



Official City Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2021

Office of the City Clerk

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 Tom Harris, Director of Finance
- o Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- o Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- o Pete Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works
- o John Robison, Director of Public Safety

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation for Betty-Ann Busby

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council Meeting Minutes (Meeting of 1/25/2021)

B. Financial Management Report: Month Ending December 31, 2020

C. Alcoholic Beverage License Applications

- 1. PH-21-AB-03 Any Two Cards, Inc.
d/b/a Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern
10595 Old Alabama Road Connector
Alpharetta, GA 30041**

**Restaurant
Consumption on Premises
Liquor, Beer, Wine & Sunday Sales**

**Owner: Any Two Cards, Inc.
Registered Agent: Terri Salichs**

- 2. PH-21-AB-04 Lily Sushi, LLC
d/b/a Lily Sushi Bar
220 S. Main Street, Suite H
Alpharetta, GA 30009**

**Restaurant
Consumption on Premises
Liquor, Beer, Wine & Sunday Sales**

**Owner: Lily Sushi, LLC
Registered Agent: Lily Susana**

- 3. PH-21-AB-05 Thoom's Kitchen, LLC
d/b/a Thoom's Thai Kitchen
5950 North Point Parkway, Suite 100
Alpharetta, GA 30022**

**Restaurant
Consumption on Premises
Beer, Wine & Sunday Sales**

**Owner: Thoom's Kitchen, LLC
Registered Agent: Stephen Yazell**

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

- The motion received a second from Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell**
- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PH-20-18 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – North Point Overlay (2nd Reading)

- Director of Community Development, Kathi Cook, came forward to present this item.
 - Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve PH-20-18 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – North Point Overlay and the ordinance as presented.
 - This item was heard at the 1/7/2021 Planning Commission meeting. There were no public comments. After discussion, Planning Commission recommended approval. Vote 7-0
 - The first reading of this ordinance was approved unanimously by Mayor and Council during the January 25, 2021 City Council Meeting. There have been no changes since the first reading.
 - Staff presented for consideration text amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC) Subsection 2.10.2 North Point Overlay Use and Density, to amend the Overlay boundaries and priority areas. The City Council may authorize an increase to the residential density permitted in the underlying zoning district in conjunction with a request for conditional use permit for properties depicted in a priority area.
 - There are two (2) parcels of land, the Morrison Property at the northwest corner of Haynes Bridge Road and Morrison Parkway and the KB400 Property at the southwest corner of North Point Parkway and Kimball Bridge Road, where common ownership only includes a portion of the property within the North Point Overlay boundaries. In addition, the area south of the Mansell Road and North Point Parkway intersection is proposed to be added to the Overlay and become a priority area. There are currently three (3) shuttered restaurants and undeveloped properties in this area, which provide an opportunity to implement the vision of the Overlay to become a walkable, mixed-use environment.
 - City Attorney, Sam Thomas, read the ordinance aloud.
- ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve PH-20-18 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – North Point Overlay and the ordinance as presented
- The motion received a second from Council Member Merkel
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board and Commission Appointments: Cultural Arts Commission

- ❖ Council Member Merkel offered a motion to appoint Melody Cookson as an alternate member of the Cultural Arts Commission
- The motion received a second from Council Member Hipes
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Mid-Year Budget Amendment (1st Reading)

- Director of Finance, Tom Harris, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Mid-Year Budget Amendment and the ordinance as presented.
- The purpose of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Mid-Year Budget Amendment is to amend the base budget as adopted by City Council for targeted initiatives that have already occurred (e.g., during the first 7 months of the fiscal year) or are planned to occur before year-end.
- Initiatives are discussed in detail within the FY 2021 Mid-Year Budget Requests, which is attached to the agenda packet.
- The following list provides, by department, the associated detail/justification for each targeted initiative requested through the FY 2021 Mid-Year Budget Amendment:
- **General Fund:**
 - o City Administration:
 - Initiative: Economic Development Director position (+1 FTE) - Funding Request: \$43,000 (FY 2021 partial-year); \$170,000 annualized (FY 2022)
 - Initiative: Georgia Municipal Association (reactivate membership)- Funding Request: \$20,000 annually
 - o Human Resources:
 - Initiative: eForms software (NeoGov HRIS software) - Funding Request: \$9,000 (\$1,500 one-time; \$7,500 year 1; \$14,500 annually thereafter)
 - o Public Safety:
 - Initiative: Transfer of 3 DEA funded Police Officer positions to the General Fund - Funding Request: \$100,000 (FY 2021 partial-year); \$338,000 annualized (FY 2022)
 - Initiative: FususONE software - Funding Request: \$25,000 annually
 - o Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services:
 - Initiative: Maintenance of New Parks - Funding Request: \$42,200 (FY 2021 partial-year); \$84,000 annualized (FY 2022)
 - o General Government:
 - Funding Sources: \$239,200 (revenue; Insurance Premium Taxes) Funding totaling \$239,200 is available through the above revenue collections for Insurance Premium Taxes outpacing budgetary expectations for FY 2021.
- **Impact Fee Fund:**
 - o Initiative: AlphaLoop Grant Matches - Funding Request: \$745,000
 - o Initiative: Union Hill Rd Mid-Block Crosswalk (Greenway Extension)- Funding Request: \$200,000
- **Capital Project Fund:**
 - o Public Works:
 - Initiative: Mini-Excavator Replacement - Funding Request: \$42,000
 - Initiative: Chipper Insert - Funding Request: \$35,000

- o Information Technology:
 - Initiative: Operational Assessment - Funding Request: \$50,000
- o Community Development:
 - Initiative: Teleworking Equipment - Funding Request: \$21,000
 - Initiative: Brookside Focus Area Streetscape and Connectivity Plan - Funding Request: \$18,000
 - Initiative: South Main Street Creative Placemaking Plan – ARC LCI Supplemental Study Grant Match - Funding Request: \$16,000 (grant match)
- o Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services:
 - Initiative: Retaining Wall Replacement (Old Rucker Road Park) - Funding Request: \$30,000
- o General Government:
 - Funding Sources: \$212,000 (Non-Allocated)
- City Attorney, Sam Thomas, read the ordinance aloud.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Council Member Binder offered a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Mid-Year Budget Amendment and the ordinance as presented
 - The motion received a second from Council Member Richard
 - The motion was approved (6-1); Council Member Burnett voting in opposition

C. Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council Fireworks Tax Grant

- Director of Public Safety, John Robison, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve the submission of the FY2021 Fireworks Tax Grant application to the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.
- The Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council (GFSTC) created its Fireworks Tax Grant in accordance with Georgia Code Title 48. Revenue and Taxation § 48-13-131 to improve the equipping and training of firefighters and to improve the rating of fire departments in Georgia by the Insurance Services Office. The grant is funded through a portion of the proceeds generated by the 5% state excise tax on the sale of consumer fireworks.
- Applications may be submitted for qualifying purchases and expenditures up to \$25,000. The program does require a 10% local match to any funds awarded.
- The Department of Public Safety seeks to submit an application for \$9,200 for the purchase of particulate hoods related to the ongoing Firefighter Cancer Reduction Initiative. The required local match is \$920.

- A growing body of information is pointing to the relationship between exposure to fireground particulates and risks to firefighter health and safety, including certain types of cancers. Studies have shown that some of the most vulnerable areas for particulate exposure are around the neck and ears. The hoods that would be purchased with funds from the Fireworks Tax Grant block at least 90% or more of the particulates with a size from 0.1 to 1.0 microns, providing significantly more protection to the firefighters.
- The deadline for submitting applications for the 2021 GFSTC Fireworks Tax Grant was January 15 before 5:00 PM. In order to meet this deadline, the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety has submitted its application; however, the application can and will be withdrawn if City Council does not approve its submission.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to approve the submission of the FY2021 Fireworks Tax Grant application to the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents, the total outlay of by the City, if the grant is approved, is \$920
 - The motion received a second from Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

D. Consideration of a Resolution in Support of T-SPLOST 2

- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve a resolution requesting the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to call for referendum on November 2, 2021 to renew the Metropolitan County Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST 2) for an additional five-year period at a rate not to exceed 0.75%.
- On November 8, 2016, the voters within the Metropolitan County Special District composed of unincorporated Fulton County and the Fulton Cities, other than Atlanta, passed T-SPLOST 2 for a term of five (5) years at a rate of 0.75% for transportation projects only. The approval vote for T-SPLOST 2 included a majority of registered Alpharetta voters. The T-SPLOST has produced substantial revenue for much-needed transportation projects within the District, including Alpharetta, however the need for a revenue source to support existing and new transportation projects persists.
- The current T-SPLOST 2 expires in March of 2022 unless renewed in the manner provided by law. The renewal process includes the requirement of an additional referendum to be called by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.
- City Attorney, Sam Thomas, read the resolution aloud.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell offered a motion to approve a resolution requesting the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to call for referendum on November 2, 2021 to renew the Metropolitan County Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST 2) for an additional five-year period at a rate not to exceed 0.75%

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

VIII. WORKSHOP

A. Preliminary List of Transportation Projects for Possible TSPLOST 2

- Director of Public Works, Pete Sewczwicz, came forward to present this item.
- This item is being presented for informational and discussion purposes. No formal action is requested at this time.
- Director Sewczwicz presented the following possible TSPLOST 2 projects list:

	Project Timelines			Project Rankings	
	0-3 Years	4-5 Years	6+ Years	Total	Average
Mid-Block Crosswalk (Alpharetta Elementary School)	50,000	-	-	50,000	1.1
Mid-Block Crosswalk (Manning Oaks Elementary School)	-	-	125,000	125,000	1.4
Improved Crossing from Parking Deck to north side of Milton Ave	250,000	-	-	250,000	1.4
Lily Garden Place Extension	-	85,000	700,000	785,000	1.6
Raised intersection at Marietta St and Roswell St	350,000	-	-	350,000	1.6
Improved Pedestrian Crossings from City Center to Churches	750,000	-	-	750,000	1.6
Marjean Way Extension	1,750,000	-	-	1,750,000	1.7
Alpha Loop (Old Milton Pkwy to Northwinds Pkwy)	9,250,000	-	-	9,250,000	1.7
4 Pedestrian Bridges (Windward Pkwy over Big Creek; Greenway access)	2,500,000	-	-	2,500,000	1.7
North Point Pkwy Corridor (cost is an allocation)	5,000,000	5,000,000	15,000,000	25,000,000	1.7
Mid-Block Crosswalk (Cogburn Road Park)	50,000	-	-	50,000	1.9
Mid-Block Crosswalk (Mid Broadwell Rd at Charlotte Dr)	75,000	-	-	75,000	1.9
Webb Bridge Rd Improvements (Morris Rd to Greenway)	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	-	10,000,000	1.9
Tradewinds Ripple Effect Improvements (cost is an allocation)	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	10,000,000	1.9
Cumming St Corridor Improvements	750,000	1,250,000	10,000,000	12,000,000	1.9
Scramble Intersection at Canton St and Milton Ave	100,000	-	-	100,000	1.9
	\$ 25,875,000	\$ 21,335,000	\$ 25,825,000	\$ 73,035,000	
Hembree Rd Widening (Old Roswell Rd to Morrison/Westside Pkwy)	750,000	3,250,000	-	4,000,000	2.0
Kimball Bridge Rd Widening (Verizon to Georgia Power driveways)	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	2.1
Academy St Improvements	2,800,000	-	-	2,800,000	2.1
Milton Ave Improvements	500,000	4,500,000	-	5,000,000	2.3
	\$ 4,050,000	\$ 9,250,000	\$ -	\$ 13,300,000	
Roundabout (Hopewell Rd at Vaughan Dr)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	2.4
Roundabout (Mayfield Rd at Canton St)	-	1,750,000	-	1,750,000	2.4
Roundabout (Mayfield Rd at Providence Rd)	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2.4
Southlake Dr Traffic Calming (cost is an allocation)	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2.4
Roundabout (Milton Ave and Canton St/Roswell St)	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2.6
Waters Rd Traffic Calming (cost is an allocation)	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2.7
Dryden Rd Extension	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	2.9
Haynes Bridge Rd Widening (Mansell Rd to City Limits)	3,000,000	7,500,000	-	10,500,000	3.0
Roundabout (Roswell St/Old Roswell St)	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	3.0
	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 21,750,000	\$ -	\$ 26,250,000	
	\$ 34,425,000	\$ 52,335,000	\$ 25,825,000	\$ 112,585,000	

Rank 1	=	High Priority
Rank 2	=	Moderate Priority
Rank 3	=	Low Priority

- The following recommendations were made by Mayor and Council:
 - o Mayor Gilvin recommended adding debt reduction and milling & resurfacing to the possible TSP/OST 2 projects list.
 - o Council Member Binder suggested eliminating the Hembree Road Widening and Lilly Garden Place Extension projects from the list.
 - o Council Member Merkel suggested removing the Scramble Intersection at Canton St and Milton Ave.
 - o Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell wants to make the Cumming Street Corridor Improvements project a priority.
 - o Council Member Hipes suggested that we focus on the projects in the first two columns (0-3 years & 4-5 years).
 - o Mayor Gilvin recommended that Director Sewczwicz move forward with presenting this item as a new business to be voted on.

B. Preliminary List of Parks Projects for Possible Bond Issue

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to present this item.

- Possible Bond Referendum Items:

o Wills Park Equestrian Renovation build out	\$5,000,000
o Will Park Master Plan projects	\$5,000,000
o Mid Broadwell Park build out	\$ 500,000
o Milton Avenue design & build out	\$2,000,000
o Old Rucker Park design & build out	\$2,000,000
o Union Hill Park re-development/trailhead	\$2,000,000
o Farmhouse Park design & build out	\$3,000,000
o Turf Webb Bridge large Soccer field	\$1,000,000
o Park Land Acquisition:	
▪ Along Alpha-Loop	\$3,000,000
▪ Additional parkland	\$5,000,000
Total	\$28,500,000

- The following recommendations were made by Mayor and Council:
 - o Council Member Merkel suggested focusing on Brookside Park (25 acres) and rethinking the \$3M for the Farmhouse Park design and build out.
 - o Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell does not want to eliminate the Farmhouse Park design and build out. Additionally, he thinks we should reduce park land acquisition.
 - o Council Member Richard suggested prioritizing the Wills Park Master Plan projects and the Wills Park Equestrian Renovation build out.
- Director Rodgers will bring this item back as another workshop.

- This item is being presented for informational and discussion purposes. No formal action is requested at this time.
- City Clerk, Erin Cobb, came forward to present a brief overview of the bond timeline for the November 2, 2021 Municipal Election.

C. Town Green Turf Options

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to present this item.
- This item is being presented for informational and discussion purposes. No formal action is requested at this time.
- Staff is seeking input on the replacement of the current grass on Town Green with artificial Turf. Samples were available during the Workshop for Mayor and City Council to review.
- Council's overall recommendation was the option with the longer nap. Director Rodgers will move forward with a bid.

D. Operational Update: COVID-19 And Municipal Operations

- Asst. City Administrator, James Drinkard, came forward to present this item.
- This item was presented for information and discussion purposes only. No formal action by City Council is requested.
- Mr. Drinkard provided an overview of the current conditions with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic; including but not limited to current local trends, organizational impacts, and operational measures now and recommended for the future. Data used in this report is sourced from the Georgia Department of Public Health, Fulton County Board of Health, and our own internal information.
- **COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE:** The anticipated post-holiday surge saw an extremely rapid rise in the COVID-19 incidence rate¹ in Alpharetta, which reached its peak on January 22 with a rate of 920 infections per 100,000 people. The incidence rate began to climb after hitting a floor of 80.4 per 100,000 on October 9, ending a steady decline that began in early August. Between November 17 and January 22, however, Alpharetta's incidence rate climbed by 347%.
- The trend since January 22 is showing positive signs, with the incidence rate in Alpharetta falling by 45.21% between January 22 and February 5 to 504.1 diagnoses per 100,000 people. Hospitalization rates in Fulton County have remained relatively consistent throughout the pandemic, typically running between 4% to 4.5% of diagnosed patients, and the fatality rate has remained at 1%.
- This decline in Alpharetta's incidence rate, as well as that for Fulton County and the region, is expected to continue; however, variables such as the recent entrance of two new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 and that are considerably more contagious will influence the rate of decline. The extent of that influence is not known.
- Of course, the biggest influence on the future condition with respect to the presence of COVID-19 in the population is the introduction and rollout of vaccines. As of February 3, just over 1 million eligible Georgians have received at least their first vaccine dose. With more than 2 million Georgians comprising the population covered by Phase 1A+ of the vaccine rollout, however, much work remains to be done before the vaccination program can be expanded to the populations in Phase 1B and 1C.

- The State of Georgia does have a plan for creating and supporting mass vaccination centers to aid in accelerating the vaccination effort, but the Governor and public health officials have stated that the current supply of vaccine in the Georgia is too low to allow that plan to be launched. The current statewide vaccine supply amounts to 154,000 doses per week, a supply that is far below the current demand. That supply shortage has, in fact, caused some public health agencies to periodically halt taking appointments for those seeking their first doses.
- Efforts are underway to increase the manufacture of currently approved vaccines, but the biggest news on the vaccine front may result from the February 4 submission of an application for emergency use authorization of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Developed by a division of Johnson and Johnson, the Janssen vaccine candidate is administered with a single dose and does not require the extreme refrigeration and limited storage and use windows of the currently available vaccines, which will enable a vaccination program with similarities to annual flu vaccines.
- If the Janssen vaccine candidate is given emergency use authorization by the FDA, the same authorization under which current vaccines are being provided, public health officials believe it will enable a rapid expansion of the vaccination program.
- **ORGANIZATION LANDSCAPE:** Organizationally, the City navigated the first nine months of the pandemic with few employees contracting COVID-19. In fact, between March 1 and November 30, only 15 employees were diagnosed as positive for the virus. Another 59 employees had to be quarantined during that period due to exposure to someone who had tested positive.
- Between December 1 and February 3, however, the same holiday surge that impacted the general population also took its toll within our ranks. During that period 50 employees contracted COVID19 while another 47 had to be quarantined due to exposure to a person or persons who had tested positive. This increased the totals from March 1 through February 3 to 65 employees having contracted COVID-19 and another 106 having been quarantined.
- The City bases its quarantine protocol for individuals who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 on current CDC guidelines. As of the writing of this document, the City's protocol is for such individuals to quarantine for 10 days during which they are to monitor themselves for the development of any symptoms of the COVID-19 infection. If no such symptoms present themselves, the employee may return to work but are to be especially careful to take the with respect to social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing their hands frequently. Per the CDC guidelines, the City does not require a negative test for an employee quarantined under these circumstances to return to work, and such employees are advised to not go for testing until at least 5 days after exposure unless symptoms develop.
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires the City to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. This includes providing two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis. While the Act expired on December 31, 2020, the City of Alpharetta voluntarily extended the paid sick leave benefit to allow employees to use any unused, available FFCRA leave through March 31, 2021.

- Between March 01, 2020 and February 03, 2021 employees have benefited from 10,202 hours of leave under the FFCRA. Of these hours, 1,918 have been used since December 1. Due to HIPPA regulations, employees are not required to advise their employer as to whether or not they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Thus, we do not have an accurate picture as to the number of currently eligible employees who have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. Management continues to encourage all eligible employees to get vaccinated.
- **CURRENT POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS:** As the City of Alpharetta does not have public health professionals on staff, the policies, and protocols that we have in place have been developed and modified based upon the recommendations of public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), and the Fulton County Board of Health (FCBH). Most guidelines originate in whole or in part from the CDC.
- In April 2020, the City composed its Operational Restoration Plan, which was subsequently provided to and authorized by City Council. The plan is not a policy document but rather was intended as a set of guidelines for use by the City Administrator, Department Directors, and other key personnel in planning and implementing a phased return to typical operations and a reopening to the public of City facilities. The goal of the Operational Restoration Plan was to provide a set of tools and procedures to enable the recovery and continuation of business operations following a pandemic such as the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Operational Restoration Plan established five operational stages:
 1. Phase 1: Preparation – Closed to The Public
 2. Phase 2: Implement Department Work Plans – Closed to The Public
 3. Phase 3: Restricted Public Access
 4. Phase 4: Open to Public – Normal Operations with Continued Social Distancing / Safety Protocols
 5. Phase 5: Open to Public – Normal Operations with Full Staffing
- Currently, the City continues under Phase 4 operational protocols, which allows for near-normal operations but maintains certain safety protocols such as mandatory temperature checks for employees and those entering City buildings, minimizing in-person meetings, and requiring social distancing for those in-person meetings that do take place, encouraging the use of remote / teleworking practices when possible, and not holding public events and gatherings. These operational protocols are consistent with current CDC guidelines and the active orders issued by the Governor.
- For our employees most vulnerable to COVID-19 exposure, firefighters and police officers, requirements remain in place for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when responding to calls and interacting with the public. This is the only employee group for whom the wearing of masks during work hours is mandatory at any time.
- The exception to this is that Staff is required to wear masks when attending meetings in the Council Chambers. For other City employees and visitors to our indoor facilities, the wearing of masks is encouraged but remains voluntary. We do maintain a supply of disposable masks that are made available to those who wish to wear one.

- Additionally, we do provide hand sanitation stations strategically located in public areas of our facilities and have cleaning and sanitation supplies in our conference rooms with protocols in place for cleaning of such rooms after each use. The expected duration of Phase 4 will continue until the threat of contracting COVID-19 is considered by federal, state, and/or county public health agencies to be nearly/entirely eliminated, until the Governor's public health emergency orders are lifted, or until the risk of employee-to employee infections is deemed minimal.
- **RETURNING TO NORMAL OPERATIONS:** A key factor in our ability to advance to Phase 5, especially as it relates to holding public events and gatherings, is for Alpharetta's COVID-19 incidence rate to remain at or below 100 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks. This standard has been adopted by numerous public health agencies, businesses, and other organizations, and has continued to be the standard for public gatherings and other operations outlined in the orders that have been issued and renewed by the Governor.
- When that condition and the others noted at the end of the last section of this document are satisfied the City will advance to Phase 5 of our Operational Restoration Plan. This would be the condition that is equivalent to "business as usual" before the COVID- 19 pandemic. Under Phase 5, the City of Alpharetta will return to full on-site staffing during regular business hours. The necessity for most enhanced safety protocols (such as the 6-foot social distancing rule) and equipment (Plexiglas barriers, face masks/covering, or latex gloves) would be gradually phased out, but the sanitizing of hands and office surfaces will remain as normal daily work procedure.
- During the response to COVID-19, the City introduced tools and capabilities that will continue to influence our operations even after we enter Phase 5 of our operational plan. This includes the ability to support virtual meetings, improvements to the ability to receive online payments, and improved online submittal processes. New public engagement tools that encouraged citizens to participate in community planning efforts without the need to physically attend meetings proved very successful, and the expansion of their use into other areas of our external engagement and communications strategies are being planned.
- In terms of internal infrastructure, the move towards cloud computing solutions that accelerated due to the pandemic will have long-term benefits to how we operate. To realize the full benefit of those changes and better support operational continuity in the face of future incidents, however, the future refresh of departmental computers will need to place an emphasis on laptops and mobile devices to better allow employees to work remotely when appropriate or necessary.
- Finally, it must be recognized that the City will need to continue to carefully assess the community landscape over the 12+ months following the "return to normal" to determine what longer term impacts and changes may be in play. From potential changes in the way businesses and people work and the corresponding implications for the local economy, to changes in traffic patterns, and even the way residents use our parks or interact with their government, the City will need to assess what changes may be permanent and which may be short lived so that we can adjust services, strategies, and even goals appropriately.

E. City Special Events Management

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Morgan Rodgers, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is seeking guidance for a change in the management of the City's major events.
- The Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department is considering that the following events be managed by a third-party event company: Brooke Street Concert Series, Taste of Alpharetta, and Wire & Wood Festival. Separate RFPs would be issued for each event.
- It is understood and expected that this model requires sponsorship of the events. The Department would be setting limitations on the number of on-site sponsor booths, either as a percentage of other vendor booths, or as a percentage of expected attendance, depending on event type.
- The goal would be for this change of management to be invisible to the residents, and for the Community Services Division to maintain oversight of all public events. The event management companies would need to follow the focus outlined by the City for each event. For example, Taste of Alpharetta is "Dedicated to the many facets of the local food system, including local restaurants, growers and producers, educators, distributors, innovators, and food rescuers". The City would be open to new ideas from the event management companies, but the overall focus of the events would remain the same.
- If approved this would begin with events in 2022 with a City subsidized two-year tiered approach of up to 50% for year one and up to 25% in year two based on 2019 budgeted amounts.
- The Department is also recommending that the Food Truck Alley events be eliminated due to the large number of restaurants in the downtown area.
- The Department is also recommending the elimination of the Arts Street Fest event which will allow the Farmer's Market and the Art in the Park events to be held over Memorial Day Weekend. Future events would be tailored for the City with an emphasis on meaningful, authentic, memorable community-based events.
- Council agreed that staff can move forward with cancelling the 2021 Taste of Alpharetta that was set to take place in May. Council Member Hipes would like to leave the option open to reschedule the event at a later date if the COVID-19 numbers are down.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Public Comment

X. REPORTS

- Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell appointed Mary Farr as his appointee to the Board of Ethics.
- Council Member Richard appointed Mary Beth Cornelius as her appointee to the Cultural Arts Commission.
- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to provide an update on the inclement weather that was predicted to take place overnight.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell offered a motion to adjourn into Executive Session
 - The motion received a second from Council Member Richard
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)
- ❖ With no further business to discuss or items to be heard, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Erin Cobb, City Clerk