



# Official City Council Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020

CITY HALL 2 PARK PLAZA

6:30 PM

## *Official Minutes*

*The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the tapes recorded at said meeting are a matter of public record and are available to be heard at the City of Alpharetta's Clerk's office during normal business hours*

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- *Mayor Gilvin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.*

### II. ROLL CALL

#### • Council Members

- o Mayor Jim Gilvin
- o Mayor Pro Tem Donald F. Mitchell
- o Jason Binder
- o Ben Burnett
- o John Hipes
- o Dan Merkel
- o Karen Richard

#### • Staff

- o Bob Regus, City Administrator
- o Sam Thomas, City Attorney
- o James Drinkard, Asst. City Administrator
- o Erin Cobb, City Clerk
- o Peter Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works
- o Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- o Tom Harris, Director of Finance
- o John Robison, Director of Public Safety
- o Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- o Cris Randall, Director of Human Resources

### III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

### IV. PROCLAMATIONS

#### A. A Proclamation for Carol Anderson Wood

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Council Meeting Minutes (Meeting of 2/17/2020)

❖ Council Member Merkel offered a motion to approve the consent agenda

- The motion received a second from Council Member Richard
- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

### VI. PUBLIC HEARING

#### A. Z-20-01/V-20-02 AlphaDev/296 & 304 Thompson Street

*NOTE: This item has been deferred until Planning Commission on Thursday, March 5, 2020. It will neither be heard nor considered tonight.*

#### B. V-20-01 / E-20-02: Midgard Self Storage Parking Variance & Height Exception

*NOTE: This item has been deferred by the Applicant to Monday, April 6, 2020. It will neither be heard nor considered tonight.*

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Request to Submit Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application

- Director of Public Safety, John Robison, came forward to present this item
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council adopt a resolution approving submission of a grant application under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

##### Introduction:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, funds multiple grant programs for state and local first responders. One of these programs is the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), an annual award program specific to fire and emergency medical services.
- The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety requests authorization to apply for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which would be used to purchase seven (7) LUCAS 3 Chest Compression devices for our Fire Apparatus.

##### Background:

- The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety - Fire Services responds to over 7,000 emergency calls for service each year. None of these calls are more critical than a patient in cardiac arrest. Over the last 5 years, fire units have responded to over 100

cardiac arrests. The average national survival rate of cardiac arrest outside of the hospital is 11%. During this same period, the city of Alpharetta has almost a 16% survival rate. There are several reasons why Alpharetta is ahead of the national average. Alpharetta firefighters are some of the most highly trained medical personnel in the state. They are proficient in CPR and Advanced Cardiac Life Support, among other advanced medical courses. Another reason for our success is that Alpharetta is always at the cutting edge of the latest medical advances and equipment.

- Alpharetta is constantly striving to provide our personnel with the best equipment and proper tools to best serve the citizens and visitors of our city. We carry the most advanced drugs to treat most medical emergencies and have the most up-to-date cardiac monitors to provide life-saving defibrillation to those patients in cardiac arrest.
- In keeping with our goal of providing our personnel with the best available equipment, we are requesting to purchase (7) LUCAS 3 Chest Compression devices for our apparatus (one for each apparatus). Any provider that has ever provided CPR can attest that providing compressions is one of the most exhausting skills they will ever do. Studies have shown that the longer an individual does compressions, the less effective the compressions become.
- Switching providers allows rested providers to take over compressions; however, the interruption in compressions that occurs during a switch has been shown to decrease perfusion, which decreases the probability of survival. The Lucas Chest Compression system provides benefits to cardiac arrest patients by providing consistent, high quality compressions for an extended period without interruption (American Hospital Association recommended practice). The depth and rate of compressions is perfectly consistent, which provides greater blood flow to the heart and brain. A recent study showed that agencies that had automatic compression devices had significantly higher survival rates than those that did not. We believe that by purchasing the Lucas 3 devices, we can increase our survival rate even more than our current rate.
- Each LUCAS 3 Chest Compression device costs \$16,660.97 (including main unit, battery packs, charger, and 4-year service plan). Total cost is estimated at \$116,626.79. If we are awarded the grant there is a required 10% match from the city estimated to be in the amount of \$11,662.67.
- The Department anticipates the need to use the services of a grant writer in the amount of up to \$3,000 which may be (partially or fully) included in the grant award and is part of this funding request.
- If the grant is not awarded, the City is obligated to fund the entire grant writing service cost.
- City Attorney, Sam Thomas, read the resolution aloud.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to adopt a resolution approving submission of a grant application under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

- The motion received a second from Council Member Merkel
- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

## **B. Purchase of Real Estate**

- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to present this item
- On February 17, 2020 in executive session Mayor and Council approved the purchase of approximately one quarter acre of land at the corner of Milton Avenue and Canton Street for the purpose of a pocket park at that location.
- The purchase price is \$795,000 and the closing should take place by March 17, 2020.
- This request is to confirm the purchase in a public meeting.

### **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

- ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve the purchase of approximately one quarter acre of land at the corner of Milton Avenue and Canton Street in an amount not to exceed \$795,000
  - The motion received a second from Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell
  - Council Member Burnett offered a friendly amendment to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents
  - Council Member Richard and Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell accepted the friendly amendment
  - The motion was approved (6-1); Council Member Binder voting in opposition

## **VIII. WORKSHOP**

### **A. DRAFT Updates to Employee Handbook**

- Director of Human Resources, Cris Randall, came forward to present this item
- Staff is seeking feedback from City Council related to the proposed recommended updates to the City's Employee Handbook.
- The purpose of this update is to increase clarity, transparency and consistent application of guidelines.
- Most of the recommended updates consist of added content or adjustments to language to increase clarity of interpretation, expectations and consistent implementation among departments. Additional language was included to memorialize practices that have already been into practice but not documented.
- Recommended updates include:

#### **Personnel Policies:**

- o **Anti-Bullying:** added language to clarify expectations.
- o **Communication policies:** updates related to current technology and conditions.
- o **Discipline Procedure:** added content outlying discipline procedure, steps and expectations.
- o **Drug & Alcohol Usage:** added content to clarify expectations.

- o **Hiring & Selection:** added content outlining steps of recruitment process.
- o **Introductory Period:** updating introductory period from 90 days to 12 months ensuring consistency among department standards and to allow reasonable time for employees to learn and adjust to their new role.
- o **Non-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment:** added language to clarify expectations.
- o **Severe Weather & Emergencies:** providing clarification of expectations regarding expectations in reporting to work and compensation for essential non-exempt personnel.
- o **Reasonable Accommodations, Light Duty, Medical Examinations:** added content to clarify expectations.
- o **Leave of Absence:** included language clarifying leaves of absence eligibility and maximum allowances according to best practices.
- o **Notice of Resignation, Retirement & Separation of Employment:** included language clarifying process and expectations.

**Benefits:**

- o **Bereavement Leave:** updating leave allowance from three to five days.
- o **Employee Assistance Program:** included clarification of benefits provided under the EAP program.
- o **FMLA and Military Leave:** updated content in alignment with federal regulations and best practices.
- o **Holiday Pay:** updating Christmas Eve holiday, from half-day to full day.
- o **Parental Leave:** adding two paid weeks for parental leave, supplementing current short-term benefits.
- o **Tuition Reimbursement Program:** updating current annual limits to the equivalent of up to 15 credit hours annually (undergraduate or graduate) at Georgia State University tuition rate.
- This item was presented for information and discussion purposes only. No action by City Council is being requested at this time.

**B. Review Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Fulton County Board of Education for use of Athletic Fields at Innovation Academy**

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to present this item
- This IGA between the City of Alpharetta and the Fulton County Board of Education will allow the City of Alpharetta primary use of the athletic facilities at the Innovation Academy for a period of 10 years as outlined in the attached IGA.
- The City will invest initially up to \$250,000.00 for facilities improvements and will maintain the facilities during the life of the IGA as outlined in the attached IGA at an estimated cost of \$60,000 per year. In addition, it is anticipated that at capital maintenance cost will occur at the 5-year mark of approximately \$50,000 and at the 10-year mark of approximately \$75,000.
- This IGA was approved by the Fulton County at their February 2020 meeting.
- This item was presented for information and discussion purposes only. No action by City Council is being requested at this time.

**C. Review Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Alpharetta and the Fulton County Board of Education to place a Community Playground at Alpharetta Elementary School**

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to present this item.
- The City of Alpharetta, along with donations from Northside Hospital and Resurgens Foundation, plan to build an assessible playground in front of Alpharetta Elementary School. This playground would be used exclusively by students from Alpharetta Elementary School during school hours and would be used by the general public as a public park during non-school hours as outlined by the IGA.
- The approximate cost of the playground project is \$100,000. Northside has donated \$40,000 and Resurgens has donated \$35,000. The remainder of the funds needed will come from the City of Alpharetta Park Development funds, which includes \$25,000 for playground construction and up to \$30,000 for upgrades to fence, landscaping and track.
- If approved, the construction would be over the summer with the grand opening in August, in time for the school year.
- This IGA was approved by the Fulton County at their February 2020 meeting.
- This item was presented for information and discussion purposes only. No action by City Council is being requested at this time.

**D. Bond Projects**

- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to present this item.
- The Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to provide further details regarding the proposed parks bond projects.
- Mayor and Council made the following recommendations:
  - o Council Member Burnett asked that the Director of Public Works, Pete Sewczwicz, define what Stormwater Projects are a priority and present this during the next bond projects workshop.
  - o Council Member Merkel requested that we re-name the “Existing Greenway Maintenance” bond project to “Boardwalk Repair.”
  - o Council Member Hipes recommended that Director Rodgers reassess the \$3M estimate for the Farmhouse bond project and possibly present a breakdown of that amount.
  - o Director Rodgers recommended that we re-name the “Old Rucker Farm” bond project to “Old Rucker Park.”
  - o Council Member Burnett requested that we update the Union Hill Trailhead to \$3.4M which will include the Union Hill Park Masterplan.
  - o Council Member Binder requested that the updated Wills Park Master Plan be sent to Mayor and Council and be further reviewed by placing the projects in tiers.
  - o Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell would like to start community wide discussions on the Farmhouse project.
  - o Council Member Richard requested a review of the TSPLOST projects during next weeks bond workshop, highlighting those projects that are currently

underfunded.

- o Council Member Hipes asked how a TSPLOST 2 would impact the items on the proposed bond projects spreadsheet and to further explore if anything on the list would be covered by the TAD in order to find out of most sufficient sources of revenue.
- This item was presented for information and discussion purposes only. No action by City Council is being requested at this time.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- James Manganeli, 12080 Brookmill Point, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in support of the purchase of parkland.
- Richard Genet, 1150 Compass Pointe Xing, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in support of an area for teens and tweens.
- Sabine Genet, 1150 Compass Pointe Xing, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in support of creating a skateboarding park at Union Hill Park.

#### **X. REPORTS**

- Council Member Binder announced the opening of the Farm at Old Rucker Park.
- Mayor Gilvin commented on the second North Fulton Special Needs Services & Expo that he attended on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Alpharetta Community Center.
- Mayor Gilvin appointed Doug DeRito to the Board of Ethics to replace Gerard Henry who moved out of the city limits.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- ❖ Mayor Pro Mitchell offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Richard
  - The motion was passed unanimously (7-0)
- ❖ With no further business to discuss or items to be heard, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Cobb, City Clerk