

CITY OF DUNWOODY
March 8, 2010
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

The Mayor and Council of the City of Dunwoody held a Work Session on Monday, March 8, 2010. The Meeting was held in the City of Dunwoody City Hall, 41 Perimeter Center East, Dunwoody, Georgia 30346. Present for the meeting were the following:

Mayor	Ken Wright
District 1, Post 1	Denis Shortal, Council Member
District 2, Post 2	Adrian Bonser, Council Member
District 3, Post 3	Tom Taylor, Council Member
At Large, Post 4	Robert Wittenstein, Council Member
At Large, Post 5	Danny Ross, Council Member
At Large, Post 6	John Heneghan, Council Member
Also present:	City Manager Warren Hutmacher City Clerk Sharon Lowery City Attorney Brian Anderson Assistant City Attorney Lenny Felgin Public Works Director Michael Smith Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Greer Community Development Director Mike Tuller Chief Building Inspector Michael Nier

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All members were present.

INVOCATION: led by Council Member Ross.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Council Member Shortal.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Wright opened public comment without objection.

Page Olson – said that she would like to conduct a PowerPoint presentation with recommendations for the Mayor and Council regarding the walking path on Mt. Vernon.

Robert Greenberg – expressed concern with lawn maintenance crews blowing leaves into the drains on the City's roads, and suggested that the City pass an ordinance prohibiting this activity. He spoke in opposition to the backyard chicken raising ordinance.

Gerri Penn – spoke in opposition to the backyard chicken raising ordinance.

Ashley Doolittle – spoke in favor of the chicken raising ordinance, and gave a packet of information to the Mayor and Council regarding backyard chicken raising.

Tara Fattal – spoke in favor of backyard chicken raising.

Kim Pray – spoke in favor of the backyard chicken raising ordinance, and asked the City Council to consider relaxing the restrictions on the size and location of the chicken coups.

Angela Minyard – spoke in favor of backyard chicken raising.

John Harrison – spoke in favor of backyard chicken raising.

Gordon Jackson – spoke in favor of the linear park/path on Mt. Vernon Road, and gave a presentation regarding same. He pointed out that the City does not own the right-of-way for two residential lots on the South side of Mt. Vernon Road where the proposed path would be.

Abby, Taylor, Emerson and Isabelle – all spoke in favor of backyard chicken raising.

Mayor Wright closed public comment without objection.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT:

Council Member Ross requested that a discussion of bicycle paths be added to the agenda as Item 16. Mayor Wright added this item without objection.

Council Member Heneghan said that this Thursday, at Peachtree Charter Middle School, there will be an “Ignorance is no Defense: a Teenager’s Guide to Georgia Law” presentation. He said he highly recommends this program for anyone who has teenagers or young adults.

Council Member Bonser spoke about the Georgia Department of Transportation upgrading intersections from I-285 up N. Peachtree to Dunwoody Crossing; up North Shallowford to Chamblee Dunwoody and Vermack; and on Cotillion and Savoy. A left turn signal is being installed at the traffic light at Vermack and Chamblee Dunwoody as part of this upgrade.

Council Member Shortal thanked everyone who organized the March 3, 2010 Walk to School Day, and said that 43% of the non bus riding children participated. He said he met the Chief of Police from Tibilisi, Georgia. He thanked the individuals who worked on bicycle routes in the City.

Mayor Wright said that the directional signs around City Hall have been put in place.

CITY BUSINESS:

Emergency Medical Service response discussion.

DeKalb County Fire Chief Eddie O’Brien spoke regarding emergency medical service response in DeKalb County. He said that the fire department and the emergency medical service response teams are cross trained. He said that there are three fire stations in the City of Dunwoody, each with one EMT (basic medical life support) and 1 ALS (advanced life support) component. During the month of February 2010, 280-290 calls were responded to by DeKalb County Fire Department within the City of Dunwoody. DeKalb County Fire Department dispatched the closest units to the most critical calls. Fire Station 18 has 12 personnel on 24 hours shifts (with a minimum of 9 personnel per shift), for a total of 36 personnel assigned to this station; Fire Station 21 has 8 personnel on 24 hour shifts (with a minimum of 6 personnel per shift), for a total of 24 personnel assigned to this station; and Fire Station 12 has 4 personnel on 24 hour shifts (with a minimum of 3 personnel per shift), for a total of 12 personnel assigned to this station. Chief O’Brien said that dispatchers answer a list of questions to determine what kind of units to send to the emergency site. Council Member Wittenstein requested that Chief O’Brien produce a report for the Council tracking the amount of time it takes for ambulance transport services to arrive at 911 callers’ residences, and

a report showing if the first responder to arrive at the residence has the necessary skills to respond to the 911 caller's needs.

Dr. Melissa White, an emergency medical physician, spoke as a citizen of Dunwoody. She said that it is good that the City is gathering data, and she offered her support in assisting the City in looking at any data that it gathers.

Resolution opposing proposed changes to Class B airspace at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.
(RESOLUTION 2010-03-08)

Council Member Shortal proposed the following changes to the Class B Airspace Resolution: add "Whereas" paragraphs regarding safety and the economic factor to the property owners, the City and the County, and remove the last "Whereas" paragraph. He also requested that the Mayor and all City Council Members sign this document, and that a more generic document be drafted as a joint resolution with surrounding cities. Mr. Shortal said that the City of Dunwoody's main concerns regarding the proposed changes are noise, pollution, safety, and negative impact on the economy.

Online disclosure reports discussion.

Discussion was held on posting the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports and Financial Disclosure Statements on the City's website. These reports will be posted on the City's website by the City Clerk.

City of Dunwoody and Perimeter Community Improvement District (PCID) Cooperation Agreement.

City Attorney Brian Anderson presented the agreement, and said that Georgia law requires that the City sign this agreement.

FIRST READ: Ordinance to amend Chapter 27, Article 4, Section 4-10.1 to include regulations for "Raising Backyard Chickens in Single Family Residence Districts."

City Clerk Sharon Lowery conducted a first read of the ordinance. Council Member Wittenstein said that he received an e-mail from Tom Dwyer of the Community Council in which Mr. Dwyer said that if he could vote again on this matter, he would vote in favor of the ordinance instead of against it. Council Member Bonser said she thinks the ordinance should include language prohibiting chicken coups from being visible from the street. Council Member Wittenstein asked that the following two provisions be added to the ordinance: that no chickens raised according to the provisions of this ordinance shall be allowed to be slaughtered, and that there should be a barrier preventing chicken coups from being visible from the street. There was discussion among the council members regarding the setback provisions for the chicken coups set forth in the ordinance, and there was a consensus that this needed to be further reviewed and revised.

FIRST READ: Ordinance to amend Chapter 15 re Regulation of taxi cabs.

City Clerk Sharon Lowery conducted a first read of the ordinance. City Manager Warren Hutmacher explained that this amendment addresses taxis that pick up in the City of Dunwoody, and the regulations are fairly common in the metro area. Council Member Heneghan said that the insurance requirements are 50/50/25 in the City's ordinance, while some cities require 50/50/50. He also said that the driver permit section should be in a separate section.

Discussion of Mt. Vernon – Dunwoody Baptist to Sandy Springs linear park/path.

Public Works Director Michael Smith presented Council with two options: a \$200,000.00 option for a 10-foot-wide meandering path, or a \$50,000.00 sidewalk option. Mr. Smith said he plans to bring a sidewalk proposal to Council in April. He said that this plan should tie in with the transportation plan, including bicycle paths. Mr. Smith said that it makes sense to do this project at the same time as the resurfacing plan in 2012. Mr. Smith informed the Council that the 10-foot-wide path would allow access to pedestrians and bicyclists. City Manager Hutmacher asked the Council if it would like to adopt this policy for the year 2011, stating that after the policy would come the funding plan, and then the sidewalk plan. Mayor Wright requested that this matter be placed on hold for now. City Manager Warren Hutmacher said the City would reach out to Page Olson as the priorities are assigned.

Five-year resurfacing plan discussion.

Public Works Director Michael Smith gave the presentation. He said the plan is based on this year's budget, with years 2-5 budgeted at \$2,750,000.00. Council Member Ross requested that Trowbridge Place be removed from the list of streets to be resurfaced, and that Trowbridge Drive be placed on the list. City Manager Hutmacher said that the five-year plan would need to be approved by Council first, then Council would approve the streets to be paved, then Council would approve a contract for the plan to be implemented. Mr. Hutmacher said that the plan will be revised to remove Trowbridge Place from the list; add Trowbridge Drive to the list; that the City will not repave the ancillary mediocre roads, and will instead repave the roads in poorest condition.

Multi-family housing code compliance discussion.

Community Development Director Mike Tuller and Chief Building Inspector Michael Nier presented this matter. Mr. Nier said the program has two separate courses that run simultaneously: interior unit evaluations, and exterior evaluations of the complexes themselves. There are 32 known apartment complexes, totaling 9,000 individual units. The focus will be on inspection of the least compliant apartments first. Mr. Nier said that there is potential for hiring additional staff members to assist with this task if Council should approve this. City Manager Hutmacher said that the cost for this apartment inspection program is \$97,000.00 over the initial twelve months, and \$145,500.00 for an eighteen month period. Mr. Hutmacher said the program is not budgeted. He said Council will have to decide at what pace they want to go. Council Member Wittenstein recommended reviewing the current budget to determine if funds are available in the amount of \$97,000.00, without dipping into contingency. Mr. Nier said there are two ordinance amendments associated with this matter, as well as a policy change. City Manager Hutmacher said the ordinance amendments will be presented at the April Work Session for a First Read, as well as the findings on the budget review.

Economic Development discussion.

City Manager Warren Hutmacher presented this matter. He outlined the seven steps the City would need to take in order to develop an economic development strategy. Those steps are: demographic analysis, current economic condition analysis, stakeholder interviews, SWOT analysis, strategy development, develop existing performance baseline and future performance goals, and organize staffing/consulting/partnership plan for implementation. The process would take about three months to complete, at a cost of \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 to hire a firm to put the marketing plan together. Council Member Ross said he feels it is important to move forward with a summit on economics within the next 30 days. Mr. Hutmacher recommended funding the research component from contingency. Mayor Wright said there appears to be consensus to move forward.

Green Building Policy discussion.

Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Greer presented this matter. She said this policy is part of the Sustainability Commission's pursuit of the Atlanta Regional Commission's "Green Communities" Certification. This policy has been drafted to fulfill three requirements from the Green Communities Program: to establish a LEED Policy for government buildings, to establish an Energy Star policy for government buildings, and an Earth Craft policy for government buildings. This policy provides health, economic and environmental benefits to the community.

Motorized carts discussion.

Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Greer presented this matter. She said the Sustainability Commission reviewed the Council's proposed changes to Chapter 17 regarding motorized carts, and recommends allowing only motorized carts (not gasoline powered carts), limiting their use to streets of 20 mph or less, and deferring the ordinance change until the comprehensive plan is complete. There was discussion among the Council members regarding this matter. Mayor Wright said that this matter will appear on the agenda for the next meeting as a Second Read.

Off-duty police traffic control.

Mayor Wright discussed the traffic congestion at Georgia Perimeter College, and also the congested church congregation traffic. City Manager Hutmacher said he would conduct some research on this.

Impact fees discussion.

Council Member Taylor said he would like to move this item to the April Work Session. City Manager Hutmacher said that the RFP will be released in the very near future.

Initiation of text amendments.

None.

Bicycle Path discussion.

Council Member Danny Ross requested that he would like to have three bicycle paths marked, particularly the "Bicycle Ride Around Dunwoody" (BRAD) path. He proposed naming the BRAD route the "Jim Benson Trail." Council Member Ross suggested applying the \$3,000.00 left over from last year's BRAD toward the cost of marking these paths. Council Member Shortal suggested addressing this in April's meeting. Director of Public Works Michael Smith suggested waiting until the transportation plan is developed to identify and mark the bicycle paths. Mr. Smith recommended temporary signage on the bicycle paths in the interim.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Wright moved to break for Executive Session for the purposes of real estate and legal discussions. Council Member Taylor seconded. Executive Session was held.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business the Meeting was adjourned.

Approved by:

Ken Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk