

**Regular Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding**

**INVOCATION**

There was no invocation.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eva Galambos called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**City Clerk Michael Casey** reminded everyone to silence all electronic devices at this time. Additionally, those wishing to provide public comment during either a Public Hearing or the Public Comment segment of the meeting are required to complete a public comment card. The cards are located at the back counter and need to be turned in to the City Clerk.

City Clerk Casey called the roll.

**Mayor:** Mayor Eva Galambos present

**Councilmembers:** Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Dianne Fries, Councilmember Chip Collins, Councilmember Gabriel Sterling, Councilmember Tibby DeJulio, and Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Eva Galambos led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Fries moved to approve the Regular Meeting agenda for December 3, 2013. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**(Agenda Item No. 13-216)**

1. Meeting Minutes:
  - a) November 12, 2013 Work Session
  - b) November 19, 2013 Regular Meeting
  - c) November 19, 2013 Work Session*(Michael Casey, City Clerk)*

**(Agenda Item No. 13-217)**

2. Consideration of the Acceptance of the dedication of a Right of Way Deed as part of the Zoning Requirements (285 Lafayette Way)  
*(Garrin Coleman, Director of Public Works)*  
**Resolution No. 2013-12-79**

**(Agenda Item No. 13-218)**

3. Consideration of the Acceptance of the dedication of a Right of Way Deed as part of the Zoning Requirements (4739 Powers Ferry Road)

*(Garrin Coleman, Director of Public Works)*

**Resolution No. 2013-12-80**

**(Agenda Item No. 13-219)**

4. Consideration of the Acceptance of the dedication of a Right of Way Deed as part of the Zoning Requirements (5060 Powers Ferry Road)

*(Garrin Coleman, Director of Public Works)*

**Resolution No. 2013-12-81**

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Sterling moved to approve the Consent Agenda for December 3, 2013. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Bill Gannon, 505 Taunton Way,** stated the City has issues with coyotes. He held a neighborhood meeting about coyotes and sixty people attended along with WSB TV. There have been coyote incidents throughout the City. The community is trying to seek as much information as possible to address the issue in the best way. He is bothered when the coyotes come out of the wooded areas near the houses. The coyote issue is the worst in the Derby Hills neighborhood. The neighbors think the solution that will work best is trapping the coyotes. The neighborhood is not asking the City for money for this issue.

**Michael, McDonald, 7040 Riverside Drive NW,** stated his comment is about the proposed Old Riverside Drive Park. His home is about 1/3 of a mile from Johnson Ferry Road on Riverside Drive. There is a park at the corner of Johnson Ferry and Riverside, which is now a deposit area for trucks and various construction projects. He understands this property was acquired from Fulton County before Sandy Springs became a City. The property sticks out like a sore thumb. There is a cul-de-sac that attaches to the property. He understands that three out of twenty-three acres will be dedicated to some sort of recreational facility. At a cost of \$1.5 million for the property, that equals about \$500,000 per acre. This property is out-of-pocket and he is not sure how many people go to this area. With all of the items the City has going on, he asked why the City is spending \$1.5 million to acquire another piece of property. Capital improvements will need to be made to the property and it will have to be maintained. All of this is a drain on the City resources. The City does not know how the development of the City will evolve in terms of cost.

**Maulik Patel, 865 Club Chase Lane, Roswell, GA,** submitted a public comment card on the subject of pouring permits for growler stores, but did not wish to speak.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** lit the Menorah and said a prayer.

Councilmember DeJulio joined the meeting at this time.

**Joan Rush, 330 Spindle Court,** stated she has lived in the Spindlewick neighborhood for twenty-six years. About twenty-six years ago there were discussions about the MARTA rail extending up the east side of GA 400 and that it would include removing part of her neighborhood plus some of the schools. This issue is being discussed again. She does not appreciate MARTA not honoring their agreement. Mr. Boyken was very much involved in getting MARTA to extend the rail to the west side of GA 400. She does not understand why there is conversation now about extending the rail up the east side of GA 400.

