee** said the data is not kept after used in court. Every case is reviewed by an officer. Regarding AI discussions, in the state rules of justice, there is no AI conviction. In Georgia, there is probable cause to believe that the person with the tag number violated the speed, and the violator has a right to challenge the notice given. AI will not decide who is guilty or who is innocent.

**Major Lindstrom** said when officers are in doubt, the case does not move forward.

**Councilmember Paulson** said it is worthwhile to reduce speeding in the area. How will the remaining \$393,000 the City is getting be spent?

**City Manager Freeman** said this will only be used for law enforcement purposes. Also, it is limited to equipment, as personnel will be funded from the City's general revenue sources.

**Councilmember Paulson** asked how many license plate readers are there in Sandy Springs?

**Major Lindstrom** said there are about three to four hundred.

**Councilmember Paulson** said one benefit of license plate readers (LPR's) is police can quickly locate a violator. Will these license plate reader cameras read license plates all the time like every other?

**Major Lindstrom** said yes. Also, it is important to have them in school zones because the license plate reader cameras can detect misbehavior and alert the City's officers.

**Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky** said section three of the terms and conditions of the contract applies to the size of signs and reads, *the parties shall work together in good faith to increase the size of all required street signs and obtain any permits or approvals if any for such increase.*

A legitimate concern from my constituents is that some of the signs, specifically near Riverwood are difficult to see, depending on the time of year and the position of the sun. Visible signs will make a difference especially when considering new schools and will give fair warning to drivers.

**Major Lindstrom** said there were in-depth conversations with RedSpeed to improve signage.

**City Attorney Lee** said there should be signage when approaching the area where the cameras are used to give warnings and address this issue.

**Councilmember Frank Roberts** said this item is about the safety of children and drivers who violate the law. During my law enforcement work, a ten-year-old boy was killed by a driver in a hurry. There should be cameras in the school zone, in every school in the City of Sandy Springs.

**Motion Two. Councilmember Frank Roberts** made a motion for the previous question, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**.

The motion carried 5 to 1. **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky, Councilmember Frank Roberts, Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Mary Ford, Councilmember Melissa Mular** voted in favor and **Councilmember Melody Kelley** voted in opposition.

**Resolution No. 2026-06-099**

**X. Reports**

**A. 2026-175 Mayor and Council Report**

**Mayor Paul** said the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) did not approve the Peachtree Dunwoody Road Operational Safety Improvement Concept Study for funding. The recommendation is that the board approve the concept study for North Side Drive operational safety and multimodal improvements, and to fund the Roswell Road Northeast Boulevard Project, also the Roberts Drive Side Path Phase One Project.

The City of Sandy Springs was approved as a licensed viewing center for the FIFA World Cup 2026. You can view the tournament at City Bar. There are some free public watch parties on Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, July 11 at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, July 18 at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, July 19 at 3:00 p.m. The City Bar and patio will transform into the Visit Sandy Springs clubhouse on every City Green watch party date. There open-air viewing space will contain a fan zone featuring a locker room inspired decor, exclusive visit Sandy Springs merchandise, interactive halftime entertainment, including trivia, jersey contests, fan competitions, giveaways, and special activations for the tournament. It is the best viewing venue in the metropolitan Atlanta area for everybody to enjoy the tournament, particularly local folks. The Performing Arts Center (PAC) team and Visit Sandy Springs team have collaborated on this and will benefit both organizations going forward.

The Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) negotiations are going into mediation. Once this process moves forward, an update will be provided.

**Councilmember Melody Kelley** said in addition to the watch party on Friday for two FIFA matches, there is also the Juneteenth celebration at 5:00 p.m. Sandy Springs shares the Juneteenth celebration with four other cities which includes Dunwoody, Brookhaven, and Doraville. Thank you to Sandy Springs Staff for your efforts.

**B. 2026-176 Staff Reports**

**Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer**, reviewed the April 2026 unaudited financials.

The City is at 83.33% of the year. Revenues are at 102.14% and operating expenditures are at 75.85% of the approved budget. All departments continue to operate within the approved budget.

**XI. Executive Session**

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, 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 8:31 p.m.

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, 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 9:27 p.m.

## **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 9:27 p.m.