



Johns Creek

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager
Date: November 27, 2017
Subject: **Monthly City Manager Report to Elected Officials – October 2017**

This report details various items of interest regarding city business for the month of October 2017. The information is presented within the framework of the six goals established by the Council at the last Annual Strategic Planning Retreat and the monthly Financial Report is attached.

Transportation: Provide a comprehensive transportation network that facilitates ease of movement throughout the City.

Transportation Planning: Master Transportation Plan

- The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is a companion document to the Comprehensive Plan and in essence is a more detailed version of the transportation element within the Comprehensive Plan.
- The update of the 2008 Transportation Master Plan is being completed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan and began in the fall of 2016.
- To date two educational workshops, four planning workshops, and twelve (12) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings have been held to seek public input and guide the drafting.
- At the CAC's twelfth meeting on August 16, 2017, they reviewed the Executive Summary and plan development section.
 - Several CAC members expressed frustration because the CAC opposes widening any roads to six-lanes and yet the TSPLOST projects (which will encompass the first five years of implementation projects for the Comprehensive Plan and TMP) include capacity projects to restripe or widen both Medlock Bridge Road and State Bridge Road from four lanes to six lanes.
 - The CAC continues to desire the intersection at Medlock and State Bridge roads to be studied and designed, before any additional lanes are added to Medlock Bridge and State Bridge.

The final draft Transportation Master Plan was received from Pond Associates on September 5th. The plan

offers an overview of the City's future transportation improvements including operational and safety improvements, roadway capacity improvements, roadway and bridge maintenance, and active transportation networks (i.e., sidewalks and trail ways).

Transportation Planning: North Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- Regional planning effort managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission kicked off in August 2016.
- Sister cities of Sandy Springs, Roswell, Alpharetta, and Milton are partnering with Johns Creek on this effort and collectively hired consultant Kimley Horn and Associates.
- On August 24, 2017 a community meeting was held to gather feedback and input regarding the needs and potential improvement projects. An estimated 50 individuals attended.
- Staff is working with the consultant to finalize the initial improvements projects list based on the community feedback received.
- The project remains on schedule with an anticipated November/December presentation of final prioritized project list and estimated costs to the Council.

TSPLOST (Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax)

- Approved by voters in November 2016, first funds were collected in late May 2017.
- In August, the monthly public information meeting was shifted to cover all TSPLOST projects rather than focus on just McGinnis Ferry and other active projects.
- At the September 25, 2017 Council Meeting, Council approved staff's updated implementation strategy – focusing on four initial projects:
 - (1) McGinnis Ferry Widening from Union Hill to Sargent
 - (2) State Bridge Widening from Medlock Bridge to the Chattahoochee River
 - (3) Barnwell Road at Holcomb Bridge Road Intersection Improvements
 - (4) Bell/Boles Corridor Operational and Safety Improvements
- Council requested staff prepare a justification template which could be used in community conversations to quickly explain the projects.
- The October 19, 2017 monthly TSPLOST meeting attendance was estimated at 8 citizens.

Other Transportation (Vehicular) Improvement Projects

- **Abbotts Bridge (SR 120) (from Jones to Parsons):** The contractor completed the phase 1 paving and has shifted traffic to continue pouring curb and sidewalk.
- **Barnwell Road at Holcomb Bridge (intersection improvement):** Preparing preliminary design and environmental documentation for submission to GDOT (anticipated in November).
- **Barnwell Road at Jones Bridge:**
 - This "Safe Routes to Schools" project extends the existing sidewalk/trail from the Foxworth Subdivision (Redcoat Way) to the Barnwell Elementary School driveway and also adds guard rail through the Jones Bridge Road curve to better protect pedestrians traveling that route.
 - Project is on hold for further discussion on Barnwell Road at a future Work Session

- **Intelligent Traffic System – Phase 3A:**
 - The project is extending the fiber system (connecting the traffic signals) and creating a redundant loop by connecting to Gwinnett County and GDOT.
 - Project COMPLETE
- **Intelligent Traffic System – Phase 4:**
 - The project adds flashing yellow arrows and extends two turn lanes where vehicles stacked for left turns regularly blocked through traffic.
 - Project COMPLETE
- **Kimball Bridge Road (from State Bridge Road to Jones Bridge):**
 - The 1.25-mile project will widen Kimball Bridge Road (from State Bridge and Jones Bridge) from two to four lanes and also includes adding some turn lanes, beautification, and pedestrian trails.
 - Construction should start in November.
- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. at Johns Creek Parkway (Right Turn Lane):**
 - Project COMPLETE

Other Transportation (Multi-Modal) Improvement Projects

- **Rogers Bridge:** Public input favored the alternative RP-2 Replica Truss which would replace the existing bridge with a replica that looks like the existing bridge but is structurally sound. In May, a joint application for \$5M in federal funding was submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission.
- Still waiting on GDOT approval of concept and environmental before they move onto engineering the bridge.
- Staff anticipates feedback from ARC in December.
- **Sidewalk Plan:** Following the revised policy adopted by Council in February 2017, the updated sidewalk matrix is available for review on the city's website and continues to be updated monthly (as changes in conditions are recognized). The first three sidewalk projects have been completed on Embury Farm Road and Buice Road. The Parsons Road construction contract has been approved by Council and construction will begin in December.
- **Brumbelow Trail:**
 - The proposed trail and pedestrian bridge would be added along Brumbelow Road from Nesbit Ferry Road to Old Alabama Road and Newtown Park. The project would improve connectivity and address safety concerns for pedestrian crossing on the narrow bridge along the corridor.
 - On July 11, 2017 construction bids were received and materials provided to Council on August 9, 2017 for discussion at a future Work Session.
 - Construction to begin in November

Transportation Maintenance Projects

- **Resurfacing – Neighborhoods:** Neighborhood resurfacing is divided into three geographic areas. Allied Paving has completed the nine subdivisions in Area 2 and is working on the eight subdivisions in Area 1.
 - Project COMPLETE
- **Resurfacing – Main Roads:**
 - Project COMPLETE

Recreation and Parks: Ensure a complete recreation and parks system that aligns to the goals and needs of the community.

- **Parks Advisory Committee**
 - At the May 22, 2017 Mini-Retreat, Council reached consensus to reactivate the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
 - In June, amendments to Code governing the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee were made to expand the committee to 15 members, set the terms at 2-years, and stagger the terms.
 - In July, the self-nomination/application period closed with over 100 citizens submitting applications to serve on the Committee.
 - Review of the applications began in August.
- **Parks Bond – Concepts for New Parks**
 - Approved by voters in November 2016, the \$40M parks bonds were received in April 2017
 - At the June 5, 2017 Council Meeting, Council authorized construction documents for: the Bell/Boles Road Pocket Park, the Morton Road Neighborhood Park, the State Bridge Road Pocket Park, and the Linear Park (in Technology Park). Phase 2 (Construction documents) is underway for State Bridge, Morton Road, and Bell Road Parks.
 - In August, field surveys were received for each of the parks which is a necessary precursor to preparing construction documents. Construction documents are underway for Morton Road, State Bridge and Bell Road parks. Staff is finalizing scope and price on the TPA Linear Park.
 - In September Council discussed restarting the design process for Cauley Creek Park to include the adjacent acquisition of Quail Hollow. The additional work is proposed as a contract amendment with Cauley Creek Park design firm Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC). City Council approved the contract amendment for the Cauley Creek/Quail Hollow park. BWSC is currently working on preliminary design. First meeting with the public will occur in early 2018.
- **Park Improvements**
 - **Autrey Mill – Farm Museum:** A cost proposal was received in August and is under review.
 - **Newtown Park and Shakerag Park – Synthetic Turf Installations:** Two fields at Newtown Park and the Track Field at Shakerag Park have been completed.

- **Ocee Park – Restroom (serving the lower fields):** In August, staff worked with the architect and engineer to determine the best location to balance the needs of park users and tap into existing sewer infrastructure. Site engineering is underway—we are awaiting for a water flow test from Fulton County. We anticipate the project will be out to bid by mid-December.

Recreation Programming – OCTOBER 2018

- Park Place Programming - 112 Classes/Programs Offered 1,274 participants
- Clubhouse Fitness Program -10 weekly classes 90 participants registered
- Free Outdoor Fitness Classes – 4 classes offered 31 participants
- Adaptive Recreation Young Adult Bocce Ball – 10 & 24 17 participants
- Adaptive Recreation Dance Social Under the Stars – September 15 100 participants
- Fall Family Festival Event – October 28 – CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
- Rentals: 38 rentals of athletic fields, 35 rentals of pavilions, and 6 rentals of Newtown Clubhouse

****Upcoming Special Event Permits**

- 5K Race at Newtown Park Saturday, December 9 – Santa Run 5K
- 5K Race at Newtown Park Saturday, January 13 – Frozen 5K
- 5K at Shakerag Park Saturday, February 3 - Wills Way 5K
- 5K Race at Shakerag Park Saturday, March 3 – Donut Dash 5K
- 5K Race at Newtown Park Sunday, March 18 – Lucky Leprechaun 5K
- 5K Race at Newtown Park Saturday, April 7 – Patriot 5K & Fun Run

Economic Development: Implement a holistic economic development plan approach that addresses infrastructure, workforce, community, and land development needs.

- **Economic Development Strategy**
 - In May 2017 the Citizen Advisory Committee discussed the Comprehensive Plan draft that identifies key commercial areas for further in-depth study as the areas that may redevelop (in the next ten years).
 - In June 2017 Council discussed a citizen-led initiative to focus implementation of the Strategic Economic Development Plan through the lens of healthcare. Council provided feedback and anticipates further discussion in the fall.
 - In November, Council will review the status of the Strategic Economic Development Plan.
- **Reuse Water System (and Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility)**
 - The County is building a new reuse water line that does not include use of the Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility but will serve all the previous customers of the system.
 - Construction has started and they have completed the work in Country Club of the South, and have completed excavation and paving in front of Woodwork Academy on Boles Rd. Remaining paving work on Boles Road will be completed by the end of October. The work in

front of Barnwell Elementary is now 80% complete. Road work will be continuing with intermittent lane closures. Fulton County contractor will be using three crews in three construction zones on Barnwell Road with the intent to complete construction by the end of 2017. The speed limit on Barnwell has been reduced for the duration of the construction work.

- The contractor is responsible for returning the pavement condition to a smooth surface.

Government Efficiency: Develop an innovative and cost-effective approach to exceptional service delivery.

- **10-Year Financial Model**

- The 10-Year Financial model was utilized in staff's preparation of the FY2018 Budget as well as the individual review of the budget and scenario testing by the Mayor and members of Council.
- Programming, development, and integration of the 10-Year Financial Model continues as Council considers new policy choices.

- **Building Permit Requirements and Fees**

- At the May 22, 2017 Mini-Retreat, Council reached consensus for analysis/reconsideration of which activities require a permit and/or inspection and the permit and inspection fees
- In June and July staff interviewed service professionals at local home improvement stores to better understand implementation experiences in the community and discussed code requirements and implementation with officials at the state level in the Department of Community Affairs and building officials in other jurisdictions.
- On August 3, 2017 staff hosted residential and commercial contractors to discuss their experiences with permitting and inspections in the City.
- In September, staff anticipates completing the review of the competitiveness of the permit fees compared to our neighbors and conducted the analysis of direct and indirect costs related to the permit and inspection function.
- At the October meeting, staff agreed to host a Summit of concerned citizens related to this topic and bring the issue back to Council in 2018. The Summit has been planned for early 2018 to avoid the holiday season.

- **Contract Services**

- The government service contracts with CH2M and SAFEbuilt (providers of Community Development, Building Permits and Inspections, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks) conclude September 30.
- At the May 8, 2017 Work Session, Council indicated a consensus for staff to continue negotiations and prepare a full contract package including: (1) terms and conditions, (2) performance indicators and measures, and (3) price for Council's consideration.
- At the August 14, 2017 Work Session Council indicated a consensus to move forward with staff's recommendation to insource Community Development services.
- At the end of August staff provided Council fully negotiated contract packages for CH2M and

- SAFEbuilt for consideration in September.
- Council approved contracts for CH2M and SAFEbuilt at the September 19th Council meeting
- Community Development becomes a City service on October 1, 2017.
- **Council Strategic Planning**
 - Annual Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for October 21, 2017

Public Safety: Provide leading levels of public safety.

- **Fire – Service Delivery**
 - Council reached consensus at the February 2017 Mini-Retreat to move forward with efforts to add a fourth fire station in an effort to improve response time.
 - Staff continues to evaluate options for locating the fourth fire station. In August 2017 a proposal was made to include \$250K in the FY2018 Budget to provide for engineering and construction documents once a final location has been determined and acquired.
 - A total of \$250,000 for design and engineering was approved in the FY 2018 budget in addition to \$392,514.00 for land acquisition seed money for a fire station.
 - Staff is actively seeking sites for a fourth fire station.
- **Public Safety Staffing**
 - Police: There were three open positions, one new Police officer started and two new Police Officers are in the final stages of recruitment.
 - Fire: Fully staffed

Sense of Community: Preserve our residential character and enhance our sense of community.

- **Citizen Survey**
 - The annual citizen survey was conducted in this spring.
 - Staff has completed analysis and summary of the results and will present the results in November.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update**
 - The process to update the 2008 Comprehensive Plan began in the fall of 2016 and must be completed by November 2018.
 - To date two educational workshops, four planning workshops, and 13 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings have been held to seek public input and guide the drafting of the new plan.
 - Presentation of the draft Comprehensive Plan was made at the June 19, 2017 Council Meeting and an update was made at the October 16, 2017 City Council Meeting.

- At the October 4, 2017 CAC meeting, the CAC discussed the public comments and recommended to make the following changes to be incorporated into the second draft Comprehensive Plan:
 - Rewrite the Plan and eliminate conflicting statements, move all non-vision materials to the Appendix and make specific to each character area within the City;
 - Reduce the High Intensity Mixed Use designation (16 Dwelling Units/acre and 5 stories in height) at the Holcomb Bridge Shopping Center to Low Intensity Mixed Use (8 Dwelling Units/acre and three stories in height)
 - Combine Shakerag and McGinnis Ferry Character Areas and reduce the residential density from three dwelling units/acre to one dwelling units/acre;
 - Reduce the residential density along Parsons Road and in the Warsaw Character area from three dwelling units/acre to two dwelling units/acre;
 - Limit residential growth in the city and eliminate townhomes and apartments in residential areas; and
 - Keep the residential feel of the City by not widening four lane roadways to six lanes.

- A revised schedule was presented at the October 16, 2017 City Council Meeting. Staff will rewrite the draft and present it to the CAC in December and if there is consensus, it will be recommended to the Public, Mayor and City Council for review in January, 2018. An eight week public review period is recommended. If the document is accepted by the public then a public hearing will be held around April and if approved by the Mayor and City Council, the updated Comprehensive Plan will then be sent to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for their 90-day review period (after which a final adoption can be considered by the Council in late summer 2018).

- **International Festival**
 - At the May 22, 2017 Council Work Session, Council discussed the recommendations from the Cultural Diversity Task Force to hold an International Festival in the spring of 2018.
 - Council reached consensus to approach the Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding interest in planning or supporting an International Festival.
 - In July, the Convention and Visitors Bureau discussed and although supportive of the concept and festival, the Board was in consensus their role should be supporting the event by advertising and marketing for the festival.
 - Date for the International Festival is April 21, 2018 at the fields across from the Atlanta Athletic Club.

- **Traffic Calming – Long Indian Creek**
 - In December 2016, Turf Curb (removable barriers) for traffic calming was installed to address concerns of speeding and cut-through traffic raised by residents.
 - Data was gathered from January to March which showed the temporary measures were not effective in substantially reducing speeds.

- In June, a meeting with the homeowner's association was held to discuss the results and an estimated 30 residents attended.
- In August, staff installed an expanded and reconfigured Turf Curb installation and is gathering data on speed and traffic volume.
- Staff is prepared to present findings and recommendations to Council at the December Council meeting.

- **Citywide Traffic Calming**
 - In September, Prestwick and Mayfair communities were studied to determine if they met the traffic calming policy. Neither is eligible based on the 27 mph 85% speeds recorded.
 - Two of the speed signs were damaged during the tropical storm. This has delayed data collection in Cameron Forrest.
 - In September the radar/speed collection devices will be re-installed in the Wellington and River Farm neighborhoods and the data from the first three will begin to be analyzed.