**Susan Hardy, 310 Spindle Court,** stated she also lives in the Spindlewick neighborhood and echoes the comments regarding the MARTA rail extending up GA 400 on the east side of the highway. MARTA is also considering placing a station at the Northridge exit, which is already a highly congested area. The additional impact from a MARTA station at Northridge, with the North Springs station being so close is

not necessary. If MARTA insists on extending the rail, it should be placed on the west side of GA 400 and not on the east side where a number of schools and different residential communities will be impacted.

**Barbara Kaufman, 1445 Northwold Drive**, stated she lives near Roberts Drive and was involved many years ago when MARTA decisions were made. It was decided at the time that this area would stay a residential area with just schools and homes.

**Don Boyken, 880 Wadrougton Court**, stated he has history with the MARTA decision from when there was a proposal for a Pitts Road MARTA station. Six homes were to be removed in the Spindlewick subdivision if the station was built. This is one of the reasons why the homeowners associations speak with one voice. The voice is not against MARTA, but how to move MARTA to the areas north of the river to create a win-win solution. The neighborhoods worked with MARTA in crafting where the North Springs station is located and for a solution in bringing traffic directly off of GA 400 into the station. That ramp cannot be used for getting on the local streets. The ultimate solution was a win-win for both sides. The neighborhoods also asked that MARTA do a study of the preferred route from the North Springs station all the way to the Windward station. That study was completed in 1990 and has been used as a basis for the homeowners to understand where MARTA will be north and south of the river. That study proposes leaving the North Springs station and crossing over to the west side of GA 400. At that time, due to grade changes, the proposed route was under GA 400. The rail line would extend to land owned by GDOT and Fulton County between Colquitt Road and GA 400. This would mean that no single family homes would need to be removed anywhere in Sandy Springs going all the way to the river. This was a win-win solution for everyone. Recently brought up is a proposed station concept. A station on the east side of GA 400 at Northridge does not make sense. The whole purpose of a rail station is for business and that would devastate the neighborhoods located on the east side. The preferable location for the rail line is on the west side on the southwest corner. There is an apartment complex in this area that is approximately forty years old. This would be a great economic stimulus for this area of the City. Since working with MARTA in the 1990's, several office buildings have been built in that location. This is a great location to continue and expand that area of the City. The only loss would be the apartments in that location. He encourages the City to approach MARTA to discuss them living up to their agreement. He gave the City Clerk handouts that indicate the route and proposed location for the station. He understands that the proposed location for the MARTA station at Northridge is on the northwest corner of the intersection. For the station to be in this location makes no sense. Traffic to this station from north of the river either come across one of two bridges; one at Roswell Road and the other at GA 400. The next bridge to the east is roughly five miles away, which is Holcomb Bridge Road, and the next bridge to the west is Johnson Ferry Road, which is two miles away. The only way the traffic would come into that station would mean it would have to come down Roswell Road and then cross over in order to get to that station. This would provide a counter economic impact to the residents in that part of the City. He is a former boardmember of the Planning Commission for the City and he would enjoy working with the City regarding this issue.

Councilmember Collins arrived at this time.

**Susan Weintrob, 335 Eastcote Drive**, stated she lives in the Roberts Station subdivision. She moved to this area 9 ½ years ago and discussed with her real estate agent where the MARTA station and the rail line would be installed. She was told that the rail would be installed on the west side. On the east side, not far from her home, are two elementary schools. She does not know if it is a good idea to have a train station so close to two elementary schools and a middle school. The train rail being on the other side of GA 400, where businesses are located, is a better idea.

The City Clerk read into the record the following public comment card:

**Barbara Jacobstein, 350 Eastcote Drive**, wrote she is against the MARTA rail on the east side of GA 400 because of two elementary schools, two other schools, and a firehouse. There is no need for further congestion in the area.

**Donna Smythe, Executive Director of the Child Development Association**, thanked the Council. Later on the agenda this evening Council will be considering grants for area nonprofits. Her organization has been very fortunate to benefit from those funds in the past. Last year's funding from the City of Sandy Springs helped the organization serve 78 Sandy Springs children, providing almost 2,900 weeks of high quality early learning programs. The organization provides childcare that is nationally accredited by educating and nurturing the kids and getting them ready for school. Pre-school kids that are assisted by the organization are 3 to 4 times more likely to graduate from high school and 3 to 4 times more likely to go onto college. There are tangible benefits for everyone when we attend to the brain development and needs of young children. She expressed her appreciation that Council sees the value in investing in young children and trusting the organization with City funds to provide that service.

**Councilmember John Paulson** stated he received public comment from Patrick Burke and Julie Burnett from the Fulton County School Board. The email states, "The Fulton County School System has only been made aware today of the proposed extension by MARTA up the east side of GA 400. We ask that no endorsement be made of this plan until we have had an appropriate opportunity to evaluate the effect on the more than 1,500 elementary age students in our two schools that directly about GA 400. The current proximity to the road, couple with the fact that no noise barrier exists to protect our students or staff is already a serious concern and one which has been presented to the GA 400 staff at various times over the last fifteen years. At first glance adding a rail line to this already existing condition may not only impose serious safety concerns for our students and staff, but may encroach onto the actual buildings. Please allow the Fulton County School System representatives the opportunity to meet with appropriate staff from the City and from MARTA in order to consider how this proposal would affect the school system. We have seen no plans and have not been invited to have any conversations on this matter and would greatly appreciate being informed of a situation that has such a tremendous impact on our schools. We apologize for being unable to attend in person, but our school board work session is currently in progress and will not conclude until after the end of your public comment opportunity." The school representatives asked that Councilmember Paulson ensure that MARTA representatives receive their contact information.

**Councilmember Dianne Fries** stated she wants clarification on two items that were brought up. She does not want the audience to be misinformed. When the Abernathy Road project started, GDOT took ownership of that park area at Riverside Drive and Johnson Ferry Road for construction. She asked if the property has been given back to the City.

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** stated GDOT is in the process of deeding this property back to the City.

Councilmember Fries stated this is a GDOT issue with the trucks being in this area and the City has not had access to this area for several years.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded, correct.

Councilmember Fries asked if the City is purchasing over twenty-two acres, not three acres, for Riverside Park.

**City Manager John McDonough** responded yes.

Mr. McDonald stated only three of those acres are planned to be developed.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated there is more information regarding the development of the property than what was just stated by Mr. McDonald.

### PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **(Agenda Item No. 13-220)**

1. Consideration of a Nominee to serve as the City's Representative on the Fulton PCID Board of Directors

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated the PCID requires the nomination of an individual who lives in Sandy Springs and is a business participant in the PCID area. She nominated Pat Chesser, who is the Vice President of Ackerman. He is very active in the City's economic development activities and will make a great representative on the PCID Board.

**Pat Chesser, Vice President of Ackerman**, thanked the Mayor and Council. He will do his best to represent the City well. Councilmembers Fries, Meinzen McEnerny, and the Mayor will be missed.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-220, the nomination of Pat Chesser, to serve as the City's Representative on the Fulton PCID Board of Directors. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution No. 2013-12-82**

#### **(Agenda Item No. 13-221)**

2. Consideration of Approval of Nonprofit Funding Awards for FY2014

**Assistant City Manager Eden Freeman** stated this item is the recommendations by staff for the applications that were received under the FY14 Serving Sandy Springs Program. This is the third year of the program. The City had a set solicitation and application period. The solicitation was released on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The City held a training session at City Hall on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Seven applications were received and a total of \$49,352 was requested out of an available \$50,000. She will answer any Council questions regarding specific applications and the uses for the funding.

**Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny** stated she is in support of all the very worthy nonprofit organization allocations. She asked didn't the Council approve \$150,000 to not for profits earlier in the budget process.

Assistant City Manager Freeman stated Council approved \$50,000 of unallocated funds to be awarded to nonprofits.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated Council also approved \$100,000 to be allocated only to the Community Action Center (CAC). She asked why the CAC application is not a part of this agenda item as are the rest that applied.

**City Manager John McDonough** stated that was a decision that was made by Council during the budget process.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked about the details of services the CAC provides and stated the public should have the opportunity to look at how the \$100,000 is spent.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated the CAC has a public meeting every year that includes very transparent statistics about how many families are served and what jurisdiction the families reside in. If there is any organization that is transparent in terms of what they do for the community, it is the Community Action Center.

**Councilmember Gabriel Sterling** asked if the City records a specific accounting line item on how the money is used by the CAC.

Assistant City Manager Freeman responded yes. The City receives an annual accounting from the CAC services, not in the form of the client names, just how many individuals benefited in Sandy Springs. This detailed report includes information such as rental assistance provided, assistance for paying utility bills, and food pantry visits.

**Councilmember John Paulson** asked if a report of where the \$100,000 was spent is on the City website.

Assistant City Manager Freeman responded no, this information is not posted on the website. She will be happy to provide this information to Council. The information is in the City accounting system and is attached to the invoice before the City pays the CAC every year.

**Councilmember Chip Collins** stated due to this being such a significant line item an annual report should be made at a City Council meeting. He would also like to see details of the services being provided by the grants.

Assistant City Manager Freeman stated Act3 requested funding to support programming, Art Sandy Springs requested funding to support a Show Stoppers program, Sandy Springs Education Force requested funding to support the After-School All-Stars program, Child Development Association requested funding to support tuition assistance for low income students, Senior Services North Fulton requested funding to replace the existing ceramic kiln located at the Dorothy Benson Senior Center, Heritage Sandy Springs requested funding to provide family gardening days in partnership with the North Fulton master gardeners, the National Council of Jewish Women requested funding to purchase primers that will be used for tutors to work one-on-one with students who attend Title I schools in Sandy Springs during the summer.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated all nonprofits that receive funding should comply with the City policy and be treated the same. The CAC request should be presented at the same time the other organizations are awarded the remainder of the grant money.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember DeJulio moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-221, the Nonprofit Funding Awards for FY2014. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1, with Councilmember Sterling voting in opposition.

**(Agenda Item No. 13-222)**

3. Consideration of Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the MARTA Funded Projects Currently Programmed in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** stated this will be the third revision to the IGA. Staff initially asked for an extension until May 2014. MARTA staff extended that time frame to December 2014. Council now has a revised copy of the changes that MARTA requested, which are highlighted, and the additional verbiage that was added to Exhibit A.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated this item was before Council in 2009 and it is still not finished. She asked when Council first discussed the MARTA bus stops.

Councilmember Dianne Fries responded 2006.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the bus stop shelters have been purchased, but are waiting to be installed. The City received bids on that project and the work should begin in early January 2014.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-222, the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the MARTA Funded Projects Currently Programmed in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No. 2013-12-83**

**(Agenda Item No. 13-223)**

4. Intergovernmental Agreement By and Among the Cities of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Roswell and Sandy Springs for Sharing Jail Operating Expenses

**Chief of Police Ken DeSimone** stated currently the City of Sandy Springs and the four other North Fulton police departments transport misdemeanor prisoners to the Alpharetta Jail on Old Milton Parkway. The Alpharetta Jail is run by the Fulton County Sheriff's office through a lease agreement with Alpharetta. Currently, there is no automated jail inprocessing or booking system in place. All five police departments have to fill out paperwork and take it back to their respective agencies. The arrest booking information is not connected to the Sandy Springs Police Department records management system. The Sandy Springs Police Department and the four other North Fulton departments want to purchase a new automated jail hardware and software system to improve the booking process. This system will provide a seamless electronic data storage and allow for arrest queries by officers and detectives throughout the North Fulton cities. Currently, if an individual is arrested on a misdemeanor charge, the police officer cannot create a mug shot of that person. Sandy Springs is looking to institute an IGA between the cities to correct this problem. The initial startup cost of the system is approximately \$90,000. The yearly maintenance fee is expected to cost \$6,000. The cost is to be split among the five cities by percentage according to population. The Sandy Springs cost share is 27% at \$24,300, the City of Roswell at 25%, the City of Johns Creek at 22%, the City of Alpharetta at 19%, and the City of Milton at 9%. The City of Alpharetta will maintain all records of cost, and supply each City with a record of billing. The cities of Alpharetta and Milton have already agreed to the IGA. The cities of Roswell and Johns Creek are expected to agree to the IGA soon.

**Councilmember Gabriel Sterling** asked if the City of Alpharetta bid this service out and how the \$90,000 was reached.

Chief of Police DeSimone responded he is not sure. The system is through OSSI, which all five cities currently use. This program will be a module that will connect to the system the cities currently use. All

five cities have this records management system and this is another module that will plug into it. It makes sense to choose this solution, since all of the cities already use Sunguard Solutions OSSI.

Councilmember Sterling asked who is in charge of the privacy of the records once they are in the system.

Chief of Police DeSimone stated it will be each department's responsibility.

**Councilmember Dianne Fries** stated in previous years the City has used several jails to house inmates.

Chief of Police DeSimone stated the City of Sandy Springs previously use the City of Doraville's jail.

Councilmember Fries asked if Sandy Springs still uses that jail.

Chief of Police DeSimone stated the City is only using the Alpharetta jail at this time. The Fulton County Sheriff's Department does not charge Sandy Springs for housing the inmates at this location. Felony arrest inmates are housed at the Wright Street jail location.

**Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery** stated she remains impressed with Assistant City Manager Freeman's efforts to receive grants through the federal government. There are a lot of sources, such as drug money, that can be used for law enforcement endeavors. She supports the IGA, but wonders if another source of funds can be found for this item.

Chief of Police DeSimone stated staff can check to see if there are grants available for this. This technology upgrade should have been done before now.

Councilmember Sterling asked for an example of a misdemeanor arrest.

Chief of Police DeSimone stated an example of a misdemeanor arrest is disorderly conduct or shoplifting.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-223, Intergovernmental Agreement By and Among the Cities of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Roswell and Sandy Springs for Sharing Jail Operating Expenses. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**(Agenda Item No. 13-224)**

5. Consideration of Approval of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Property Located on Old Riverside Drive from Fulton County

**City Attorney Wendell Willard** stated there is a tract of land consisting of 23.228 acres, which is known as the old Marsh Creek pump station. The City and Fulton County have been negotiating for the purchase of 21.747 acres of that tract, leaving Fulton County approximately two acres for the use and maintenance of the pump station. The purchase price is based upon the appraised amount of \$1,465,000. There is also an additional \$65,000 being used for the purpose of upgrading the scrubbers of the pump station to keep the odor at a minimum. This item is to be considered by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners tomorrow evening. Staff recommends Council's approval.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated this is an acquisition that is in the City's budget.

**City Manager John McDonough** stated the funds have already been allocated in the capital program.

Mayor Galambos stated numerous meetings were held with the Riverside neighborhoods.

City Manager McDonough stated public meetings were held with a concept plan. Councilmember Collins and Councilmember Meinzen McEnery held a meeting at Fire Station #3 two years ago regarding the property.

Mayor Galambos stated most of the attendees of the meeting were very much in favor of developing a new park on the river.

**Councilmember Chip Collins** stated the ones that showed up at the meetings wanted to vocalize opposition. However, from the emails received, 90% of those in the surrounding neighborhoods are in favor of the purchase of this property. The first time he heard about this beautiful piece of property was from Councilmember Meinzen McEnery before Sandy Springs was even a City. This will be a fantastic park for the whole City.

**Motion and Second:** Councilmember Collins moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-224, Approval of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Property Located on Old Riverside Drive from Fulton County. Councilmember Meinzen McEnery seconded the motion.

**Councilmember John Paulson** asked if staff has performed a site assessment and environmental study on this property.

City Manager McDonough stated staff has not. Typically, before the City purchases any property, environmental testing is done. Usually there has to be a signed purchase and sales agreement before the property owner will allow access to the property.

**Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery** stated the properties task force on which I served was a pre-city group tasked with researching all of the Fulton County owned property in Sandy Springs. It found this property and identified it at that time as a future potential park. The City needs another park in the middle of all the Council districts.

Mayor Galambos stated it was part of the City's original design, when the City incorporated, that the City wants more park land.

**Vote on the Motion:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No. 2013-12-84**

Councilmember Collins stated there have been only conceptual plans for this park and that was just to show citizens and Fulton County the type of park the City wants. The details of the plans will be for the future Council to engage in with the public and neighbors.

Mayor Galambos stated the consultants that designed Overlook Park should be on the list to design this park.

**(Agenda Item No. 13-225)**

6. Consideration of Approval and Ratification of Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Red Baron's Family Partnership, LLLP and City of Sandy Springs ("Agreement"), for the purchase of property located at 6214 Roswell Road ("Property")

**City Attorney Wendell Willard** stated this item is one of the parcels involved in the City Center project. The purchase price is \$450,000. There is also an additional payment to bring the leasehold tenant to an agreement to vacate the property by the end of 2013 in the amount of \$32,000. The time frame to close this deal is by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny** stated this is the oldest structure in the town center. This is the former Sandy Springs hardware store. She hopes that some of the bricks or interior of the building will be able to be saved.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Sterling moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13-225, the Approval and Ratification of a Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Red Baron's Family Partnership, LLLP and City of Sandy Springs ("Agreement"), for the purchase of property located at 6214 Roswell Road ("Property"). Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS

1. Mayor and Council Reports
2. Staff Reports
  - a) October Financial Report – Finance Director Karen Ellis
  - b) Johnson Ferry/Wright Rd Traffic Analysis

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** stated the City now has a contract in place with Arcadis to perform design work on this intersection. Staff hopes to bring concepts forward for a final build out solution in January or February 2014. There is funding available for the design and construction of this in the FY14 budget. A question about smart signals came up. There are four levels of signal coordination that can be done at an intersection. Level 1 is to have all the signals on the same time schedule. The second level is to program time of day plans. This is where the signal will run for a different plan at different times of the day. An example is a green light on a signal timed for thirty seconds for one direction at 8:00 a.m. and at that same location the light would run for twenty seconds in the afternoon. This is not an adaptive or responsive system. The Level 3 is the responsive system and this is where staff can choose the time of day plan. This also includes an update of the signal detection. All of the City's traffic signals currently run on a responsive Level 3. Level 4 is the most advanced traffic adaptive system. The first implementation of that system will be from Abernathy Road north into the City of Roswell. This was done under the City's CIP project T-0013, and will go into effect next month. The City will be running the most up-to-date traffic adaptive Level 4 system.

**Councilmember Tibby DeJulio** asked if Level 4 predicts the traffic.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes. In order to have a Level 4 system, detection has to be added upstream and downstream of the traffic signal, so it can adjust.

**Councilmember Gabriel Sterling** asked if the detection is by the "hockey puck" like sensors.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes.

**Councilmember Dianne Fries** asked what traffic detection is at Hightower Trail and Huntcliff. When she drives on Roswell Road and no car is driving on Hightower Trail, the traffic light will skip the cycle and keep the cars moving on Roswell Road.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated that system is traffic responsive. The City will upgrade that equipment to adaptive. This system will give a green traffic signal on the side street, if there is no traffic on the main street. The traffic adaptive system that will be installed next month will be active. The work has already been completed and staff has been running the algorithms in the background. This system will extend all the way into the City of Alpharetta. The City has a federal grant for the second phase of the ATMS and design will start later this year.

Councilmember Sterling asked if the City has fiber optics for the traffic lights throughout the City.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated that was the first thing the City did when the traffic signals went to Level 2 and connected. The Level 1 traffic signals were implemented four to five years ago. The City has progressively advanced to Level 3 and will now move into Level 4 with the traffic adaptive system. The cost for the Level 4 system per intersection is about \$20,000 to \$30,000. The reason for the cost is due to the increase of the detection and purchase of the software. The software cost ranges from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per intersection.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated the City made the news for the commuter dude, but the PCID took the blame for the traffic issue.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the PCID is looking to hire a consultant to look at that intersection in conjunction with the City for improving that area.

**Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny** asked about the Wright Road traffic signal.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated part of the design Arcadis creates will connect the signal into the fiber system and make sure it is a smart signal.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated she and Councilmember DeJulio travel from the south going north on Roswell Road. Traffic is always bad through the center of the City. She gets onto Roswell Road at Sandy Springs Circle and she sits there until traffic eases up past Abernathy Road. She hopes some of the Phase II portion of the project will improve the town center traffic and eventually improve the City's gateway.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated if there is saturation volumes in the traffic lanes, no amount of technology can help this. The City's new technology will help shorten the time period of saturation. Before there may have been an hour's worth of congestion. Once this technology is implemented, there will only be thirty minutes of congestion.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated at 5:15 p.m. the traffic is always stop and go from Sandy Springs Circle at Roswell Road to Abernathy Road.

Councilmember Fries stated another congested area is from Pitts Road to Dalrymple Road.

**Councilmember Chip Collins** stated he has lived with the issues of this intersection, including all of the emails he has received. Citizens were told for quite some time that improvements in this area would not be completed until Abernathy Road was improved. Then the City would let traffic normalize for a few months before taking action. He was hoping for more closure regarding this intersection. He asked if something is being done and if staff has decided whether a traffic signal will be at this location, as opposed to a roundabout.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated he recommends a traffic signal. However, he wants to go through the analysis process to ensure staff is not missing something. A decision will be made by the end of February 2014.

**Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole** stated staff will present the options to Council first and then move forward.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated construction will occur in spring of 2014.

Councilmember Collins asked if there is anticipation of other intersection improvements such as a turn lane.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded no, not at this time.

Councilmember Paulson stated this project should be mostly done and the quicker it is completed, the better.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery suggested finishing installing the HAWK system first. Director of Public Works Coleman stated the HAWK does have power to it and will be flashing tomorrow. The signal will not be in operation until one or two weeks from now. Public outreach has to be done first, so citizens will understand how the signal operates. The HAWK has a three signal head configuration. The traffic signal will be dark until a pedestrian actuates it and then it will start flashing. When the light is solid red, the driver will have to stop. When the signal starts flashing again, you can drive as long as no one is in the crosswalk.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated she wants to make sure traffic flow is moving with reasonable protection for commuters and pedestrians.

Councilmember Fries asked if cameras will be in the area to monitor how many pedestrians are using the crosswalk versus how many are crossing fifty feet before or after the crosswalk.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated staff can look into this suggestion.

Councilmember Fries stated the City should research if the HAWK is being used before any more are built.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated he and Director of Transportation/Traffic Brad Edwards were at the HAWK location and there was someone using the crosswalk before it was even working. The City is doing a pilot program with this HAWK. The total cost for the HAWK is around \$190,000 and MARTA paid for all of it.

c) Target Building Demolition Update

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** stated staff went through an RFB process in November to get a demolition contractor under contract to demolish the Target building. Staff is moving forward with this. There were fifteen bidders and a contract will be signed with Complete Demolition Services, LLC. The amount is under the City Manager's approval authority, so Council will not have to take official action on this. The demolition will occur in the middle of December or early January 2014.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** asked if the building can be demolished in the middle of December.

**City Manager John McDonough** stated the demolition date is set for January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilmember Tibby DeJulio** asked if Target shares a common wall with the Goodwill building.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes. Thirty feet into the existing building there are a set of columns where an I-beam will be buttressed and welded to that set of columns.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Eric Johnson, 4755 Longchamps Drive**, stated in his neighborhood of Derby Hills there have been quite a few encounters with coyotes. He saw one coyote in his yard where his children have played. There are many opinions on how to deal with the coyotes. There are many very anxious parents in the neighborhood and they are trying to create an environment where the right solution is determined.

**Mayor Eva Galambos** stated the City appreciates the citizens working through this issue with their own neighborhoods.

**Councilmember Diane Fries** stated the Huntcliff subdivision had this issue a few years ago.

**Councilmember Gabriel Sterling** stated in Colorado they are training people on coyote harassment. The coyotes need to see a human being that makes noise to scare them off.

**James Hoogerwerf, 1050 Ridge Tarn**, stated he has lived in Sandy Springs since the 1980's. He thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for their service. He is in attendance to speak regarding the extension of the MARTA rail. He was the president of his neighborhood association, the Northwood Community Association, from 1982 to 1984. There was an abundance of rezoning in the northern part of Sandy Springs. The residents were always promised that office development would not encroach onto the east side of GA 400. The Northridge Plaza is on the east side of GA 400, which is the only office building on the east side. On the northeast side of GA 400 there were zonings for development as well. The possibility of building a MARTA station at that location was mentioned, which makes no sense at all. The residents were promised long ago that commercial development would not encroach on the east side of GA 400. Before the current development, one could drive down Northridge Road and there was no stop sign until Roswell Road. Clark Howard was discussing the proposed new baseball stadium and that the population center of the metropolitan area in Atlanta is around Northridge and GA 400. He asked that Council oppose the MARTA station being located on the east side of GA 400.

**Michael McDonald, 7040 Riverside Drive NW**, stated the proposed Atlanta Braves stadium will have an impact on traffic in Sandy Springs. Riverside Drive is already a congested area and the drivers from Cobb County do not respect the traffic and speed laws. If the stadium is built, these drivers will use Sandy Springs as a cut-through. The City should be aware of the proposed stadium process and he wants to ensure that citizen and City input are received during this major transition. The vote has been completed on the Riverside park and he urged the City Council to finish one project at a time. The renovation of the City Center is in progress and that will take a major amount of work. The City is spending money and time on pocket parks and an example is the Riverside Drive and Johnson Ferry Road location. The real issue is this area is not a park and will never be a meaningful park. The City cannot do much with the Miles property due to all of the restrictions. He urged the City to complete one project before taking on others. There is a severe economic crisis in the country and due to this, the City should be conservative with its money.

Councilmember Fries stated Mr. McDonald referred to the GDOT property and that is not the property the City is purchasing.

Mr. McDonald stated he understands that. He referenced that property, the Miles property, the Old Riverside property, and the City Center.

Mayor Galambos stated the City acquired the small parcel at Riverside Drive and Johnson Ferry when Sandy Springs became a City. That was never a good location for a park. Fulton County purchased the property to keep from having a multi-family development at that location.

Mr. McDonald stated Sandy Springs should probably close off access to the park and place kudzu at the location.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

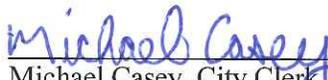
There was no Executive Session held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Fries moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Date Approved: December 17, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eva Galambos, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Casey, City Clerk