
Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at 7:12 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

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

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Development

1. **TA13-001** - An Ordinance to Create Section 105-23, Commercial Car Wash Water Recycling, of the Code of the City of Sandy Springs

Director of Community Development Angela Parker stated Council was briefed on this item in February 2009 during a Work Session. The discussion included a number of items related to the City's stormwater management plan. However, this particular item was not brought back to Council for adoption. During the update of the stormwater permit with the State, it was discovered that this plan was never adopted. All local governments that have stormwater systems are required to have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The North Georgia Water Planning District is charged by the State with developing regional stormwater plans for area governments within a district. The district has passed a model stormwater ordinance and all the governments in the district are directed to adopt this ordinance. Fulton County adopted this ordinance in 2009. The State will withhold the City's stormwater permit if the City does not adopt the carwash ordinance. The ordinance calls for the recycling of water for all new conveyer system carwashes. This ordinance will only apply to new carwashes and conveyer system carwashes.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked what will happen if the City does not receive the permit from the State.

Director of Community Development Parker stated the City would be out of compliance with the permit.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated all of the City projects, including capital improvements and road projects, would be scrutinized by the State.

Stormwater Permit Manager Michelle Robbins stated every municipality nationwide that has a certain population is required to have permit coverage. The City could choose to not pass the ordinance, but then there is the risk of being out of compliance and being investigated by the Environmental Protection Division.

Director of Community Development Parker stated this is a Federal requirement that is delegated to the State.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated she supports doing the right thing for the City's stormwater system, rivers, and recycling water. There should be more restrictions than just the conveyer carwashes.

Councilmember Fries stated the State will not allow all carwash water to be recycled.

Director of Community Development Parker stated the hand held carwash sprayers that people generally think of as potable are actually non-potable water. This would not be allowed by the State. The use of non-potable water is restricted.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked where the water runoff goes in a conveyer carwash system.

Councilmember Fries stated individuals using a conveyer carwash system do not touch the water.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the next Regular City Council meeting.

2. Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the City of Sandy Springs 2013-17 Consolidated Plan and 2013 Annual Action Plan for Submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Director of Community Development Angela Parker stated this item is the five-year consolidated plan. As a condition of receiving HUD funds, the City is required by the Federal government to have a five-year consolidated plan and a one year action plan. This item will be brought back to Council in May for adoption. The staff recommends as part of the project plan the continuation of the Roswell Road streetscape project. The project began in 2008 and the City anticipates receiving additional funds in the near future to continue that project. Once the project is complete, staff will bring a new project to Council. Staff anticipates receiving \$400,000 in Federal funds from HUD this year. This money will be needed to continue to fund the streetscape improvements on Roswell Road all the way to the river.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery stated as she recalls, Council agreed to the project five years in advance for the money the City usually receives. There are two areas in the community that qualify for CDBG program funds. One area is along Pitts Road and the other area is south of I-285 near Northwoods. She asked if the City will have enough money to finish this project and then work can be done near Northwoods.

Director of Community Development Parker stated staff anticipates needing the next two to three years of Federal funding to finish the projects the City has begun. In approximately two years, staff will be presenting to Council recommendations for the next new project to be funded with CDBG funds.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked if the new project will be located north of I-285.

Director of Community Development Parker stated these funds can only be used in eligible communities. With the completion of this project, all the sidewalks in the eligible communities north of I-285 will be finished two years from now.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated Council approved the CDBG improvement project from Dalrymple on Roswell Road to the river. The improvement on Pitts Road was a MARTA project.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated she would like to see the CDBG project extended to the other qualified areas of the City once the original scope is finished.

Councilmember John Paulson stated there is about \$600,000 of funds still available that the program was entitled to. He asked if the money is committed to projects for the City.

Director of Community Development Parker responded yes. The funding the City currently has agreements for will be received. The City has been put on notice that the funding will likely be reduced going forward and that more information will be received in July.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the next Regular City Council meeting.

3. Roswell Road/I-285 Gateway Presentation

Director of Community Development Angela Parker stated in the FY2012-13 budget Council approved funding for a gateway program for the City. In January 2013, Council was presented an overview of gateways throughout the City. Council took action to focus on the Roswell Road/I-285 interchange to be the first gateway within the City. The Collaborative Boston office has created concepts in regards to that particular gateway. Kaye Lynn Johnson with The Collaborative will be presenting the concept for the Roswell Road/I-285 gateway.

