

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 10:24 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Councilman John Paulson, Councilman Ken Dishman, Councilman Graham McDonald, Councilman Gabriel Sterling, Councilman Tibby DeJulio, and Councilman Andy Bauman were present.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. Consideration of Preliminary Approval of a Petition for Road and Stormwater Abandonment and Privatization Filed by Highland Valley Court Homeowner's Association

Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole stated the City received a petition from the Highland Valley Court Homeowner's Association, in which they are seeking to have their road privatized. In this process, the City has a policy that the association has begun by submitting their petition to the City. The neighborhood has 100% support from the homeowners. Staff is seeking direction from Council on whether to formally submit a request to allow the road to become privatized.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked if once the title to the road is transferred to the association, will they be responsible for all maintenance and liability.

Assistant City Manager Poole responded yes. The association will be responsible for coordinating the utilities with Georgia Power. Staff has no issues with this request being approved.

There was a consensus of Council to proceed with the privatization process and bring this item back to Council at a future date.

2. Consideration of Preliminary Approval of an Application and Affidavit to Obtain Abandonment of the Right of Way of Lake Allen Lane; filed by JW Homes, LLC, Applicant on behalf of the residents of Lake Allen Lane
3. Consideration of Preliminary Approval of an Application and Affidavit to Obtain Abandonment of a portion of the Right of Way of Sandy Springs Circle (a/k/a Allen Court); filed by JW Homes, LLC

Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole stated near Long Island Drive and Lake Forrest Drive there is a Wieland home development. Within the development Lake Allen Lane needs to be abandoned as a result of the development. The homeowners are willing to release the title to the road, since Wieland Homes has already purchased it. The road will disappear through the process of this redevelopment. This agenda item and the next one, which involves Sandy Springs Circle, are similar. During the property deed research it was determined the property was deeded for a cul-de-sac on Sandy Springs Circle. In order for the residents to receive clear title, the City has to release the property even though the portion of the cul-de-sac is no longer there today.

Councilman John Paulson asked if the City can sell this land.

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated he does not know the circumstances of this land becoming a right-of-way as to whether it was acquired. He asked if staff has any information on this issue.

Assistant City Manager Poole responded no.

City Attorney Willard stated if property owners are dedicating property for the use of a right-of-way and subsequently the government abandons that need and use of the property, then it goes back to the property owners whose properties abut the right-of-way. If it is right-of-way that has been acquired through purchase by the City, then the City has the right to sell the property. Staff will research this item before it comes back before Council.

Mayor Paul stated in most cases the developer creates the road and dedicates it, but not necessarily deeds it to the governing authority.

There was a consensus of Council to proceed and bring these items back to Council with the necessary recommendations from legal and staff at a future date.

4. Street Functional Classification changes for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
Consideration

Transportation Planner Kristen Wescott gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Street Functional Classification changes.

Councilman Graham McDonald asked what are the practical implications of the designations.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated from a transportation standpoint, it is eligibility for federal funding. On map 21, everything that is designated as principle arterial streets, such as State Route 9 and a section of Johnson Ferry to Abernathy Road, were designated as part of the national highway system. In the current transportation authorization 60% of all the federal transportation funding for surface transportation is being designated to those areas. The higher the classification, the more money that is focused on that area.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked what the downside is in having the federal government being involved in these decisions.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated the higher classified arterial streets get the focus of both the state and federal funding.

Mayor Paul asked if it would benefit the City to raise the classification on as many streets as possible.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated yes, but there is a statewide limit on the number of arterials. The arterial streets are the lowest percentage of the network, but carry the greatest amount of traffic.

Councilman John Paulson asked if the City made Roberts Drive a major collector street, does that mean that semi-trucks can use Roberts Drive when they could not before.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated this does not have an implication for semi-trucks. This is about the usage of the roadways.

Mayor Paul stated this is just a way to "true up" the system.

Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole stated if the City wants federal money, it will have to comply with the federal standards. The State would say that a road is a major arterial and those particular designs will have to be used if the federal money is to be used. On the positive side, when the City wants federal

dollars, we would want the road to be classified as federal in order to receive emergency money. These roads that were chosen are for cosmetic reasons.

Councilman Gabriel Sterling asked how long this process will take.

Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman stated GDOT will be working in July and August on the recommendations. That will be brought back to staff, and then brought back to Council.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated if it is determined that some of the roads need minor changes, staff will bring a revised map back to Council.

Councilman Paulson asked if the State wants the street to be a major collector and the City wants it to be a minor collector, will the street be classified as a major collector.

Transportation Planner Wescott stated she is not sure that major or minor collector has much differentiation; it is more of a semantic thing. The classifications are tied to the City's development ordinance and staff is not recommending any changes from a local street to a higher classification or vice versa.

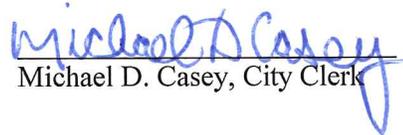
There was a consensus of Council to proceed and bring this item back to Council at a future date.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Date Approved: August 5, 2014



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk

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