

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2020

6:30 PM

Teleconference

Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/te9ef6Pt_zlIWp3X2WrWHaFxB4-5eaa8gCZI_pYmk8rwy9Hdff-ZY8n8vtDc2Wy

Mayor and Council Visioning Session

Mayor Craig Newton

Mayor Pro Tem Josh Bare

Councilmember Andrew Hixson

Councilmember Elaine Puckett

Councilmember Matt Myers

Councilmember Bruce Gaynor

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Craig Newton	Mayor	Present	
Josh Bare	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Andrew Hixson	Councilmember	Present	
Elaine Puckett	Councilmember	Present	
Matt Myers	Councilmember	Present	
Bruce Gaynor	Councilmember	Present	

Visioning Session was called to order at 6:34 PM by Mayor Craig Newton

II. Discussion Items**1. 20-5832: Census Updates**

00:00:00 - 00:02:58

The city is at 56.6% completion for Census. Sonya will provide 2010 reporting statistics to see current trends.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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2. 20-5788: PWUP 20-01 Downtown Norcross Compactor Enclosure

00:02:59 - 00:30:59

The merchants were alerted of the idea. The impact of this project would double the price for merchants.

Kate reached out to three businesses and all three were against changing out the compactor. Due to the economic crisis, this addition would be a burden to the businesses. Once the restaurants are back up to 100% capacity, this topic should be revisited.

The council has agreed to put this project on hold for a while. This item will be sent to the September Regular meeting to rescind the contract.

Erica will confirm if there will be costs relative to the rescinding of the contract.

RESULT:	THIS MATTER WAS REFERRED TO
	Next: 9/8/2020 6:30 PM
TO:	Mayor and Council

3. 20-5831: 2020 Construction Highlights

00:31:01 - 01:07:27

Brunswick Project- \$40 million capital investment; Scheduled for completion fall 2020 (Still in Progress)

Broadstone Junction- \$100 million project; 354 Units; 200 apartments; 90 loft style apartments; 64 town homes.

The Kelly- 47 townhomes; There is one more string of buildings before completion.

Railroad Crossing- Erica received comments from the Railroad regarding the next steps in proceeding with this project. Current drawings will have to be revised, resubmitted, and brought before the Council. Erica will bring topic back before council for discussion.

Bromolow Park on Buford Highway; 70 townhomes; Land disturbance permit was requested 1.5 months ago; once financials are received construction will begin.

Pinnacle Town Homes- 24 townhomes; construction has begun; Scheduled completion in middle to late 2021.

Sierra West- 14 units; Still in the review process; Awaiting the submission of Civil Plans. The Project is making forward progress.

Thrasher Street- 5 Units; working on sewer and storm water easements.

Multifamily Development on Buford Highway- 144 Units and a small retail building; \$17 million investment.

Rudolph and staff will investigate and utilize a formula that compares the businesses ratio to residential and bring their findings before the Mayor and Council. William and Tara will gather the numbers.

Hunter Walker Trail (01:14:23 - 01:19:40) Angelika Domschke used her painting talents to make unsightly manholes more enjoyable along the Hunter-Walker Trail in Norcross. Councilman Hixson brought up the idea to extend the trail into a wooden path to connect the man holes easement to Hopewell Property and extend it even further to Hunter Walker Trail. The Mayor will begin conversation with property owners near the trail and return to Council for discussion.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. 20-5830: Library Updates

01:07:48 - 01:14:23

\$12 million project; Completion date of fall 2021; 22,000sqft library; The County contacted Mayor and Council to request a virtual groundbreaking; Norcross is the most used library in Gwinnett County; The concrete pouring is finishing up and the elevated slab should be finished in the fall. There are no current schedule delays for this project.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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5. 20-5829: COVID Mitigation Updates

01:19:41 - 02:00:32

Melissa led a conversation regarding her findings on the COVID Cares Act reimbursements, sharing that the City may submit reimbursements to the County before December 31st. Melissa has been following GMA and is overseeing the submission of all COVID expenses and reimbursements. One reimbursement has been filed, covering March-June. A new finding from the Department of Treasury showed that the payroll for public safety personnel could be reimbursed. Melissa is continuing to search for other eligible reimbursements. A \$413,000 reimbursement has been submitted. \$2.5 million is expected to be submitted by December 31st.

The Mayor led a discussion regarding the creation of an "UberEats Park". The Mayor shared with staff the idea of utilizing the portion of the Darnell parking lot that the City owns and installing pergolas and tables for people wanting to enjoy the ambiance of eating downtown in a safe manor. This park would be fully reimbursable, therefore, at no cost to the City. Cate surveyed the downtown merchants to have them weigh in on the idea. The majority of the merchants thought this would be a great idea, along with the restaurant owners being thrilled.

Councilmember Gaynor shared that there was an incident at the Darnell lot. A customer parked in an improper parking spot and an argument ensued and police were called as it related to these spots not being public property. Because public parking is valuable, Councilmember Gaynor mentioned that we should be more open about the fact that there is public parking available on City property on the backside to avoid future incidents.

Cate shared that the City will be going back to no employee or merchant parking in the immediate downtown area to alleviate issues with parking and free up more parking spaces for patrons.

Councilmember Puckett opened up the conversation regarding the possibility of establishing a mask mandate on all City property.

Councilmember Gaynor suggested that Mayor and Council pass a resolution to extend and reinforce the previously issued executive order requiring that masks be worn in all City buildings. He also suggested that the resolution encourage that all City merchants follow suit by requiring their employees and customers to wear masks inside their establishments. With this, Councilmember Gaynor also suggested the masks be contributed by the City. A survey may be needed in order to determine how many cases would be needed to provide masks to businesses. These costs could be incorporated into the COVID Cares Act.

The Mayor offered to connect with Mayors from other Cities to discuss what they've found to be effective verses ineffective in this process. Council will determine how active and involved they would like the Police Department to be in enforcing this resolution. To avoid reinventing the wheel, prewritten language passed down from effective operation processes may be emulated to create a resolution.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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6. 20-5833: 20-5833: Proposed Board Retreat*02:00:35 - 02:10:30*

Councilmember Gaynor led a discussion regarding the idea of a meeting between Mayor and Council and the BCA's. Years ago, there was a segment in the retreat where BCA's were invited to have open discussion with Council. Councilmember Gaynor proposed to revive this in a purposeful way inviting each board to spend a specific amount of time with Council in a retreat style format. This could be done by scheduling a Saturday where each BCA comes out for 30-45 minutes. Each BCA would have an agenda of topics in advance so that they can get to know Mayor and Council, better understand what's expected of them, and so that Mayor and Council can listen to their suggestions and what they desire to accomplish in their area of expertise. The purpose of this retreat is to show the Boards that they are highly valued and a significant part of Norcross culture. Councilmember Gaynor would like to set this up in the fall, preferably late September, which would give everyone a chance to prepare, but not wait too long. The majority of the Council agreed that this should be held virtually. Councilmember Gaynor will send an email to Council sharing preferred process.

Councilmember Myers requested that the BCA Manual be passed prior to the retreat taking place. The BCA Manual will be approved at the September 8th Regular Council Meeting.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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III. Adjourn to Exec Session Real Estate, Legal, and Personnel

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM with a motion by Councilmember Bruce Gaynor and seconded by Councilmember Elaine Puckett. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

IV. Signed by: _____ **Craig Newton, Mayor**

V. Attest: _____ **Monique Lang, City Clerk**