



# Official City Council Meeting Minutes

April 6, 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.

Please note that, due to ongoing efforts to encourage "social distancing" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually using Zoom Meetings. This platform will allow for the public and media to attend the meeting just as they could any other regular City Council Meeting but do so from a computer or telephone.

### 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 Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- o John Robison, Director of Public Safety
- o Matthew Thomas, Economic Development Manager
- o Cris Randall, Director of Human Resources

### **III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

### **IV. WORKSHOP**

#### **A. Update of COVID-19 Impacts on the City's Financial Operations**

- Director of Finance, Tom Harris, came forward to present this item.
- COVID-19 and associated social distancing policies and Federal/State mandates are having a material (and growing) negative impact on the local and national economy. While the City is working tirelessly to provide the best service to our citizens, we are also taking actions to control our costs moving forward.
- This discussion focused on the financial implications for 2020 (current year) and 2021 (upcoming budget) including revenue trends and expenditure policies implemented to reduce our spend while maintaining a focus on essential services.
- City Directors and staff have been instructed to restrict spending to only those items necessary to perform their core city functions ("essential expenses"). This includes no travel or training, other than training required as part of a job-required certification that can be done locally with no travel involved. Additionally, all positions have been frozen except for Public Safety sworn positions (including 911 Operators) and those positions that had offers extended before the freeze was implemented.
- This item was presented for informational purposes only. No action is being requested at this time.

#### **B. Legislative Update**

- Don Bolia of Peachtree Government Relations provided an update on various legislation under consideration by the General Assembly.
- 2020 Legislative Session
  - o Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day) was on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - o The Legislature suspended the Session after Day 29 on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - o There was a special legislative session on March 16<sup>th</sup> to appropriate funds to address the health crisis.
  - o Legislators passed the amended FY20 budget but must return to pass the required FY21 budget.
  - o It is unclear when they will be returning.
- Elections
  - o Primary (presidential and general) May 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Speaker Ralston has requested the date be pushed further to accommodate elderly poll workers and others accessing mail in ballots.
  - o SOS Raffensperger has announced he will go with the will of the legislature and the Governor.
- Department of Labor
  - o Who is eligible file for unemployment?
  - o How can you access information on how to file?
  - o Other funds that are available to temporary unemployed Georgians.
- SBA Loan
  - o Known as the "Paycheck Protection Program".

- o Intended to assist small businesses with either keeping current workers or rehiring those who were laid off.
  - o Small businesses are eligible for 2.5 times their total monthly payroll.
  - o The interest rate on these loans is set at 1% with a 6-month deferral for repayment. The rate was originally .5% but community banks expressed concern over losing money at that rate.
  - o Loans can be forgiven under certain requirements – if businesses retain or rehire all workers and if three quarters of the forgiven portion is used for payroll.
  - o There are concerns that the \$349 billion won't meet the demand and Congress may appropriate more money towards the program.
- State, Local and Tribal Coronavirus Relief Fund
  - o Provides \$150 billion to states, territories, local and tribal governments for Coronavirus relief o 45% of a state's funds are set aside for local governments.
  - o Funds can be used for costs incurred due to COVID-19, were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section and/or were incurred during the period that begins March 1, 2020 and ends December 30, 2020.
- Economic Development Manager, Matthew Thomas, provided an update on strategies for helping businesses in Alpharetta and requested feedback on the Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- This item was presented for informational purposes only. No action is being requested at this time.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comment

## **VI. REPORTS**

- City Administrator, Bob Regus, presented an update on City operations.
- Council Member Merkel recognized the City's Finance Department for working tirelessly through these uncharted territories.
- Council Member Richard announced that the April DRB Meeting will be conducted using Zoom. Additionally, Council Member Richard requested a financial update workshop to be scheduled for the April 20th City Council Meeting.
- Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell recognized the citizens of Alpharetta for helping one another during these rough times. Also, our Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services staff members are reaching out to seniors that would normally attend daily activities at the City's Adult Activity Center to make sure they are doing well.
- Mayor Gilvin reminded the residents of Alpharetta to complete their US Census forms.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- ❖ With no further business to discuss or items to be heard, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Cobb".

Erin Cobb, City Clerk