Kaye Lynn Johnson, Vice President of Design for The Collaborative, stated she will be discussing the intersection of I-285 and Roswell Road. Gateways mark the entrance to an important place. The gateway is an opportunity to say something about a place. Roswell Road is an important gateway to Sandy Springs and particularly to the City Center. The gateway will be able to make a positive statement about the characteristics of Sandy Springs. The gateways will be complementing the work coming out of the City branding process. The City symbol is effective at telling the story of the land. The City should be communicating that it is innovative by using strong and memorable materials. Another notion of the branding process is the modern southern living with the love of nature. She referenced a map depicting the City's multiple gateway locations. The Roswell Road/I-285 gateway is almost in the middle of the City. What characterizes this area are the hills and that Roswell Road is the City's historic main street. She referenced an illustration of trees located at the proposed Roswell Road/I-285 gateway. She referenced a drawing of the side view of the interstate and ridge line of Roswell Road. Plant material and seasonal color were considered for the future plantings. Oak trees have a red/brown color, maples trees have a red color, and hickory trees are yellow. The grass will be green in summer and spring and in the winter the grass will be a golden color. There is also the opportunity to have perennial flowers planted as well as flowering trees off the ramp. Another strong element of the intersection is the bridge that crosses the interstate. The bridge is seen as an opportunity to express a very important element of Sandy Springs, which is the water. When designing along an interstate that is highly travelled, you want big and bold ideas. There is precedence for making a bridge railing, which is how the element would be brought into the design. Another element that shows how to make this potential icon dynamic is the use of light. She referenced a photograph of the night view of the 14th Street Bridge in Atlanta to demonstrate what the Roswell Road Bridge might look like. She referenced a photograph of a gateway bridge into Boston. Her former employer was the designer for this bridge. The top of the towers on the bridge are the shape of the bunker hill monument, which is in sight from the view of the bridge. The design of this bridge took on historic character and is an icon for Boston. In designing the gateway, safety regulations for GDOT have to be maintained. Trees have to be located in areas where there are safe sight lines. The design of the bridge reflecting the City seal could become an icon for the area. The gateway illustrates the City's history and land. It will be seen by many people during the day and night and will be an effective "front door" for the City.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated the presentation was interesting and beautiful.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked if the entire bridge will be lighted similar to the 14th Street bridge pillars.

Ms. Johnson responded yes.

Mayor Galambos asked if the bridge would be both illuminated and unilluminated.

Ms. Johnson stated that is a possibility. It is up to the Council what options they would like on the bridge.

Councilmember John Paulson stated the City is also building the most northern intersection bridge in the City over GA400. He suggested the new bridge at Northridge should have the option to add the "gateway" lighting similar to the Roswell Road/I-285 Bridge.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated she has a horticultural comment that relates to the history of the Georgia pine tree. The pine tree saved Georgia land from erosion during the Depression as well as the hickory, maple, and oak trees. She likes the design. Oak trees take a long time to grow and their form is much more spreading. She asked if Ms. Johnson has considered planting pine trees instead.

Ms. Johnson stated questions such as which trees will be planted should be worked out in the design/development stage. She initially had pine trees in mind. It is important for Council to agree and be comfortable on the choices made for this project.

Mayor Galambos asked what will happen if I-285 gets widened after the City has planted all the trees.

Ms. Johnson stated during the design/development stage that possibility will be considered.

Councilmember Chip Collins stated the gateway map shows stars for gateway branding and the yellow triangles are gateway landscaping. He asked if the gateway branding would be more signage and not landscaping.

Ms. Johnson stated she uses that plan for positioning and to show where Roswell Road and I-285 are located in the City. This plan is due to be updated.

Councilmember Collins stated the Powers Ferry Road near Northside Drive intersection are due for a significant landscaping project.

Ms. Johnson stated in any sign system, and for gateway projects, you want there to be a hierarchy for the gateway entrances.

Mayor Galambos stated at this point there is funding for one gateway. She asked what the time schedule is to make decisions in order to have the trees planted in the fall.

Ms. Johnson stated the next step is to go into the design/development phase with the design concept. Concept design could also be done on the Northridge interchange in order to phase each project.

Mayor Galambos asked if the additional design work can be done in order to put the project out to bid for this fall.

Ms. Johnson responded yes.

Director of Community Development Parker stated the planting season will start December 1st. Staff's goal is to have the plans approved by GDOT in order to have the project installed by the end of the year.

Mayor Galambos asked when Council needs to make a firm decision on whether this proposal is adopted in order to complete the plan in this timeframe.

Director of Community Development Parker stated within the next month.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item to the next Regular City Council meeting agenda.

Public Works

1. Consideration of Approval of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Lighting Agreement for SR9 from Johnson Ferry Road to Abernathy Streetscape Project (CIP T-0012)

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Marty Martin, stated this item is a lighting agreement developed by GDOT. The agreement includes the pedestrian scale lighting, which is the same lighting that was installed with the CDBG project on Roswell Road. For the Roswell Road streetscape project from Johnson Ferry Road to Abernathy, the City qualifies for Federal Highway Administration funds to install the lighting. In exchange for the funds, the City agrees to operate and maintain the lights.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if this lighting will be LED.

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Martin responded yes. The lights will be purchased and installed as part of the construction contract.

Councilmember Gabriel Sterling asked if staff can look into getting a contract stating the City will guarantee the purchase of a certain number of lights at a discounted price.

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Martin stated the City has done some degree of that with the smaller sidewalk projects. The bulk agreement could not be applied to this project due to the nature of the construction contract.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated she has a concern for the area in front of Lake Forest Elementary School where the bobblehead lights have been installed. There are still overhead street lights used to illuminate the roadway. The City is paying for both the overhead lights and the bobblehead lights. There is a tremendous amount of light and expense in doing that. She questioned there being so much light emitted from the bulbs and suggested maybe installing up lighting around the sidewalk instead.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated the first priority for the lights and sidewalks to be installed are around schools and arterial roads. When people are walking or driving on a busy street, there should be extra light in these areas.

Mayor Galambos asked who determines where the overhead lights are installed.

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Martin stated the location of those lights have been determined by GDOT, since they are roadway lights. The pedestrian lights do not light the roadway, but instead light the sidewalk.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated the City is paying for all of the street lights not on GDOT property that light the roadways. She asked who decides where the street lights on non GDOT property are installed. She suggested spacing the bobblehead and overhead lights, which would save the City money on the power bill.

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Martin stated off of State Route 9, it is up to the City where the lighting is located.

Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman stated the lights have two different uses. One light is a pedestrian scale light and one is a road light. Placement of a light depends on the wattage of the fixture, the height of the fixture, and other items. Some lights have been in a location for thirty years. Staff occasionally receives requests from citizens for lights in a neighborhood. Staff then goes to the neighborhood and completes a study to determine if there is proper spacing for the lights to be installed.

Councilmember Fries stated Council should be careful in suggesting lights be moved. Some lights are located at curves and hills in the road where safety may be a concern. Council has previously discussed installing fewer bobblehead lights. Currently, the way three lights are spaced, the middle light could be removed.

Councilmember Sterling asked what the spacing is between the bobblehead lights.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the spacing is 90 to 100 feet. This measurement is based on the height of the fixture and the wattage.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked if there are any studies that show the amount of light required for streets to be walkable. People do not want to walk on dark streets.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated the Institute of Lighting Engineers makes recommendations on the lighting.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if Director Coleman could check on the guidelines for Council.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes.

City Manager John McDonough stated staff has studied the issue of light spacing. Staff is in the process of developing lighting standards for the City. The lighting at pedestrian level was looked at and staff found the lights may be too close together, so possibly one light could be removed in order to move them further apart. Staff will research this and come back to Council with more information.

Interim Director of Capital Improvement Martin stated there is a time factor for this agreement. GDOT has scheduled this project for let this June.

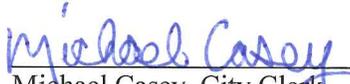
There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the next Regular City Council meeting agenda.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Date Approved: May 7, 2013



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk