



**NOTES OF THE WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
CITY OF DULUTH, GA
JANUARY 23, 2023**

PRESENT: Mayor Harris, Council members Harkness, Doss, Graeder, and Whitlock, City Manager, Department Directors, City Attorney

ABSENT: Councilmember Thomas

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

1. 2022 STORMWATER UPDATES

{A}

Planning Director Forrest Huffman and Stormwater manager Josh Arnold came forward to present.

To summarize the 2022 projects, 41 were completed at a cost of 1.4 million, mostly due to subdivisions built in the 1980s and corrugated piping materials used. Staff overviewed some of the larger projects and explained that some of the larger amounts spent were due to emergency repairs such as sinkholes. Staff is still working the priority list, but such emergencies do change those priorities. They also consider the paving projects that Public Works has planned also, to ensure any underground structures are intact prior to paving roads.

Staff also noted the street sweeping events and curb cleaning efforts to keep debris from entering stormwater structures. Mr. Arnold also mentioned the condition of Chattahoochee Landing which was built in the 1990s and the huge undertaking it will be to replace all the over 2,400 feet of High-density Polyethylene plastic storm lines in this particular neighborhood.

Mr. Huffman noted that the median home life (age of Duluth home) was constructed in 1994, and the normal useful life of these structures has reached it's 30-year mark. Duluth has been proactive, but he sees the trend for needed repairs for the near future. Budget amendments may be needed sooner than expected to address these growing issues. He noted that now we use reinforced concrete pipe as a design standard for residential neighborhoods, which have a much longer lifespan. He felt that these actions sustain the value of our homes and community and represent an environmental responsibility to direct clean water back into the Chattahoochee River.

Councilmember Graeder asked about the State making emergency repairs on Hwy 120 and why they used corrugated metal pipe. City Manager James Riker explained that due to the timeframe of the problem, the state did not have time to wait for other materials, but they indicated they will be checking on it periodically to ensure stability.

Councilmember Graeder also asked about standing water in River Green. Mr. Arnold explained that Broadcom drainage ditch needs new engineering. Staff has been working with code enforcement to remedy this situation and has been providing service to the flumes, adding the pipe to a biannual maintenance plan.

Councilmember Whitlock was concerned about residents who fill in their driveway curbs to prevent the lip/extra bump when pulling in, which redirects stormwater away from their intended catch basins.

Staff was directed to place a budget amendment on a future agenda.

2. SPLOST FUNDING REQUEST – POLICE

{B}

Asst. City Mgr/Finance Director Ken Sakmar explained that staff budgets to spend 90% of projected SPLOST revenue for each cycle. At this point, the revenue has exceeded that amount which requires Council decision on how to spend the additional available funds. Due to allocation, those funds need to be dedicated toward police.

Chief explained the items being requested under SPLOST funds. Command staff discussed what types of equipment and Capt. Wilson presented the list and explained the purpose of each item.

Staff was directed to place a budget amendment on the February consent agenda.

3. GDOT SR 120 WIDENING PROJECT – COORDINATION

{C}

City Engineer Margie Pozin came forward to explain.

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has been in the preconstruction/design phase of the SR 120 widening project from SR 141 (Fulton Co) to Peachtree

Industrial Blvd (Gwinnett Co) for several years. The project seeks to widen SR 120 to a four-lane highway, having two travel lanes in each direction separated by a raised median.

Staff has been involved with the project to the extent GDOT has allowed, attending public meetings, reviewing the plans at milestone submittals, making requests on behalf of our citizens, and coordinating items that may impact aesthetics of the final product. We have also coordinated their sidewalks to tie to our future facilities.

GDOT recently requested both Johns Creek and Duluth indicate their preferences regarding wall facades and handrail type. If none are requested, GDOT will implement their standard walls and handrails. If anything other than the GDOT's standard is requested, the requester/City will be responsible for covering the difference in cost for those items.

As Duluth's standards for aesthetics differ from those of GDOT, staff will present options for Council's consideration. GDOT requires our feedback by February to integrate our choices into their plans before their next milestone review.

Ms. Pozin presented cost estimates to accompany the options for upgrading the six walls and the railings, but Council is advised that the cost of their preferences will not be fully known until GDOT sends the invoice prior to construction. Prices are subject to change.

Council discussed the value of having these upgrades in their intended locations and would like to see where they are proposed in relation to the neighborhood entrances, etc. Granite or brick are not necessary in this area, but most of Council supported the idea of upgrading with a liner, but it has not been planned as an area established for walkability or entertainment area. They approved of the idea of having nicer aesthetics once you cross into city limits but wanted to see what Johns Creek was planning to approve as well.

Funding for upgrades would be from transportation 2023 SPLOST, miscellaneous category. Ms. Pozin will send information to Council as requested once received.

Council will review options and note preferences after that.

4. QUITCLAIM DEED – RIDGEWAY ROAD SIDEWALK & PARKING

Economic Development Director Chris McGahee came forward to explain the request to accept executed quitclaim deeds from the three (3) Homeowners Associations related to the condominium and two (2) townhome developments adjacent to City Hall. Acceptance of the quitclaim deeds will place the sidewalks and parking area along Ridgeway Road under city ownership.

The only cost to the City is future maintenance. This process also gives the City control of vegetative buffers for the future development in the area.

Staff was authorized to place these items on the next Council consent agenda.

5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES

{D}

Staff updated Council on current capital improvement projects.

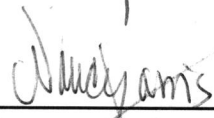
City Engineer Margie Pozin outlined the status of Pine Needle Drive, Main St. enhanced sidewalks, Rogers Bridge, Davenport, Quiet Zone, Hall Sewer, and ARPA sewer projects (broken out by community: Hill Community, Pinecrest). She also covered the Paver Lot/Taylor Park and Western Gwinnett Bikeway, and the City Manager discussed the schedule for the large-scale playable art project.

III. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL

- Appreciation for Brenda Ehly's "Meet me on Main" art at Nacho Daddy, paid for by the DDA.
- SoDo had it's first residents move in last week, with the Sky Lounge for residents.
- Mid-block crossing from Coleman to Parsons Alley parking, bring more awareness to traffic coming or have it lit better.
- Bunten Road entrance - deceleration lane vs. parking lane
- Potential de-annexation request
- Hill Community meeting report and status of community
- Calendar appointments for budget work sessions

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Approved this 13 day of February, 2023.



Mayor Nancy Harris

ATTEST:



Asst. City Mgr./City Clerk, Teresa Lynn