

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at 6:57 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Councilman John Paulson, Councilman Ken Dishman, Councilman Graham McDonald, Councilman Gabriel Sterling, and Councilman Andy Bauman.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. PCIDs 2014 Grant Application and Request for Letter of Support

Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman stated this briefing is on CIP project T-0021, which is the Lake Hearn Drive at Peachtree Dunwoody Road project. This project has been on the "books" since 2007. The City has gone through re-scoping with the PCID. The PCID has an innovative idea on potentially funding this project, which could get the project built within the next three years.

Jennifer Harper, Program Director for the PCID, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2014 Grant Application and Request for Letter of Support. (see attached)

Councilman Gabriel Sterling asked if having an unprotected bicycle lane this wide will provide enough feeling of safety for cyclists to use the lane under the bridge.

Ms. Harper stated the plan on Peachtree Dunwoody is to have a two way cycle track and that will be buffered. The cross section shows in street bicycle lanes, but that was an old concept. The PCID is now looking at a multi-use path and not having the bicycles in the street along Peachtree Dunwoody.

Councilman John Paulson asked if the PCID has told GDOT about this.

Ms. Harper stated the PCID has a meeting scheduled with GDOT on Thursday. The PCID has met many times with GDOT about Lake Hearn Drive and Peachtree Dunwoody. That intersection is very tricky, because of its proximity to I-285.

Councilman Sterling asked if the bicycle facilities will match up with the current study the City is doing on pedestrian bicycle facilities.

Director of Public Works Coleman responded yes.

Councilman Paulson asked if there is anything in the location under I-285 that will cause GDOT to be concerned.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated not that staff knows of. GDOT attended the I-285 at GA400 meeting and staff showed them the preliminary drawings on this project.

Ms. Harper stated the same concept is at Glenridge.

There was a consensus of Council to provide a letter of support.

2. Update and Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Revision between the City of Roswell and the City of Sandy Springs to Address Increased Preliminary Engineering/Environmental

Costs for CIP T-0035, SR-9/Roswell Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge over the Chattahoochee River

CIP Unit Manager Marty Martin stated in 2010 the City entered into an agreement with the City of Roswell acting as the primary sponsor for a federally matched project to construct a bicycle pedestrian bridge over the Chattahoochee River on State Route 9. Concept work began in 2011 and the concept image before Council is the result of meetings in Roswell and Sandy Springs. Upon review of the concept by the Federal Highway Administration and GDOT, some concerns about the environmental clearances were raised that will require a study beyond anticipated original concept design effort. The City of Roswell estimated this cost at about \$100,000 to complete the studies. The City is in a 50/50 partnership with Roswell for the local match. Roswell's project manager, Robert Del-Ross, is in attendance this evening. It is anticipated through the concept studies there may be questions regarding environmental impact. There is a National Park Service site on the northeast quadrant of this project and also along the river. In 2014, staff proposed a budget amendment to the project for Council of \$400,000 to prepare a budget line for the project. Within the \$400,000, some costs will be necessary for further environmental studies as well as right-of-way acquisition. Staff recommends an update to the IGA to add the \$50,000 from Sandy Springs.

Robert Del-Ross, City of Roswell Project Manager, stated Roswell's City Council discussed this item the second week in October and the IGA was approved.

Councilman Gabriel Sterling asked if the additional environmental study cost is about the constructability or researching the accessibility of the site.

CIP Unit Manager Martin stated there are a number of issues. There are further archeological studies that need to be pursued based on the fact there is a historic mill on the National Park Service land. The construction methods need to be further reviewed and discussed after the environmental analysis is completed.

Councilman Sterling asked if the project will be completed around 2020.

CIP Unit Manager Martin responded yes. The funds are already in the budget and staff is not asking for additional money. No additional funds are being requested for the project at this time.

Councilman John Paulson asked if something triggered the need for further study for this project.

Mr. Del-Ross stated due to silt in the river, he would be very surprised if anything is found.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked if the Corp of Engineers is involved.

CIP Unit Manager Martin responded no. Those that have asked for a further study are the FHWA and GDOT.

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

City Attorney

1. Ordinance Amending Chapter 30, Article III, Sec. 30-70 of the City of Sandy Springs Code of Ordinances Relating to Court Procedure; and for Other Purposes

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated staff had a meeting with the City judges about a week ago. A concern was discussed regarding individuals who are summoned to be in court and fail to appear. Before Council this evening is the language of the revised ordinance. This item will be before Council at the next Regular City Council meeting.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked what the procedural issues are.

City Attorney Willard stated the language currently addresses only a person who is a defendant and not others who may be under a summons to be in court, such as a witness. The language of the ordinance will state, "failure to appear in municipal court for any noticed appearance."

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

Finance

1. Review of the City's Special Event Permits Policy as It Relates to Filming at Residential Properties

Revenue Manager John Cruse stated over the last four to six weeks there have been three consecutive filming projects at one residential location. When this occurred, staff received a number of complaints from the neighborhood residents. This prompted City staff to review the whole permitting process. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Film Permit Process Review.

Councilman Gabriel Sterling asked if Glenridge Hall is classified as a residential neighborhood. The residence is technically residential, but not technically classified as residential.

Revenue Manager Cruse stated he would not consider that location residential.

Councilman Sterling asked what the purpose is for the additional dates for the permit application processing time.

Revenue Manager Cruse responded for additional time for staff to process. It seems with the film permit applications that staff does not have enough time to get everything from the applicant and get the review and approval from every department.

Councilman Sterling stated sometimes the film industry has three days to complete a project. He does not want to lose their business by extending the time to process the applications. He asked if staff has spoken to the industry to see if they are willing to accept this proposed change.

Revenue Manager Cruse stated staff has a few film industry contacts they have worked with and they are willing to share their input. They feel that five days is fine, but not ten or fifteen days.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked if the permit applicant has a caterer preparing food, does the City get involved in that process.

Revenue Manager Cruse responded no. Due to the recent filming, any fence that is constructed inside or outside the property must be temporary only.

Councilman Andy Bauman asked if the fence would need to be inspected by the City for safety reasons.

Revenue Manager Cruse stated it was verified with staff that a construction permit is not needed.

Councilman Sterling stated when the City held the 24 Hours of Booty event a stage was built with a tent on top, requiring the fire inspectors to review it. He assumes for a structure, such as a fence, there would be a similar level of inspection.

Director of Community Development Angela Parker stated for any kind of event like this the Fire Department does get involved in inspecting. Staff does not do any inspecting of film construction.

Mayor Paul stated the safety of the stage and the set is left up to the film permit applicant. The City's interest is community relations. He asked if as part of the film permit process in a residential area the applicant is required to present to staff a community relations plan on how they will mitigate the impact of activity on the surrounding neighbors.

Revenue Manager Cruse stated currently as part of the process the applicant is to reach out to the surrounding neighbors. The only thing that the City requires is proof the applicant communicated with the neighbors by a list confirming signatures of the neighbors. The signatures are an acknowledgement that they know filming is occurring nearby.

Councilman Bauman stated the concern that is being heard related to neighborhood disruption is the issue of if a residential property is being turned into a business location with repetitive filming. Filming has occurred three times within six weeks at the Northside Drive and Old Powers Ferry property. At what point does it change into a commercial property? Some neighbors felt like this was a little much for the neighborhood. He would like a level of discretion and parameters in the policy.

Councilman Sterling suggested the filming be allowed at the same location a certain number of times per year or per quarter in the residential areas.

Mayor Paul asked what type of posting the permit applicant would be required to do for notification purposes.

City Manager John McDonough stated if the film permit application meets all of the requirements, it will be reviewed on the five day schedule. If the film permit is for outdoors, has lane closures, or is out of the ordinary, it will be a neighborhood balance issue. It is up to Council if they wish to engage the neighborhoods in this discussion.

Councilman John Paulson asked about the mandate that applicants schedule a preapplication meeting with staff to review and discuss film production in residential neighborhoods. He asked if the meeting takes place in residential neighborhoods.

City Manager McDonough responded no. If the applicant is going to film in a residential neighborhood, staff wants to meet with the applicant and review the application to better understand what they want to do.

Councilman Paulson asked if a public notice is required for a film permit.

City Manager McDonough responded no.

Councilman Sterling stated there is a process to notify the neighbors. Every project will be asked for a notification and for signatures from all the neighbors that they were informed about a residential or commercial film permit.

Mayor Paul stated the problem is where there has been filming over multiple days and multiple weeks at the same location to where it appears that the residence is no longer a residence, but primarily a sound stage. The focus should be on the extended period of filming of three to four days or longer and filming at night where discretion should be used regarding the permits.

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated staff needs to come back to Council with specifics for the permit process that state filming can occur at a location not more than once a month using the same property. If the permit request is for three days or longer, a use permit may be required.

Mayor Paul stated there are a growing number of film permit requests. In the long run, it is positive for the community, because it gives the City exposure. The film industry is a major economic development initiative by the State of Georgia.

Councilman Paulson asked what the City expenses are when filming is held in the City and are police officers used.

City Manager McDonough stated typically the expenses are left up to the film permit applicant. When calls are made to the City regarding a complaint, the City's Police and Code Enforcement staff are sent to the location.

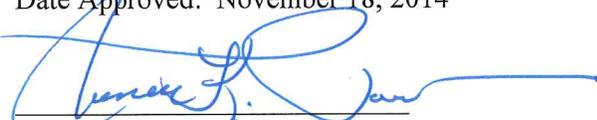
Councilman Bauman stated as part of the process, even if the fees are modest to attract the film industry to the City, he would like to hear what the fine schedules are and if bonds should be posted.

Mayor Paul stated the same fines would be applied to the film industry as to other individuals in the City.

There was a consensus of Council to bring this item back at a future date once staff incorporates Council's recommendations. The recommendations are if filming occurs for more than two or three days and if there are multiple times of filming at a specific residence, there needs to be a separate policy for the longer involved intrusive events.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Date Approved: November 18, 2014



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk