

Special Called Meeting - 2nd Public Hearing on Budget of the Sandy Springs City Council was held Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Mayor Galambos presiding.

Call to Order

Mayor Galambos called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call and General Announcements

Mayor Galambos announced that Council does not have a formal agenda tonight. The only purpose of this meeting is to hear from the citizens regarding the budget.

Mayor: Mayor Eva Galambos

Councilmember's Present: Councilmember Dianne Fries, Councilmember Rusty Paul, Councilmember Tibby DeJulio, and Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery.

Mayor Galambos called for public comments.

Andy Malcolm, 831 N. Island Drive, came forward to discuss N. Island Terrace reconstruction. He spoke at the last meeting and is appealing again for repairs of the horrible condition of his street. Mr. Malcolm asked if reconstruction was approved and if it would be done.

Mayor Galambos explained it has not been approved. City Council has not voted on the budget, yet. City Council will not vote on the budget until input is received from the citizens.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated she spoke to the City Manager about this road last year. Public Works estimated at that time the reconstruction cost to be about \$750,000.

Lori Evers, 1040 Lancaster Walk, came forward to speak on the Heritage Bluestone Building, Phase II Renovation. She spoke at the last meeting and based on City Council's feedback from that meeting, Heritage has prepared a booklet with answers to the various concerns raised, such as how to brand the City Parks. Heritage went through their publications and sponsorships and identified different things they can do to make the logo bigger and more prominent. Heritage would like to have their marketing committee work with Judy Parker to identify what the City Council would like for the Park, and incorporate that into everything. She provided financial projections and the number of people potentially served by the facility after the improvements by the City.

Howard M. Austin, 6039 City Walk Lane, came forward to speak in favor of the Community Facility that is proposed as part of the continued renovations of the Heritage Sandy Springs Bluestone Building. I am a Board member of the Riverwood High School Foundation. The Foundation has raised over \$200,000 for educational projects for the school. The Foundation could not find a satisfactory, affordable, non-commercial venue to hold the fundraising gala anywhere in Sandy Springs. The gala had to be held at the Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Alpharetta. Because the event was held so far away, attendance and support for the foundation suffered. Sandy Springs needs a local community facility like the Bluestone Building.

Patty Berkovitz, 800 Crest Valley Drive, came forward to speak on Overlook Park. The Watershed would like to know the actual cost for the park to date: cost of the pesticides; treatment; if the treatment will need to have repeated applications; and the expected cost of putting up a building at this park. The public is very interested in being involved in the process.

Barbara Heck, 811 North Island Terrace, came forward to speak on North Island Terrace. She expressed her concerns about the safety issues and horrible condition of the street she lives on and asked that the City budget funds for street repairs.

Laura Jones, 231 Tara Trail, came forward to speak on North Island Terrace. She expressed her concern about the safety issues and horrible condition of the street and requested that the City budget funds for street repairs.

Emanuel Fialkow, 880 N. Island Drive, came forward to speak on North Island Terrace. He expressed his concerns about the safety issues and horrible condition of the street he lives on and asked that the City budget funds for street repairs.

Mayor Galambos asked City Council if they had any comments or questions.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery commented on the City's repaving budget. She asked Assistant City Manager Steve Rapson how much money the City has been allocating for repaving over the last three (3) budgets. This year the City is projecting \$5,000,000 and asked how this compares to the prior years.

Assistant City Manager Steve Rapson stated the City has funded just shy of \$20,000,000 over the last four (4) budget cycles for paving.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated year after year the City has demonstrated a commitment to its paving program. In the past, the City has not spent one nickel on new construction, because it's three (3) times more expensive. City Council talked about it and decided last year to do the Paving Program. The Director of Public Works provided City Council information on the Paving Program which says, if the City spends all of the \$5,000,000 on repaving, we can get about 16 miles of roads resurfaced. If the City puts half towards repaving and rebuilding, we can get eight (8) miles of road repaved and three (3) miles of reconstruction. She would like additional information from staff. The City needs to set up a program for the reconstruction of these roads. She senses Council will devote funding this year, but does not know what amount. This is not the only road in the community that needs to be reconstructed. Her questions, for a later time, to the Department of Public Works, are how many miles of road are in the zero (0) category and where are these roads located.

Councilmember Fries asked Ms. Parham when Council would get the new ranking of the roads.

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated staff is going through the preliminary data to make sure it is all in order, and should have it ready for Council's review in a couple of weeks.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked Ms. Fries to explain to the public the City's pavement ranking system.

Councilmember Fries stated when Sandy Springs first became a City, the ranking system of pavement was done, and now this review is being done again. She explained that the City has a vehicle/machine that measures every square inch of the roads in Sandy Springs. The roads are then categorized from zero (0) to one hundred (100). The City's policy for the first few years has been to try to save the roads in the middle of the ranking. The roads below are horrible and have to be rebuilt. The roads above only need work. The middle roads can be resurfaced, and the City can protect them from having to be completely redone. The City is very close to finishing the middle block. Staff just went through the process of reevaluating the roads to see if any of them got worse and dropped down.

Mayor Galambos stated the City Council has had a commitment to try and save the City's roads from getting worse. This is the reason why the City has only worked on the roads that are salvageable. If we now want to start addressing some of these terrible problems, such as the safety issues that have been brought up, then there is always the possibility of changing items in the budget.

Andy Malcolm, 831 N. Island Drive, explained to City Council the North Island Drive ranking is in the minus category. He explained that when school begins in August there will be nine (9) young/active children on this street.

Councilmember Paul asked if this street is deemed worthy and needs to be in the budget. If Council authorizes the process to start July 1, how long will it take to do the planning and get approval and everything that needs to be done to start a project like this?

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated staff has begun putting the contract together to go out to bid. We could have it turned around in very short order. The contract could be ready to go out for bid in about two weeks.

Councilmember Fries asked how much time after the bid is sent out.

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated it would be two to three weeks. The City's goal is to get it out as soon as possible to get as much done as possible while the weather is hot.

Councilmember Paul asked what the construction period is for reconstruction on a strip of road that is 200 yards long.

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated it would take a couple of days.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if this was the worst street in Sandy Springs.

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated she cannot say without reviewing the rankings, but stated it is one of the worst streets in the City.

Councilmember Fries asked if there was anything the City could do temporarily to fix a pothole called in by a citizen.

Director of Public Works Angelia Parham stated the City could patch it temporarily, but anything we put down will not last very long.

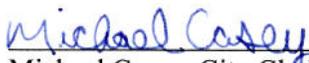
Adjournment

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Date Approved: September 1, 2009



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk