

Regular Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

INVOCATION

Reverend Ron Gilreath, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, offered the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eva Galambos called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 Tibby DeJulio, and Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery present. Councilmember Gabriel Sterling was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Eva Galambos led the Pledge of Allegiance

(Agenda Item No. 11-184)

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve the Meeting Agenda for September 6, 2011. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Agenda Item No. 11-185)

1. Meeting Minutes:
 - a) August 16, 2011 Regular Meeting
 - b) August 16, 2011 Work Session

(Michael Casey, City Clerk)

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve the Consent Agenda for September 6, 2011. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Signature Moments – Chief of Police Terry Sult

Police Chief Terry Sult stated it is a rare moment when a Police Chief has the opportunity to share with the community the quality of people who work in the organization. He introduced the following individuals: Sergeant Melanie Rowand, Officer Jeff Inman, Jason Green, and Kathy Williams. This project was the brainstorm of Sergeant Rowand, and resulted in a book titled Signature Moments. The project is part of the five year celebration of the Sandy Springs Police Department. The book tells the story of eighty-one of the Police Department employees through a signature moment in their careers. The book includes not just the job side, but their personal stories as well. It took a lot of time and talent, photographs, graphics, and legal review to make the book come together, plus with the cooperation of eighty-one employees who usually do not open up. There is an insert in the book from the Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent fund was created to support the employees of the Police Department. As a result, the book is a partnership between the Police Department and the Benevolent Fund. Some of the books were purchased to be available as part of the five year celebration. The remaining books were purchased by the Benevolent Fund to be given away for a minimum donation of \$25, which goes into the Fund. It took a lot of talent to put this project together. He asked Sergeant Rowand to say a few words and to assist with presenting the books.

Sergeant Melanie Rowand thanked the Mayor, City Council, and the residents of Sandy Springs for supporting of the Police Department during the past five years and for the continued support. She thanked Chief Sult, Kathy Williams, Jason Green, and Officer Inman for helping with the book project.

Police Chief Sult stated the last story in the book about Pat Graham was the catalyst that started the Benevolent Fund. The Police Department was in a situation where they could not help to the level they needed to at that time. The Benevolent Fund is now able to help a number of police officers and firefighters as well.

Police Chief Sult stated that two people from England will be arriving Friday of this week to discuss police problem solving and training. The Police Department will have an open house September 15, 2011, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The two individuals from England will be at the open house to share international experiences with the community to show that problem solving works all over the world.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated there is nothing we are more proud of than the Police and Fire Departments. The Police and Fire Departments are the backbone of our public services. They are an inspiration with their professionalism. She is impressed that law enforcement people from England are coming to Sandy Springs to visit, which is a tremendous honor. The citizens value the department's services. Many times she has heard from people that the police are their friends, not people they are afraid of. This is the ultimate compliment a Police Department can receive from the citizens. She thanked the individuals involved with the book project and the entire Police Department.

2. Proclamation – National Assisted Living Week September 11 through 17, 2011.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated this item is to recognize the assisted living component of our community. She read the proclamation which states the number of elderly and disabled Americans is dramatically increasing. Assisted living is a long term care service that fosters choice, dignity, independence and autonomy in our elders nationwide. The National Center for Assisted Living proudly created National Assisted Living Week.

The theme of National Assisted Living Week 2011, "Forever Proud", commemorates the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and highlights the pride we feel as American citizens, in our community, family and friends, and in a life of work done well. She proclaimed the week of September 11 - 17, 2011, as Assisted Living Week in Sandy Springs, Georgia. We urge all citizens to visit friends and loved ones who reside at these communities and also to learn more about assisted living services and the benefits they provide for older adults and their families. She asked representatives from the Belmont Assisted Living facility to the front to receive the proclamation.

Kendall Crye, Community Relations Associate for Belmont Village Senior Living, stated the facility is honored to have Mayor Galambos joining them on September 9, 2011, for the annual recognition of veterans in the Sandy Springs area. This year being the 10th anniversary of 9/11, special recognition will be given to the Sandy Springs Police and Fire Department. The event will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 5455 Glenridge Drive.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda Item No. 11-186)

1. Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities with GDOT for Abernathy Park Construction (T-0002) (PI 9059), Phase IV

Capital Program Manager Garrin Coleman stated this item is the reallocation of the \$100,000 TE Grant from the T-0012 Roswell Road streetscape project to the T-0002 Abernathy Greenway Project. This increases the total amount of the grant to \$800,000. The local match would be \$200,000, resulting in a total bid package of about \$1 million.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny asked for more information on the T-0012 project.

Capital Program Manager Coleman stated T-0012 is the Roswell Road streetscape project from Johnson Ferry to Abernathy Road.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked if the T-0012 project is for both sides of the road.

Capital Program Manager Coleman responded yes.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if all of the right-of-way was contributed or if the City has to pay for some of it.

Capital Program Manager Coleman stated that project is currently on hold for right-of-ways. There may be a billboard issue involved. There is federal right-of-way money allocated for that project as well as federal construction money. The TE is an additional funding source and the expiration on the funds is in twenty-four to thirty months. Phase IV of the Greenway project is ready to go out for bid. Staff would like to increase the bid package.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Fries moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-186, Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities with GDOT for Abernathy Park Construction (T-0002) (PI 9059), Phase IV. Councilmember Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2011-09-72

(Agenda Item No. 11-187)

2. Noise Variance Request for PCID Streetscape Project on Peachtree Dunwoody Road from I-285 to Mount Vernon Highway

Acting Director of Community Development Nancy Leathers stated PCID has submitted a request for a noise variance. PCID is requesting to be allowed to do night work on the southern portion of the project from Hammond Drive to I-285. This would avoid the closure of lanes during the day. The request is for work from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., because there are no residents in that area. The PCID is requesting construction be allowed north of Hammond Drive between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked if PCID is going to notify the residents in the area that construction will be occurring during those hours. The residents should understand that the reason for the construction hour change is to minimize traffic issues.

Acting Director of Community Development Leathers stated staff will make sure that the residential developments receive a notice of the construction work hour changes.

Councilmember Dianne Fries asked if the work hour changes address concerns of Councilmember Sterling.

Acting Director of Community Development Leathers stated she believes those issues have been addressed. It is important that the City has the ability to work at night on road work projects. Otherwise, there will be problems during the day from lane closures.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember DeJulio moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11-187, Noise Variance Request for PCID Streetscape Project on Peachtree Dunwoody Road from I-285 to Mount Vernon Highway. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor and Council Reports

Mayor Eva Galambos nominated Jim DiChiara to fill a vacancy on the Sandy Springs Hospitality & Tourism Board. The Board was looking for someone that has experience in marketing in the hospitality industry. Mr. DiChiara was previously employed with Ritz Carlton and Intercontinental Hotels. He is currently employed in marketing in the hospitality industry.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember DeJulio moved to approve the nomination of Jim DiChiara as a member of the Sandy Springs Hospitality & Tourism Board. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Staff Reports

a) Capital Improvement Element (CIE) Transportation Project Funding – Public Works

Capital Program Manager Garrin Coleman stated a brief report was prepared on Capital Improvement Element funding. Staff is asking that funding of approximately \$250,000 be allocated to the Morgan Falls Road project, which is capital project T-0034.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked when the project will start.

Capital Program Manager Coleman stated the project should be out to bid in the next several months.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if this will be enough money to complete the whole project.

Capital Program Manager Coleman stated a \$500,000 TE grant was recently added to the project. Staff believes there will be enough funding from the TE funds and the allocation of \$1.9 million to do the beautification and the road widening. The project will start at Morgan Falls Apartments and will continue to the entrance of Overlook Park. The TE funds will be used for the facing on the walls, plantings, entrance monuments to the park, and directional signs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Zakem, 500 S. Riverview Road, spoke about the amendment to the sign ordinance being discussed at the Work Session this evening. He referenced two photos on the screen projector. The photo on the left is a standard real estate sign, which is eighteen inches wide and twenty-eight inches in height, for a total size of three and a half square feet. This type of sign is currently allowable under the sign ordinance as a standard informational sign of four square feet. The sign is easy to read and informative. On the right is a photo of a cantilever sign that has a sign area of six square feet and is six feet in height. The proposed text amendment to the sign ordinance would allow these cantilever signs in the City. These signs are unnecessary and obtrusive. Most of the signs are placed too close to the pavement. The cantilever signs are not easily removed by a Code Enforcement officer. Since the text amendment applies to all zoning districts, these signs could be used by businesses to advertise. UPS has a standard informational sign located outside their business and with the proposed change can have a cantilever sign of six square feet for advertisement. There does need to be some adjustment to the ordinance for a standard informational sign to allow for real estate use. The slight increase in size and height for the standard size sign is all that is necessary.

(Agenda Item No. 11-188)

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Litigation

Motion and Vote: Councilmember DeJulio moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with Laurel Henderson, Nancy Leathers, and Patrice Dickerson included. Councilmember Fries seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with Councilmember Paulson, Councilmember Fries, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember DeJulio, and Councilmember Meinzen McEnery voting in favor of the motion. Executive Session began at 6:35 p.m.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember DeJulio moved to adjourn Executive Session. Councilmember Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with Councilmember Paulson, Councilmember Fries, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember DeJulio, and Councilmember Meinzen McEnery voting in favor of the motion. Executive session adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

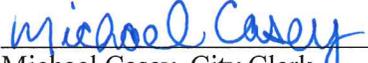
(Agenda Item No. 11-189)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion and Vote: Councilmember DeJulio moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Date Approved: September 20, 2011


Eva Galambos, Mayor


Michael Casey, City Clerk