

Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held Tuesday, January 10, 2006, 7:00 PM, Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

Call to Order

Mayor Galambos called the public hearing to order.

Roll Call

City Clerk Jeanette Marchiafava called the roll.

Councilmembers Present: Councilmember Tibby DeJulio, Councilmember Dianne Fries, Councilmember Dave Greenspan, Councilmember Ashley Jenkins, Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery, and Councilmember Rusty Paul

General Announcements

Acting City Manager Aaron Bovos announced that Assistant City Manager Al Crace will be speaking at the Sandy Springs Business Association (SSBA) meeting on Wednesday. He also announced that Program Director Rick Hirsekorn and Public Information Officer Kristen Risteno will be speaking at Leadership Sandy Springs.

Information Technology Manager Bob Schommer reported that the laptops for the Mayor and Council are ordered and once they arrive, the IT department will schedule a time to transfer files from the computers they are currently using to the new ones. Mayor Galambos questioned if there would be an index on the future agendas. IT Manager Schommer stated that the new software to build the agendas is much more user friendly. Councilmember Paul asked if there would be any training. IT Manager Schommer answered that he would provide any training necessary.

Presentation of the FY 2006 Budget (December 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006)

Acting City Manager Bovos asked Finance Director Steve Rapson to walk through the proposed budget. Acting City Manager Bovos stated that staff had been tasked with preparing a policy on funding for not for profit agencies. He stated that he had received the proposed policy from Finance Director Rapson but had not had time to review it or get a legal opinion on it and, therefore, was not be handing it out.

Finance Director Steve Rapson explained that this is a 7 month budget from December 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. He explained that the Mayor and Council establish the funding priorities for the City and the City provides Police and Fire protection, Community Development, Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, Public Works and Transportation, Parks, Recreation, Cultural Programs, Alcohol/Business Licenses, Library Services, and Municipal Court Services. He explained that staff, in preparing the proposed budget, was following the assumption that the millage rate will remain the same, there would be three new full time positions, there were no major plans for issuing bonds or additional long-term debt service, and there is a \$1.5 million fund balance reservation. He stated that there are three main revenue sources for the General Fund: Business and Occupational Taxes, Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), and Local Option Sales Tax. He further stated that the City has fiscal obligations for 79.9% of the FY 2006 budget.

City Clerk Marchiafava stated for those who would like to make comments on agenda items, there are public comment cards available at the front and back tables. She requested that the comment cards be filled out and returned to her.

Finance Director Rapson explained the following changes made since the last work session: \$190,000 was added to the revenue stream based on the TAN and isolated the revenue into the Hotel/Motel Fund and the transfers out of the Hotel/Motel Fund.

Councilmember Fries questioned what the \$100,000 under Solid Waste expenditure is for. Acting City Manager Bovos explained that the revenue of \$100,000 is due to the Solid Waste Non-Exclusive Ordinance that requires all solid waste providers within the City to enter into an agreement with the City and, as a result, 5% of the gross revenues, which is a standard business process, would come to the City. He stated that it had been discussed during work sessions that the

revenue could be used for roadway repairs or projects for any damage done to the streets. He added that these funds could not be allocated differently.

Finance Director Rapson explained that the postage cost for the newsletter, annual report and marketing had been moved to the City Manager's budget. Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked him to explain the newsletter and postage expense. Finance Director Rapson explained that this was for the postage to get these items out. The Operating Transfer Out line item reflects the Hotel/Motel fund being removed. He stated that the next change was on page 9 of 14 in which the Jail Services IGA is shown. This is for housing inmates at Roswell. The next change is on page 11 of 14. Animal control has been moved to Public Works. The last change is on page 12 of 14 where the Parks and Library Services IGA is reflected.

Public Comment

Mayor Galambos asked if there were any public comments.

D. J. DeLong, SSRI, SSC, expressed concerns regarding funding for non-profit agencies. He stated that the proposed budget has no funding for non-profit agencies, but there is a policy being drafted. These non-profits have added a tremendous value to the City. He stated that they are requesting the amount that Fulton County was providing. Mayor Galambos stated that this has been discussed and the City is working on a policy.

Lori Evers, Heritage Sandy Springs, stated that they were previously receiving \$45,000 from Fulton County and that is the amount they are requesting from the City of Sandy Springs. She stated that they were also receiving grounds maintenance, building maintenance, pest control, trash, utilities, and in-kind services. She questioned if these would be continued. Assistant City Manager Al Crace stated that routine grounds maintenance and building maintenance were included in the contract, but utilities were not included.

Aaron Baranan, Sandy Springs Resident, questioned how many Fulton County police were provided to the City and how many would the City have. Police Chief Wilson stated that the contract with Fulton County will cover all eight (8) beats within the City limits, as well as use of their Special Operations Unit and Detectives when necessary. He further stated that they will provide continued 911 services to the City. Mayor Galambos questioned if it would be correct to say that the level of service will be the same that we received from Fulton County before we became a City, which is not enough, and they are obligated to continue. Police Chief Wilson answered that is correct.

Councilmember Fries asked how many officers were accounted for in this budget. Police Chief Wilson explained that the City would have the same eight (8) beats but at times there would be an overlap so that there would be sixteen (16) cars on the eight (8) beats. He further explained that there was a Special Operations Team that could add an additional ten (10) cars on the street, if needed. Mayor Galambos stated that it would take some time to get to this level. Police Chief Wilson concurred stating that the budget allows for 83 sworn personnel by July 1st and 130-135 personnel by the end of the year.

Larry Taylor, Sandy Springs Resident, stated that he lives in the 6th district in which Councilmember McEnery is the representative who is doing a fine job as are all of the elected officials. He stated that there is approximately 1,000 feet along Powers Ferry that Fulton County promised to put a sidewalk along. It is extremely dangerous to walk along this roadway without a sidewalk. He suggested that a TAD possibly be used for this type of project and his community would gladly pay half of the cost. Mayor Galambos thanked Mr. Taylor for his generosity.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery questioned where this sidewalk could connect. Mr. Taylor stated that it could connect to Mt. Vernon which has miles of sidewalks. Mr. Taylor stated that it is his belief that this is the only thing his neighbors want from the City of Sandy Springs.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery questioned if staff knew the approximate cost of 1,000 feet of sidewalk. It was requested that staff review this and provide a recommendation.

Peggy Gardner, Brandon Mill Woods Neighborhood Association, thanked the Mayor and Council for running for office stating that this is a major commitment. This neighborhood is immediately affected by the widening of Abernathy Road. She stated that this community cooperated with the County and the State with the understanding that there would be some greenspace. She also expressed her concerns regarding the dangerous intersection at Abernathy and Wright Road.

Richard Howes, Sandy Springs Resident, stated that Powers Ferry Road is very dangerous for pedestrians. He also requested that the sidewalk extend to Chastain Park.

Councilmember DeJulio questioned if he was also willing to split the cost with the City. He stated that without a doubt, he is willing to split the cost.

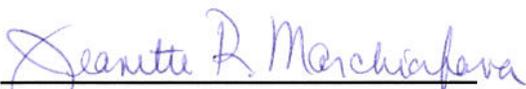
Dick Schmalz, Sandy Springs Resident, stated that he lived on Mt. Vernon Parkway for 33 years and made a great deal of effort with the County to try to do something about the cut-through traffic on the street and the lack of sidewalks. Mr. Schmalz stated that Fulton County had allocated money for sidewalks on Mt. Vernon Parkway that went to Sandy Springs Revitalization. He stated that the money is out there somewhere. Mr. Schmalz stated that he had visited the neighborhood and was told by the residents that there was not going to be a sidewalk. He stated that there is some miscommunication. Mayor Galambos stated that the money had been allocated but had not been turned over to the City of Sandy Springs yet. Mr. Schmalz stated that it was turned over to the Sandy Springs Revitalization and asked if the City could find out what they did with it.

D. J. DeLong, SSRI, stated that Sandy Springs Revitalization is in the process of transferring those funds to the City for project implementation. Mr. DeLong stated that because the SSRI holds the contract with Fulton County and there were some federally matching funds for these improvement projects, SSRI has to remain the funding agency. The funds will go to CH2M HILL. Mr. DeLong stated that there are two projects that are outside the TAD district and therefore the funds cannot be used for the Mt. Vernon Parkway project. Assistant City Manager Al Crace stated that the funds will not come to CH2M HILL, but will come to the City. Mayor Galambos questioned if these funds were accounted for in the budget. Finance Director Steve Rapson stated that once the funds are available, it will be reflected in the capital budget. Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated that the capital budget reflected \$225,000 for Mt. Vernon Parkway which she believed was the SSRI money.

Mel Mobley, Whispering Pines Neighborhood Association, stated that he concurs with Ms. Peggy Gardner's comments regarding greenspace along Abernathy Road. Mr. Mobley stated that he was looking forward to seeing the project complete and thanked the Mayor and Council for their work.

Mayor Galambos closed the public hearing at 7:48 PM and requested that the Council remain for a budget work session.

Date Approved: February 21, 2006



Jeanette R. Marchiafava, City Clerk



Eva Galambos, Mayor