

**Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:02 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.**

**Council Members present:** Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Andy Bauman, and Council Member Tibby DeJulio.

**INVOCATION**

Beth Schafer – Cantorial Chair, Temple Sinai, offered the invocation.

Mayor Paul recognized and welcomed the attendance of Senator Kay Kirkpatrick and Representative Deborah Silcox.

**STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Municipal Court**

1. **19-198** Pre-Trial Diversion Plans  
(Presented by Leslie Donaho, City Solicitor)

**City Solicitor Leslie Donaho** presented the PowerPoint presentation on Pre-Trial Diversion plans and a copy is attached and made a part hereto of these Minutes.

**Council Member Tibby DeJulio** asked for an explanation of an accountability court.

City Solicitor Donaho explained an accountability court is where a person would enter a plea of guilty rather than going into custody. They start receiving treatment, report to Probation, and are drug tested regularly. The purpose of the program is to keep somebody out of jail. In accountability court, the participants generally have more significant criminal history than someone in a pre-trial diversion program.

**Council Member John Paulson** stated he and others have worked with the American Legion Post with reference to Fulton County Veteran’s Court and wondered about including a veteran’s component as part of this program.

City Solicitor Donaho responded that the problem with the Veterans Court is that they rely on the resources of the VA, which is difficult to get tapped into, but it’s definitely of interest.

**Council Member Jody Reichel** asked if the participants in the pilot program are residents of Sandy Springs or if it is just for crimes that occur in Sandy Springs.

City Solicitor Donaho explained that the program would focus on people that live in Sandy Springs or live in the local Metro area.

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

**Public Works**

2. **19-199** Peachtree Dunwoody Road at Windsor Parkway Intersection Improvement(Project TS109)

**TSPLOST Program Coordinator Allen Johnson** gave the T-SPLOST City Council Review TS109-Peachtree Dunwoody Road at Windsor Parkway Intersection Project PowerPoint presentation.

55 **Mayor Rusty Paul** questioned if the neighborhood objections came from concerns about getting in and  
56 out of their neighborhoods.

57  
58 TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated there could be concerns, but also ways to mitigate those  
59 concerns.

60  
61 **Council Member Tibby DeJulio** stated that he recalled there being a consensus to put off the right turn  
62 lane until the end of construction with GA 285/400 and see how things developed. He stated that he was  
63 adamant to go ahead and do the revised plan and then study after completion of SR 400/285 and abide by  
64 the almost unanimous wishes of the residents, but that the right turn lane not be added at this time.

65  
66 **Council Member Chris Burnett** questioned whether this was on the TPLOST in 2016 and whether there  
67 had been any design revisions in the intervening years for a better design.

68  
69 TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded that this was on the TSPLOST Initiative in 2016 and  
70 there was a Master Plan and an improvement. However, it was decided that this would not be included as  
71 part of the Master Plan. In the intervening period, there were a lot of Lucity tickets so the project got added  
72 into the TSPLOST Program, but as a minor improvement.

73  
74 **Council Member Andy Bauman** asked about the impact to the neighborhood between the Build and the  
75 Revised Build options and the associated need for right-of-way.

76  
77 TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated that the concern was that of more traffic and that it is not a  
78 capacity enhancement, but rather an operational improvement. For the Build option, there is an easement  
79 that would be needed at the right-turn lane on Windsor and a right-of-way needed to add a right-turn  
80 southbound to westbound at the YMCA soccer fields. From a Level of Service standpoint, during the peak  
81 periods, it is basically the same as the No Build option. However, there are safety improvements, if you  
82 just do the Peachtree Dunwoody left turn lanes and there are some operational improvements throughout  
83 the day beyond the peak period.

84  
85 Council Member Burnett reiterated that the Build option is for operational and safety improvement; while  
86 the Revised Build is mostly for safety, with some slight operational improvements in the non-peak hours.

87  
88 There was a consensus of Council to move forward with the Revised Build option.

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90 3. **19-200** Spalding Drive Widening Project Briefing – SR 140/Holcomb Bridge Road at Spalding  
91 Drive

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93 **Gwinnett County Department of Transportation representative, Andrew Thompson** provided a brief  
94 presentation via PowerPoint on the SR140 Holcomb Bridge at Spalding Drive project which included  
95 “Quadrant Roadway” intersection improvements to reduce delay at Spalding Drive and Holcomb Bridge  
96 Road and reroute traffic along River Exchange Drive. In the Regular Session Meeting agenda, the original  
97 IGA will be considered for approval.

98  
99 4. **19-201** Spalding Drive Widening Project Briefing – Winters Chapel Road to SR140/Holcomb  
100 Bridge Road)

101  
102 **Gwinnett County Department of Transportation Representative, Andrew Thompson** provided a brief  
103 presentation on the Spalding Drive Widening Project which runs from Winters Chapel Road to  
104 SR140/Holcomb Bridge Road. In the Regular Session Meeting agenda, a Change Order for the original  
105 IGA will be considered for approval.

106  
107 **Council Member John Paulson** asked about the 6’ sidewalk portion to ensure that a portion of the sidewalk  
108 was going to be on the northside of Spalding Drive.

109  
110 Gwinnett County DOT representative Andrew Thompson stated that you can see the extension of the left-  
111 turn lane for Riverside Drive; 10' pedestrian path shifts to the northside where the new facility is being  
112 constructed and continues on from there.

113  
114 **Mayor Rusty Paul** asked if this connected our trail network to the Gwinnett Trail Network.

115  
116 Gwinnett County DOT representative Andrew Thompson stated that the widening for the path is on the  
117 southside of Spalding Drive, west of the future Crooked Creek part, intentionally so to minimize disruption  
118 to the single family residential on the northside of Spalding as the new bridge is constructed. It will connect  
119 to the trail head at Crooked Creek and the City of Peachtree Corners plans to tie into the future trail network  
120 on their side.

121  
122 **City Manager John McDonough** asked Mayor Paul about a presentation that was scheduled for the  
123 Regular Session and requested that it be moved up to accommodate the group. Mayor Paul concurred.

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125 **PRESENTATIONS [from Regular Session Agenda]**

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127 5. **19-206 Places to Play in Sandy Springs** a class of 3 and 4 year olds, from the Preschool at Mt.  
128 Vernon Presbyterian School authored a book about 'Place to Play in Sandy Springs' and presented a  
129 copy to the Mayor and members of the City Council.

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131 **Economic Development**

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133 6. **19-202** Update on North End Redevelopment

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135 **Economic Development Director Andrea Worthy** gave the North End Redevelopment Update  
136 PowerPoint presentation. In January, there were some recommendations from our North End  
137 Redevelopment Task Force. The recommendations included several action items under 6 Strategic Areas.  
138 The 1<sup>st</sup> was a Development Code Audit. Community Development staff has done an internal review of  
139 how to accomplish redevelopment on the north side and will furnish the results to the consultant who is  
140 working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> item on this list, which is a conceptual plan for 4 shopping centers in the North End. The  
141 RFP was released and submittals are due June 20<sup>th</sup> with estimates that the entire process and those plans  
142 could be completed by the consultant by January or early of 2020. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is the Feasibility Study for  
143 a Chattahoochee River access. The RFP has been released and expect the feasibility study done by the end  
144 of this year. The 4<sup>th</sup> is the PATH Study for possible routes for the Greenline. That process is already  
145 underway. It is a city-wide process, but there will be a draft presented tomorrow night (June 19) at the  
146 Public meeting at 6:00 pm at City Hall. The public is encouraged to come out and take a look at those. That  
147 process should be completed in 3rd quarter of this year. The 5th is exploring opportunities to boulevard  
148 Roswell Road in the area of the Fulton County Annex. There is a study underway as well as exploring  
149 opportunities to boulevard closer to the river area and add pedestrian connections under the river bridge.  
150 Once that is completed, it will be coming before Council for consideration. Lastly, the 6th is Development  
151 Authority guidelines supporting the City's redevelopment efforts. The Development Authority has the  
152 ability to offer incentives and the City will be speaking to about the best way to move forward. Other  
153 opportunities are exploring a boulevard opportunity from Dunwoody Place to the river. Internally, staff is  
154 also working on a CID analysis to see if this is something that the business owners in the area may want to  
155 consider. There needs to be an analysis of what properties could be impacted by a CID, what type of  
156 revenue could be generated and potentially what type of projects could be done with that revenue.

157  
158 **Council Member John Paulson** asked if the 4 concept projects were all commercial properties because he  
159 believed there were many discussions regarding apartments being initially included as concept projects.

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161 Economic Development Director Worthy confirmed that they are all commercial concepts and include the  
162 North River Shopping Center (owned by Stream Realty); the former Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center;

163 the Big Lots Shopping Center and the former Kroger Shopping Center. They are all aware that the City is  
164 doing an RFP process and the primary feedback was very positive. They see this as a potential opportunity  
165 for them to be able to market their property for redevelopment.

166  
167 **Council Member Chris Burnett** stated these are 4 distressed properties with high vacancy rates. The  
168 properties could either be the conduit of the redevelopment or they could sell or joint venture.

169  
170 Economic Development Director Andrea Worthy stated the goal is for the community and the owners of  
171 the properties to understand what the redevelopment potential is for those properties.

172  
173 Council Member Burnett stated that he assumed the City will try to award it to a company that specializes  
174 in redevelopment initiatives.

175  
176 Economic Development Director Worthy stated the time frame is by the end of the year or 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of  
177 next year. There was a pre-proposal meeting and there was a lot of interest.

178  
179 Mayor Paul stated this is one of the priorities of the City and it is clear that the City is trying to boost the  
180 retail in that area and also provide home ownership opportunities for middle-class families.

181

182 **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

183

184 7. **19-203** Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes

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186 **Council Member Andy Bauman, City Council, District 6** presented a Memorandum regarding a  
187 **Proposed new Hate-Crime/Penalty Enhancement Ordinance.**

188

189 Council Member Bauman presented that while the City has other ordinances regarding destruction of  
190 property, vandalism and such, there is not specifically an ordinance covering ‘Hate Crimes.’ He explained  
191 that a ‘Hate Crime’ is not merely thought or hate without an underlying crime. To have a ‘Hate Crime’ you  
192 must prove both “hate” and a “crime”. Per the US Department of Justice graphic included in the  
193 Memorandum, there must be a crime and the motivation for committing the crime must be proved to be  
194 based on bias, per the **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**, also known  
195 as the **Matthew Shepard Act**, is an American Act of Congress, passed on October 22, 2009, and signed  
196 into law by President Barack Obama on October 28, 2009, as a rider to the National Defense  
197 Authorization Act for 2010 (H.R. 2647). The entire Memorandum and proposed ordinance are attached  
198 and made a part of these Minutes hereto.

199

200 There was a consensus of Council to bring this item forward for consideration at the next Regular Council  
201 Meeting.

202

203 There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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205 Date Approved: July 16, 2019

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Russell K. Paul, Mayor

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Coty Thigpen, City Clerk