
Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, at 7:10p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Recreation and Parks

1. North Springs High School IGA

Director Recreation & Parks Ronnie Young stated this is a request for an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fulton County School Board regarding North Springs High School. This is a new IGA, the first of a possible six (6) agreements to be presented to Council; two are renewals and the others are new IGA's. These IGA's are very important to the City because it allows us to create additional recreational services in the facilities that are currently there, which is a cost savings to be able to use some top-notch facilities such as these at North Springs High School.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that in 2005, the partnering with schools was presented to save the City money so Greenspace and buildings would not have to be purchased to house Recreations and Parks programs. In the budget this year, \$100,000 was set aside for school partnering and \$28,000 of those funds will go to North Springs High School. The programs that North Springs will house include fall football, winter basketball, spring lacrosse, a summer art program, and an indoor batting cage that is being built.

Councilmember DeJulio asked why the City is better off taking this money and putting it into the schools rather than putting it into our own parks. For example, why not put batting cages at Morgan Falls Park so that all kids in Sandy Springs can use them.

Director Recreation & Parks Young stated the batting cages are not the issue, but the other facilities on the campus are what the Parks and Recreations program are interested in, i.e. their auditorium, gym, wrestling, lacrosse and football. The batting cages are what North Springs wanted the City to assist with and in turn the other facilities are available for our use. There are some batting cages at Morgan Falls.

Mayor Galambos stated she would prefer to pay for any costs incurred by our Recreation and Parks programs instead of paying for something that may not have a relationship to the cost of what the program is using. She stated she would like to establish a relationship with the school board and discuss the option with them to pay for the expenses our programs incur.

Councilmember Fries stated she supports the purchase of the batting cages because it would enhance the programming at the school, but she does agree with Mayor Galambos that the funds should be for something that deals with the programs.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked how the partnership with Sandy Springs Middle School was working out since the City assisted with the irrigation system for the schools field.

Director Recreation & Parks Young stated that the assistance with the irrigation system was not for use of the fields at that time, but for use of their gym. The Recreation and Parks program had extensive use of the gym every night during the school year. The use of the field will not start until next spring when the grassing process is complete.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated she also agrees with the Mayor as far as funds being used for programs the City is running, but she does agree with this particular purchase of the batting cages.

Director Recreation & Parks Young stated last year's funding for the Middle School was for the displaced programs that were taken out of the gym at Hammond. It was a quick solution for that particular situation. This IGA with North Springs is a similar situation for the football program because they are displaced from their own park due to construction. The City legal department and the School Board legal department are working together to trim these IGA's down to a point where the City is paying for the direct cost of what is being used.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if the City would pay for the cost of using the gym in addition to the batting cages.

Director Recreation & Parks Young answered no, the City is not paying any costs for use of the gym.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with this item.

Public Works

1. Acceptance of Driveway and Temporary Construction Easement Rights for the Windsor Parkway (Roswell to High Point) Sidewalk Project (T-0020)

Transportation Manager, Garrin Coleman stated this first item is for the consideration of acceptance of temporary construction easements, driveway easement, and right of way for the sidewalk project around Windsor Parkway. This is for parcels 1, 9, and 27 in Land Lot 66 of the 17th District, Fulton County, Georgia. The total cost will be \$11,600.

Councilmember Paul asked if the landowners or the lending institutions are asking for compensation for the right-of-way.

Transportation Manager Coleman responded that the property owners are all presented with the option to donate or be compensated for the right-of-way.

City Attorney Wendell Willard advised that the law in Georgia states when you are acquiring property for public purposes, you have to make an offer of the purchase.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with this item.

2. Update regarding MARTA Funding and Presentation of Potential Project List

Transportation Manager, Garrin Coleman stated this item is to present the potential list of projects for ARC and Marta Funding of approximately two million dollars. The money is not tied to ARRA funding and it does not have the strings attached to it, so it can be used for federal match and there is no time limit on the funds.

Mayor Galambos asked if the final choice for these projects is up to ARC.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated MARTA has deferred the final decision to ARC, but MARTA will review them also.

Councilmember Jenkins asked about the mid-block crossing on Roswell Road. She stated that she thought this idea was discussed and dismissed before.

Mayor Galambos stated in past sessions it was decided that the Council does not want to discombobulate the synchronization of the traffic lights, but what is needed is something for people to stand safely on in the middle of the road.

Councilmember Jenkins stated she does not want anything in the middle of the road because it is unsafe and encourages the citizens to cross in the middle of the block.

Councilmember Paul asked if there is any empirical data about the effectiveness of these islands.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated that GDOT has installed several and they have observed people crossing without using them. In other communities outside the state of Georgia they have shown an improvement in safety.

Councilmember Paul would like some empirical data that leads him to some conclusion that this is a cost effective use of money.

Mayor Galambos asked to what extent is ARC going to be the deciding factor as to whether we will get these funds.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated ARC has the final decision on the projects that go into the TIP program.

Mayor Galambos stated the City needs to figure out what ARC is willing to give us or we could lose the money to Roswell or Alpharetta.

Councilmember Paul stated the City needs to figure out what ARC wants and work within their guidelines, but also if it is a wise use of funds. If so, then the City can proceed.

Councilmember DeJulio suggested that one of the islands be built in the area where there is the longest stretch between traffic lights. The City can then determine if it is effective enough to build others.

City Manager, John McDonough stated the staff would come back in two weeks with additional information.

3. Approval of the Installation or Modification of Traffic Signals at Three Locations

Traffic Services Manager, Chris Waters stated this item is a request for authorization for the City Manager to sign off on three signal permits required by GDOT. Two are modifications and one is an additional signal. The two modifications are at Hammond Drive at the GA 400 SB off-ramp and Hammond Drive at the GA 400 NB on-ramp at Concourse Parkway. The third one is for Roswell Road (SR9) Ison- Pitts as part of the school opening.

4. Authorization for the Mayor and City Council to Apply for and Accept a Georgia Department of Transportation Gateway Grant

Transportation Manager, Garrin Coleman stated the plan has been submitted for approval by GDOT for \$50,000 in landscaping. Public Works recommends that the City apply for the next grant application to improve the landscaping of the interchange at Abernathy Road and GA 400.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with this item.

City Attorney

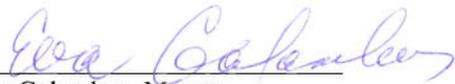
1. Proposed Amendment to Section 54-117(c) of the Business and Occupation Tax Ordinance

This item did not need discussion at this time.

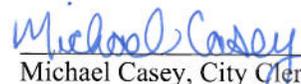
City Manager John McDonough stated that staff will put out a proposed schedule for Council on the tax digest. It is anticipated that as in the past we will have three meetings.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:24p.m.

Date Approved: March 16, 2010



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk