

**Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 8:45 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.**

**Councilmembers present:** Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

**STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Mayor Rusty Paul** stated Yvonne Williams is in attendance for Agenda Item No. 16-278. He asked that this item be moved to the first item on the agenda.

**City Management**

1. **16-278** Use of Law Enforcement for Managing Rush Hour Traffic at Business Driveways in PCID  
(Presented by Bryant Poole, Assistant City Manager)

**City Manager John McDonough** stated Council Member Sterling did a site visit about a week or so ago and he will present this item.

**Council Member Gabriel Sterling** stated that for about a year he has received complaints on how the City moves rush hour traffic through the PCID area. In large part, this issue has been brought forward by constituents who were stuck on the road watching police officers direct traffic. Not blocking the box at intersections is important to keeping the traffic moving. What is new is the addition of Newell Rubbermaid. There is an area from Abernathy north for about a quarter of a mile, where there are three different office intersections with police officers directing traffic and a traffic light in the middle of that. There is also a private road going north past Northpark. What happens is there are drivers trying to go north or south on Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Last week, it took someone eighteen minutes to get from the Newell Rubbermaid entrance to Mount Vernon Highway on Peachtree Dunwoody. That is about a quarter or a third of a mile. There will always be traffic stacking issues, but having several police officers in a row on the same street emptying commercial properties results in traffic backup. Abernathy is being loaded with traffic by police officers, which causes more backup compared to the traffic system technology in place. The police officers directing traffic are interfering with the traffic system working properly. The police officers are emptying business parking decks, which is loading the streets. At a site visit the other day he spoke to the officers and it was a light traffic day. Some of the issues with traffic occur when traffic stops and people look at their cell phones, and then when traffic starts moving again they are still looking at their phones. As a result, you lose about ten to twenty seconds every time for that delay. There is no easy solution for the individuals who are in traffic that cause traffic to move more slowly. He asked if there is a way to do an experiment allowing the police officers to empty only the intersections and not the private businesses. Having the police officers there does not force the office buildings to think creatively about moving their own traffic. They will not stagger their work hours, because the police officers are emptying their traffic decks. He asked that the City consider conducting an experiment to have police officers only at intersections and not at office complexes, first while school is out, and then again when school is in session.

**Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole** gave the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCID) "Use of Law Enforcement for Managing Rush Hour Traffic at Business Driveways" PowerPoint presentation. He asked Yvonne Williams from the PCID to speak regarding the history of the 2008 ordinance, which manages businesses that want to hire law enforcement to assist motorists entering/exiting their businesses during peak hours.

**Yvonne Williams, President of the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCID)**, stated it has been the PCID's tradition, since the inception of the City, to fund \$353,000 for DeKalb and Fulton to pay for police officers. The purpose of this was to provide officers at key intersections, not individual buildings.

No matter what traffic signals and technology exists, people do not monitor their driving habits and you cannot control human behavior, especially at I-285 and GA400. There have been police officers at Abernathy, Ashford Dunwoody, Hammond Drive, and Peachtree Dunwoody. There are 86 police officers from the communities of Fulton County, City of Dunwoody, City of Sandy Springs, DeKalb County, and City of Brookhaven. The police officers work during the peak hours of the commute patterns, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The summer work hours are reduced in order to reduce the costs, and on holidays officers are not at the locations. Police captains supervise the police officers, not the PCIDs. She appreciates any opportunity to consider private property owners, and how they can get permissions through their jurisdictions to hire police officers at certain properties. The PCID has decided that the major intersections in the community improvement districts are more important. The PCIDs have considered every year how to reduce the head count in the budget.

Council Member Sterling stated with the police officers at the intersections the protocol say the officers are supposed to work with the traffic light. He asked if the officers are working with the traffic lights. In Sandy Springs he does not believe they do, but he is not sure about DeKalb County.

Ms. Williams stated the police officers do not provide reports to the PCID. They look at the traffic from a day-to-day condition. She does not know if the police officers have an everyday formula for what they decide to do. She stated that she believes they look at the daily traffic conditions. The police officers have to override some of the traffic lights in order to move cars onto the interstate.

Council Member Sterling stated the main issue he was discussing was the importance of not blocking the box. His concern is about the private parking decks emptying onto the roads, which causes part of the problem. He has never seen a traffic study done that says to empty a 400 space parking deck in one hour when the natural flow of traffic might make it 100 vehicles per hour. The stacking will be higher, which means the police officers will have to override the traffic light. His biggest issue is the private parking decks, especially at the intersection from Abernathy Road to the Glen Meadow neighborhood. This area has Newell Rubbermaid, Embassy Row, and Northpark all emptying at the same time. It is very difficult, because we are adding tons of volume onto a section that was not designed to take it. The police officers are having to deal with it and the whole system backs up. This makes the City's traffic situation worse. He would like to find some way to partner with the businesses to remove the police officers from traffic duty to see how the traffic will function. In discussions with the Police Chief, when we thought the shoulder lanes would cause issues, they actually work really well. He would prefer to do an experiment while school is out and again while in session to get an idea of what is causing the problem.

Mayor Paul stated the problem is police officers can only manage what is in front of them. What is in front of them is only a small piece of the larger mosaic of how traffic moves. They may be taking care of a problem in front of them, but compounding a problem systemically. He asked if the parking decks could be emptied in an orderly way, so the employees and employers can get access out, and what other options are available to us to be able to manage the egress from some of the parking decks. He asked if there are any other solutions that other communities have found dealing with these issues.

Ms. Williams stated she would be happy to discuss this at an upcoming Work Session. The issue is how to get out the communication strategy on traffic mitigation during the construction and how the CID can help the employers look at alternative work schedules. City staff will be talking to the PCID later this week about hospital strategy and the last mile connectivity. That is an opportunity for a Work Session that is planning a phase-by-phase strategy to be implemented. There may be opportunities to see if there is a way for the employers to let people out of work at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. instead of just at 5:00 p.m. The PCID does not have jurisdiction over the property owners, but can help communicate with them.

**Council Member John Paulson** asked if the police officers that are near the private parking decks are ordered to get the drivers out of there as fast as they can, or if the orders are to keep the intersection clear and if there is a gap, to place more people onto the street. He does not understand the corrective direction not causing more problems.

**Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole** stated that he and Captain Mullins, Police Chief DeSimone, and Council Member Sterling met to look at the section on Peachtree Dunwoody. Captain Mullins is routinely on-site and he can tell Council what he sees.

Council Member Sterling stated the day he was at Newell Rubbermaid there was not a police officer there and the parking deck seemed to empty just fine.

**City of Sandy Springs Police Captain Mullins** stated the agreement with the businesses in the corridor is that there will be a police officer on-site between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. ready to direct traffic, if the driveway is to the point of being blocked. When traffic is free flowing and there is no congestion, the police officers will not get in the road. That is the agreement the Department has with the businesses and the police officers. You will see the police officers in the road when the traffic backs up past the driveway. Through gridlocked conditions the officers will be keeping the driveway clear to allow motorists to turn left into and out of the businesses. At the same time, the officers will allow motorists to exit heading southbound onto Peachtree Dunwoody Road in conjunction with the traffic. The officers usually allow one or two cars out of the business parking lot while allowing three to five cars on Peachtree Dunwoody Road to pass through the intersection, when there is room to move the cars. It is very unpredictable what will happen each day regarding traffic. Some days there is no traffic and other days there is complete gridlock. The police officers direct traffic as needed. You will not see the police officers in the road unless there is a traffic problem. When traffic is backed up you will see many motorists who drive in the center turn lane and drive all the way down to the traffic light. At one point they are travelling on the wrong side of the road to get to Northpark Place. This creates a very hazardous situation. The other day he was at the intersection and as he was leaving the road at 6:00 p.m., before he could make it to his police car, there was a road rage type of situation. Two motorists got into an argument because someone was cut off at that location. He has directed traffic at this location for almost nineteen years and he has seen many changes. In the last year or so, the traffic has gotten worse, especially with the number of employees leaving the Newell Rubbermaid parking lot. This added approximately 500 cars exiting those parking decks between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. In the last few months the police officers have noticed the traffic light at Abernathy and Peachtree Dunwoody Road seems to allow southbound traffic to go through that intersection for a shorter duration of approximately twenty-five seconds. The Abernathy Road corridor seems to flow pretty solid for DeKalb County. This has created some of the backup. When you see the increase in the businesses in the area with the addition of Newell Rubbermaid and the change in the traffic light cycle, there is a perfect storm created. On some days the traffic can be pretty unbearable.

Council Member Paulson asked how City staff can make an assessment of how long the traffic lights should be green if drivers are in the intersections. He asked if the traffic light timing was extended for a longer period of time, would that alleviate the traffic issues or cause another problem somewhere else.

Police Captain Mullins stated at that location it would help the traffic north of that location.

Mayor Paul asked what the protocol in the field is if the police officers see a situation like that. He asked if they communicate that to the City's traffic management team.

Police Captain Mullins stated the police officers are not in direct contact with the Traffic Management Center (TMC). Everything the officers do in this corridor is dictated by the traffic light at Northpark Place. The officers have a clear view of that traffic light. There are three officers that work in that location. There are two officers on Embassy Row and one for Newell Rubbermaid. All officers have a line of sight to the traffic light. When the light is green traffic is emptied southbound. The three officers that work in this corridor are all in the line of sight with each other and can communicate with each other.

Council Member Sterling stated there was a similar discussion about a year and a half ago where there was talk about the officers not having direct communication with the TMC. He believes there was discussion about staff trying to figure out some way to make that happen.

City Manager McDonough stated Assistant City Manager Poole can coordinate with Police Chief DeSimone, Deputy Chief Zgonc, and Captain Mullins. The traffic staff are down there every single day making changes to the traffic light timing based on traffic patterns. The traffic changes on a daily basis. Staff will revisit the communications protocol with the TMC.

Council Member Sterling stated the traffic issues have increased over the last year and he is open to considering whatever solution might work.

Assistant City Manager Poole continued with the presentation beginning on page five. The cost for this study will be \$2,000. School starts on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff suggests that the study should be started before school starts.

Council Member Sterling stated the worst of the traffic has been during the summer when traffic should be lighter. The Newell Rubbermaid building is not new, but they just recently hired more employees and that is the cause of the traffic congestion. He supports spending \$2,000 for the study.

There was a consensus of Council to spend the \$2,000 for the traffic study.

**Police Chief Ken DeSimone** stated once the study has begun, if there are major traffic issues, he wants the police officers to be allowed to be assigned back at the locations to immediately fix the issue.

Assistant City Manager Poole stated before the study is done, the impacted business owners will need to be made aware of what the City is doing and get their support as well.

Council Member Paulson stated there is another part of the traffic study. The traffic light can be adjusted southbound making it longer by ten to twenty seconds to see if that has an impact. There are only so many things that can be controlled.

Council Member Sterling asked that the police keep the intersection of Peachtree Dunwoody Road and Abernathy clear.

Council Member Paulson stated he still thinks cameras should be placed at this intersection and everyone that is in the intersection when the light turns red should receive a traffic ticket.

Police Chief DeSimone stated traffic control is more of an art than it is a science.

### **Community Development**

#### **2. 16-271 Ordinance to Amend the Sandy Springs Development Regulations**

**Director of Community Development Michelle Alexander** gave a PowerPoint presentation on proposed Development Regulations Amendments.

**Council Member Gabriel Sterling** asked what is an "as-built."

Director of Community Development Alexander stated an "as-built" is a recorded drawing of what was actually built on the ground. The Planning and Development Department receives plans and reviews them. The applicant takes those plans to the contractor and asks them to build to that specific plan.

**Council Member John Paulson** stated when he was designing retaining walls, he would make the contractors take pictures of the final project. There are contractors that go onto the site and do certain things and then leave. He did a design for a retaining wall that had a flat back slope that was supposed to be a parking lot and the wall failed. He went to the site one year later and there was a huge 2:1 slope on top. The contractor doing the earth work and the contractor doing the retaining wall were months apart and

they never spoke to each other, so the plans were changed. He is a fan of as-built drawings. At the end of the job, there is a survey that shows where everything is. An as-built survey is a good thing to do and it's not that difficult or expensive to have done, provided the City makes sure it is not too intricate. For the stormwater, if it is the surface water, that is not difficult. If the stormwater facility is already built and the surveyor has to go down in a hole in the ground to investigate the septic field, he is not sure that would be feasible.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated it is what the City currently requires for any stormwater device.

**Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Gilbert Quinones** stated the City requires the inspectors to check all the stormwater management before it is installed. For all of the dry wells, the inspector makes sure they are deep enough.

Council Member Paulson stated the inspector does not have all of that information, but staff does. He asked how the inspector incorporates that into his drawing, or should he.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated when the as-builts are submitted to the City, the City inspectors will check to ensure what is built. Currently, the homeowner receives a survey and has no idea of the location of all the dry wells. Then the homeowner comes to the City two months later and wants to build a pool right over one. That is the biggest problem the City has right now.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated it should be the engineer who designed the plans who defines where things are located.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated dry wells are only designed to accept the first 1.2 inches of rainfall. The rest of the rainfall has to go somewhere. It has to either go down the slopes or out of the top of the flow wells. You can look at the construction plans and tell about what they need to be. The City inspectors have already seen that it has been built that way. A surveyor can usually tell where they are located. He is also a surveyor and he would never do a survey on a house without the construction plans for a starting point.

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** stated when he was an engineer he did work in Cherokee County and they required a surveyor to locate the pipes as they went in the ground. That can be added to the City regulations that require the as-built of the flow well and submit that with the final as-built drawings. There may need to be a requirement for a two inch PVC over the water lines along with an elevation shot. This can be done and other jurisdictions are requiring it, though some applicants complain it will cost about another \$1,000 to have that done.

Council Member Paulson stated that is fine as long as it is clear what is expected of the homeowner.

Council Member Sterling asked about the enforcement of this. Once the applicant receives the permit, will staff proactively go back at the end in about sixty days? How will the City follow up on this?

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated at the preconstruction meeting that every project has, the City's inspectors tell the contractor to let the City inspector know before they dig the dry wells, because there is a certain depth requirement.

Council Member Sterling stated he is referring to the final mechanisms, so the City has the final as-built.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated if staff does not hear back from the applicant regarding the final as-built, then the certificate of occupancy can be held and not issued.

Council Member Sterling asked if there is a certificate of occupancy for an addition or some other item that is not building a house.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated it is more difficult to follow up on if it is not a structure being built.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated this would not be required for a deck. This would be a requirement for an addition to a building.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated this would apply to any type of construction that would require a dry well.

**Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert** stated he asked staff to bring this item forward. In his experience, you will get homeowners who have a house built and for some reason there was no requirement for an as-built survey before they closed on the home. Five years from then they try to sell the home and the as-built shows the home was built a foot over the property line or over the setback. The homeowner then has a real problem trying to clear the title before the home is sold. As houses are built on smaller lots this will become an even greater problem. The City has also been requiring this for stormwater.

Council Member Sterling stated the City's enforcement is if the as-built is not given to City staff and the surveyor has not signed off on it, then the applicant will not receive their certificate of occupancy.

Director of Community Development Alexander responded yes.

Council Member Paulson stated periodically there are mandated inspections of the site.

**Council Member Chris Burnett** asked if the City requires the as-built to be held to American Land Title Association (ALTA) standards.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated the City does not. ALTA surveys are mostly used for bank closings. That requires a title insurance policy and all the easements that are on the title policy to show up on the survey. If a survey of a house is done, you do not necessarily receive all of the easements, but instead receive them on the final plat.

Director of Community Development Alexander continued with the presentation that covered swimming pools and retaining walls.

Council Member Paulson asked about the tiered height of the wall on the right-of-way and if it would be eight feet.

Director of Community Development Alexander responded yes.

Council Member Sterling asked if that number is arbitrary.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated not exactly. It depends on what makes sense for when the wall is tiered and what you visually see when the wall is tiered.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated the biggest problem we find with retaining walls is when the next door neighbor installs a wall in order to build their house up higher. The person downhill has to look at the wall while the person that builds the wall does not see it and does not care what it looks like.

**Council Member Andy Bauman** stated the City has a lot of different topography. This all seems reasonable, but he is concerned about unintended consequences. He wants to make sure this is fully vetted.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated as the ordinance is currently written, someone can install a twenty-foot retaining wall.

Council Member Bauman stated there may be situations on large lot properties, depending on the conditions.

Plan Review Engineer/Chief Engineer, Community Development Quinones stated he understands that. For instance, DeKalb County had this issue and then stated there were to be no more retaining walls on residential properties higher than three feet.

Council Member Sterling stated he has issues about not having it on the property line. There are some smaller lots he has seen that it would make sense to have a three, four, or five-foot retaining wall. He is not sure about having a one size fits all for some properties. It would make sense to have a two foot wall in a backyard for someone that will not affect the neighbor. He is going to lean heavily on Council Member Paulson's discretion on this because he has more experience.

Council Member Paulson stated the retaining wall requirement needs to be discussed even further. An example is for lot line walls, most of which are commercial. He has seen many projects where the retaining wall is 100 feet long and eight feet high due to topography. There will be situations where putting something over eight feet in size seems punitive.

Council Member Bauman stated there are situations where land prices, either for better or for worse, are trying to make the land fit the house, as opposed to the house fitting the land.

Council Member Paulson stated some people have sued their neighbors because their neighbor installed a large retaining wall in the backyard to create a new lot. He understands there has to be some limits to it.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with the suggestions from staff for the as-builts and swimming pools. The retaining wall suggestions will be discussed at a future City Council meeting.

**City Manager John McDonough** suggested having the Public Works items on the agenda moved to a future City Council meeting.

3. **16-272** Ordinance to Amend the Sandy Springs Post Development Stormwater Regulations  
(Presented by Michelle Alexander, Director of Community Development)

**Director of Community Development Michelle Alexander** stated the State has updated its stormwater manual, which was released and approved in January 2016. All jurisdictions who issue permits for stormwater and water quality are required to adopt the Blue Book. She presented a Stormwater Regulations Update PowerPoint.

**Council Member Gabriel Sterling** asked if the City would be requiring all 5,000 square feet or would it only be for the addition.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated it will only be for the new addition.

There was a consensus of Council to proceed with the adoption of the Blue Book.

**Council Member Andy Bauman** asked what the extent of public input has been from the development community and stormwater advocates.

Director of Community Development Alexander replied the input received has not been like the City's Comprehensive Plan, where more public input was received. Staff brought this to Council, then there was public comment. There was one round table discussion with a range of individuals who attended. There

have been residential and commercial designers, environmental advocates, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Public Works staff, and advocate Bill Cleveland.

Council Member Bauman stated the Comprehensive Land Use Plan will also establish goals in this area as well.

Mayor Paul asked Council if for single family residential the standard should be 500 square feet or 1,000 square feet.

Council Member Sterling stated in some areas it might make sense to use 500 square feet with a low slope, but if you have a high slope, the threshold number could be lower. It seems arbitrary to pick a number.

Director of Community Development Alexander stated when there is an issue with topography, the Blue Book does say "or on a site by site basis". The Blue Book gives the City engineer the opportunity to identify special areas that may need additional requirements.

**Council Member Ken Dishman** stated he agrees with the 1,000 square foot threshold, since it is consistent with the City of Atlanta's threshold requirement.

There was a consensus of Council for staff to supplement the Blue Book with single family residential standards at the 1,000 square feet threshold and to use the Blue Book small non-residential development activity standards at the proposed 500 square feet threshold.

#### **Public Works**

4. **16-273** Marsh Creek Watershed Improvement Update  
*(Presented by Garrin Coleman, Director of Public Works)*

This item was postponed to be heard at a future City Council meeting.

5. **16-274** Project Updates for I-285 / Riverside Drive Roundabouts and T-0046 Carpenter Drive / Cliftwood Drive at Roswell Road Intersection

**City Manager John McDonough** stated that he asked for the Riverside Drive project to be presented.

**Director of Public Works Garrin Coleman** referenced the most current rendering of what the interchange will look like at the Riverside Drive roundabouts, once complete. The contract is currently underway with Baldwin Paving as a design/build contract through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The contract value is at approximately \$5.5 million. The project is a safety project and not a capacity project. He spoke to GDOT today and back on July 5, 2016 to discuss their weekend bridge closures of Riverside Drive. It looks like there will be three weekend bridge closures, which will begin on Friday evening and go through early Monday morning. The entire bridge will be closed for construction. The first weekend closure will be to repair wall damage that was noted on the bridge after the project was let. The City will help the contractor advertise the closure plan, which will have to be approved through GDOT.

**Council Member Andy Bauman** asked what time on Friday will the bridge close.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated he believes the closure will be at 9:00 p.m. and the bridge should be reopened Monday morning at 5:00 a.m. The closure should only be for three weekends in August. The roundabout should be open to traffic by the end of August, but that is contingent upon weather. The configuration will be a paved expanse with barrels and temporary striping.

**Council Member John Paulson** asked if the City is in charge of laying out the plans or is GDOT in charge of that.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated GDOT is in charge of that. The City will help with notification and outreach. That is one reason why staff wanted to make sure this item was presented tonight. GDOT could place variable message boards as early as Thursday. There will also be a temporary traffic signal configuration at the ramps. Currently, the interchanges are running on the City's traffic adaptive software. The traffic adaptive software will be turned off when the temporary signals go into configuration. They will be running on the time of day plans.

**Council Member Chris Burnett** asked when does the City plan on starting the communication process.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated GDOT will start placing variable message boards out as early as Thursday. Briefing Council is the City's first step in the communication plan. This information will be placed on the City's website.

**Director of Communications Sharon Kraun** stated GDOT is working on a video on how to use a roundabout. This video will be posted on the City's website at the beginning of August.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated this will be the first roundabout interchange in Metro Atlanta.

Council Member Bauman stated the drivers around Northside Drive need to be alerted as well. He asked if there is a large sign that will state this is a GDOT project.

Director of Public Works Coleman stated for the Northridge Interchange construction staff made sure that the Call Center was aware of the contact numbers for the GDOT project managers and the Call Center routed the calls. The process seemed to work well.

6. **16-275** Lake Forrest Dam Status Update  
(Presented by Garrin Coleman, Director of Public Works)

This item was postponed to be heard at a future City Council meeting.

### City Management

7. **16-276** SunTrust Stadium Traffic Management Update

**Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole** gave the SunTrust Stadium Traffic Management Update.

**Deputy Chief Keith Zgonc** stated a meeting was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cobb Police Department Headquarters to find out who the teams are from all the different agencies that are involved in traffic management and traffic control at the intersections. Sergeant Levy has been designated to coordinate with Sergeant Laurens, who is the Cobb County Police Department traffic sergeant handling everything with parking and related to traffic issues with SunTrust Park. The City is in constant contact with Cobb County and a meeting will be held in the middle of next week to finalize the parking plans for SunTrust Park.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked Chief Zgonc if he knows what type of manpower requirements will be needed to manage those intersections. Even if the City receives traffic improvements in that area, it will still take manpower on the street to help move the drivers in that area.

Deputy Chief Zgonc stated the Police Departments are looking at intersections that they know will be impacted. Regardless of signage, drivers will get off on Northside Drive and use Interstate North and Powers Ferry Road. People who are familiar with the area will try to use the easiest way they can to get to the east parking lots. Once we know where SunTrust will park everyone and what makes the most sense to get everyone there, we will have a better idea on how much traffic we anticipate on Interstate North and Powers Ferry Road. The Atlanta Braves noted at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that they expect eight to nine percent of the drivers to come from the eastside of I-75, although they still anticipate that people will come from I-75, I-575, and I-75 north. There is expectation that all games in 2017 at the new stadium will be sold out.

Mayor Paul stated the City needs to help educate the Atlanta Braves about the traffic patterns in this area. There was an early meeting with the Braves and it was clear they did not have an understanding about how the street network operates in the area.

Deputy Chief Zgonc stated Sandy Springs has a long working relationship with the Cobb County Police Department and the individuals involved.

Assistant City Manager Poole continued with the presentation on page 10. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, when he and the City Manager met with Cobb County, he found out Cobb County had met with the GDOT Commissioner on some other matters.

Assistant City Manager Poole explained that he attended the Comprehensive Plan meeting for the Powers Ferry area near New Northside Drive and Interstate Parkway, which was held at the Wyndham hotel. He was asked to provide an update, which is the same update presented to Council today. There were thirteen people in attendance, of which two represented businesses and eleven were homeowners. Some of the feedback received included creating a slip ramp where you go I-285 westbound onto the ramp from the New Northside Drive interchange, or creating a new interchange. Another option to vet is to direct traffic down I-75 and get off at the Windy Hill exit.

**Council Member Tibby DeJulio** asked if the City, the Braves or Cobb County would pay for having all the police officers directing traffic.

Assistant City Manager Poole stated that has not been vetted yet.

Deputy Chief Zgonc stated the Braves will pay for the police officers directing traffic in Cobb County, but there has been no discussion about who will pay for the police officers directing traffic in Sandy Springs. That is for discussion on the next meeting's agenda.

Council Member DeJulio stated Cobb County will be receiving all the revenue and Sandy Springs will get the expense and the inconvenience.

**Council Member John Paulson** asked if the off ramp from I-285 onto Interstate North Parkway that is west of the river is a short term project.

Assistant City Manager Poole responded yes. One idea is to have a slip ramp off of the on-ramp. Another option is to create a slip ramp, whether it is for an event day only or to create a true exit only ramp. He does not foresee that happening, because there are a lot of design issues with that option.

Council Member Sterling asked about GDOT having the right-of-way.

Assistant City Manager Poole stated GDOT has all the right-of-way, but anything tying in to Interstate Parkway will be the local jurisdiction's right-of-way.

Council Member DeJulio asked what is a "slip ramp."

Assistant City Manager Poole stated a "slip ramp" is not a fully designed ramp. Coming off I-285 a ramp is typically very long in order to give drivers the opportunity to reduce speed or gain speed to get onto the interstate. Under this situation you are operating under the pretense that there is rush hour traffic and you use the shoulder as an extension.

Council Member DeJulio asked if that is a three to four year project.

Assistant City Manager Poole responded no. The project can proceed if the funds are available and GDOT agrees that this is a creative way to get people to the east parking area for game day only.

Council Member DeJulio asked how long it would take to build a ramp like that.

Assistant City Manager Poole stated it could be done in three to four months.

Mayor Paul stated the only issue is the exact location, because people will still be coming off that ramp.

Assistant City Manager Poole stated that is correct. There will be a need for temporary traffic management whether it be law enforcement or whatever. The ramp will only be in place on game days.

Mayor Paul stated progress is being made, but there is a long way to go. At least conversations are occurring and it is positive.

8. **16-277** Consideration of Use of City Acquired Properties for Public Safety Employee Housing  
(Presented by John McDonough, City Manager)

This item was postponed to be heard at the next Work Session meeting.

### **Recreation and Parks**

9. **16-279** Discussion of a Recommendation from Recreation & Parks Director concerning the Contract Management Company at Sandy Springs Tennis Center

**Director Recreation and Parks Ronnie Young** stated Groslimond Tennis Services at the Tennis Center has been the provider of services since 2013. We are now at 3 ½ years of a four-year contract. Staff recommends extending the contract. Otherwise, we will have to open a RFP to place a new vendor in to operate the Tennis Center. Groslimond has done an excellent job and is one of the finest contractors that he has dealt with in his years in Recreation and Parks and managing facilities. Groslimond has had numerous accomplishments while operating the Tennis Center. The cost of the contract is \$60,000 a year. Groslimond pays the utility costs. Seniors are allowed to play free each day of the week. The youth program has been increased by forty-five percent, and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA) teams have been maxed out. Ten of the hard surface courts and four of the soft surface courts are being resurfaced. This location is one of the two largest tennis centers in the State of Georgia. He recommended extending Groslimond's contract for a term of three more years with yearly renewals.

**Council Member John Paulson** asked if this is the same \$60,000 the City has received for the last three years.

Director Recreation and Parks Young responded yes. Mr. Groslimond has offered a ten percent increase in the contract payment.

**Mayor Rusty Paul** stated he has heard that the Tennis Center has lost other sizeable tournaments to other facilities.

Director Recreation and Parks Young stated that is true. There is a facility being built in Rome, GA and one of the tennis management companies in the community manages tournaments at the Sandy Springs Tennis Center for Groslimond. One of those gentlemen is taking his tennis tournaments to Rome, GA.

**Council Member Andy Bauman** stated he has heard many great things about the tennis center. He asked what happens now with this item.

**City Manager John McDonough** stated this item will come back at the next Regular City Council meeting. Council Member Bauman stated he would like to have seen some metrics with measurements of the amount of play.

City Manager McDonough stated that information will be provided for the Regular agenda.

**Council Member Tibby DeJulio** asked who is paying for the resurfacing at the Tennis Center.

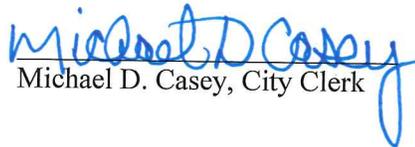
City Manager McDonough stated the City pays for it.

Director Recreation and Parks Young stated Mr. Groslimond receives \$20,000 for capital improvements. For this project the City will use last years \$20,000, the FY17 \$13,000 and Mr. Groslimond is contributing \$7,000. The total cost to resurface the courts if \$40,000.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Date Approved: August 16, 2016

  
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Russell K. Paul, Mayor

  
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Michael D. Casey, City Clerk