

Work Session of the Mayor and City Council held Thursday, January 12, 2006, 6:00 PM, Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

Presentations

Mayor Galambos stated that Communications Director Judy Parker will make a presentation on the Public Information Office.

Presentation on Public Information Office

Communications Director Judy Parker reviewed the scope of services for the Public Information Office. She stated that she is going to highlight daily communication, public relation, and editorial services. They have worked on an Open Records Policy which was put in place. She reviewed the four areas of Public Relations with the first being basic communication training for all staff, second is media relations, third is program presentation, and fourth is community relations. She reviewed the editorial services provided in the scope of service. They include annual reports, City newsletter, and the City website. She stated that one goal of the Public Information Office is to establish an e-newsletter. Mayor Galambos requested that police information, traffic signal inspection information and other accomplishments be included in the first newsletter.

Mayor and City Council Discussion Items

Support of GMA legislation on fines and fees

Mayor Galambos explained that there is proposed legislation regarding the fines and fees. She suggested that a resolution be adopted by the City Council in support of House Bill 719 relating to the local government, so as to change provisions relating to the maximum fines which may be imposed by municipal courts; to change provisions relating to the maximum fines which may be specified by municipalities exercising home rule powers, and to specifically authorize municipalities to adopt ordinances specifying fines up to a certain maximum amount.

Parks Facilities – Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Councilmember Greenspan proposed entering into an IGA with the Board of Education for use of property as parks. He stated that the Superintendent was supportive of the idea. He also stated that Forsyth County recently incorporated something similar. Acting City Manager Bovos recommended that a resolution be approved on an upcoming agenda for this. Mayor Galambos stated that this is a great idea.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery questioned if Councilmember Greenspan was referring to leasing these areas from the Board of Education. Councilmember Greenspan explained that the City would maintain and enhance these properties in return for the use of these facilities. He further stated that the schools would have first use of these facilities. Discussion followed regarding the use of these facilities.

Building Fund Legislation – Municipal Court Fees

Mayor Galambos stated that the next item on the agenda is Building Fund legislation regarding Municipal Court fees. Councilmember Jenkins explained that these are surcharges that would be added on to the base fee in Municipal Court. She stated that this is proposed local legislation. She explained the State mandated surcharges. Municipal Court Judge Jim Anderson questioned if this was meant to offset the operating cost of existing facilities or to construct a new facility. Assistant City Attorney Bentley explained that this would only have to be passed by a delegation in Sandy Springs.

Traffic Study in Spalding Woods

Mayor Galambos stated that the next item on the agenda is a Traffic Study in Spalding Woods. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she would prefer to defer this until the next budget discussion. Assistant City Manager Al Crace explained that during the upcoming transportation presentation many of these issues will be covered.

Red Light Traffic Signal and Citation System

Mayor Galambos stated that the discussion regarding red light traffic signal and citation system is being postponed.

Fulton County Exempt Properties

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated that this would provide the City with a great resource. She recommended that the City identify the tax exempt properties within the City limits. She stated that this would provide the City some leverage. Acting City Manager Bovos explained that all managers in Fulton County meet monthly. At the last meeting this issue came up. He explained that it was more detailed than this, but essentially there have been some properties identified as tax exempt that are not actually exempt. He further stated that there are some issues regarding the property assessment process. Mayor Galambos questioned if the City should request a list of tax exempt properties. Acting City Manager Bovos stated that the City should make this request.

Staff Discussion Items

Aaron Bovos, Acting City Manager

Placement of Items on Work Session and City Council Agenda

Acting City Manager Bovos reviewed the proposed process for placing items on the work session agenda. He distributed and reviewed the flowchart. Mayor Galambos questioned if there could be an exception made for the City Attorney. Acting City Manager Bovos stated that the Mayor could make any exception she chooses as she sets the agenda. Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny questioned if there could be exceptions made for other emergencies. Mayor Galambos stated that there could be emergency procedures put in place.

Acting City Manager Bovos reviewed the proposed process for placing items on the regular meeting agenda. He distributed and reviewed the procedures. He stated that items discussed at a work session will be placed on the Council agenda. He also stated that items may be added or removed when the approval of the meeting agenda is voted on.

Acting City Manager Bovos updated the Mayor and City Council on the FY2006 budget. He reviewed items that have been cut from the budget. He explained the revenue coming in from SSRI. This is a bare bones budget.

Acting City Manager Bovos reviewed the following budget items:

- Mayor and Council Budget-Training, City Events, Awards and Recognition
- City Manager's Budget-General operations, Capital, SSRI, LCI grant

LCI Grant

Community Development Director Nancy Leathers explained the process for acquiring an LCI Grant. Discussion followed regarding the matching funds for the LCI Grant.

- Finance Department
- City Clerk
- Police Department-equipment leases
- Fire Department
- Public Works-Recycling Center
- Parks and Recreation-no changes
- Annual Cash Flow-revenue from county, TAN

Acting City Manager Bovos stated that staff is reviewing the process for funding of not for profit agencies. Discussion followed regarding this funding.

Acting City Manager Bovos stated that staff will provide a monthly financial statement once the budget is adopted.

Fred Bentley, Assistant City Attorney

Billboard Amortization

Mayor Galambos stated that she had requested that the Assistant City Attorney review the laws regarding Billboard Amortization. Assistant City Attorney Bentley stated that O.C.G.A 32-6-83 stipulates that no municipal corporation or county shall remove any non-conforming outdoor advertising sign, display, or device without paying just compensation.

He stated that the City has the legal right to ban billboards and the right to amortize them. He explained the process for this. It was suggested that the City wait to introduce this until next year.

City Attorney comments

City Attorney Wendell Willard explained the need to readopt the City's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. He also stated that the Atlanta Journal Constitution has submitted a letter regarding certain items in the open records policy. He also recommended passing a resolution extending sovereign immunity to those serving the City through the CH2M HILL contract. He recommended that this be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

Nancy Leathers, Community Development Director

Planning Commission Role

Community Development Director Nancy Leathers stated that the Planning Commission should be involved in the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance Changes, Special Use Permits, Capital Improvement plan, and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember DeJulio stated that he has met with a developer who is interested in developing in Sandy Springs and is interested in the Planning Commission. Community Development Director Leathers stated that Council does not have to make any decisions tonight. This is just to discuss options and can be decided later.

Community Development Director Nancy Leathers updated the Mayor and City Council on the number of building permits issued and the status of those in process.

Al Crace, Assistant City Manager and Buddy Reneau, Public Works Director

Chapter 8, Parks and Recreation

Assistant City Manager Al Crace reviewed the proposed Parks and Recreation ordinance. Discussion followed regarding wading in streams and fireworks permits. Mayor Galambos stated that there is a consensus that fireworks not be allowed in the City's parks.

Chapter 16, Streets and Sidewalks

Public Works Director Buddy Reneau presented the proposed Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance to the Mayor and City Council. Discussion followed regarding the placement of sidewalks. It was decided that staff would review this and bring it back to Council. Mayor Galambos, referring to Article 2, paragraph C, questioned the time a property is deemed abandoned. She asked if this is supposed to read "2 hours following eviction" or 24 hours. There was a consensus that it should be 24 hours.

Adoption of City of Sandy Springs Public Works Manual of Standard Specifications for Public Facilities and Infrastructure, 2006 Edition

Assistant City Manager Al Crace presented the Public Works Manual of Standard Specifications for Public Facilities and Infrastructure, 2006 Edition to the Mayor and City Council. He explained that this is GDOT's standards and needs to be adopted as soon as possible. It is available online and updated regularly.

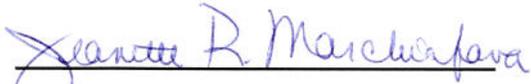
Gene Wilson, Police Chief

Update on Fulton County Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Police Services

Police Chief Wilson updated the Mayor and City Council on the IGA with Fulton County for Police Services. He stated that Fulton County is not using the tickets the City provided and he has requested the third change. He also stated that they have requested written procedures. He wrote the procedures and sent them to the county. He said they have requested some changes which he has made and those have been given to the Acting City Manager for approval. He clarified that Fulton County is enforcing the laws, but that they are not sending representatives to the City's Municipal Court. Acting City Manager Bovos stated that staff would work this out.

After no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Date Approved: March 7, 2006



Jeanette R. Marchiafava, City Clerk



Eva Galambos, Mayor