



## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Week Ending March 10, 2017

### **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

- The Architectural Review Board (ARB) and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a joint meeting with the Atlanta Regional Commission to determine needs and priorities for the Design Guidelines re-write. The ARB and the HPC will draft a document to submit to the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) for consensus building. In the coming months, a meeting with the ARB, HPC, and the BOMC will be scheduled to discuss these topics.
- City Planner Stevens attended a webinar on New Market Tax Credits (NMTC). The NMTC Program incentivizes community development and economic growth through the use of tax credits that attract private investment. A percentage of the program is reserved for historic preservation Projects.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was drafted to re-write the Tree Ordinance. The RFP divides the project into two phases. Phase I includes only residentially owned property and Phase II includes commercially zoned property. The RFP was drafted and posted. Input from the Greenspace Ad Hoc Committee was requested.
- Mayor Elmore, Commissioner Fisher, Downtown Development Authority Chair Collier, City Planner Stevens, and City Manager Brown met with Avila, formerly Euramex, to discuss a list developed by each party for their property and the area to determine next steps. View the list [here](#).
- City Planner Stevens attended the Avondale Estates Business Association (AEBA) meeting. The status of new developments and upcoming events was discussed.
- The Avondale Estates Lantern Parade is scheduled for April 21, at 7 p.m. This event will be hosted by the Avondale Arts Alliance and DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA). Parade line-up begins at Berkeley Road and Kensington Road in the grass triangle. At dusk (around 8 p.m.), participants will parade down Berkeley Road, circle around Lake Avondale, cut through the woods pathway to Avonwood, and end at DSA's campus for a bonfire celebration kicking off DSA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Annual Fringe Festival. In preparation of the parade, join Garage Door Studio (GDS) on April 5, from 6-9 p.m., April 9, from 2-5 p.m., April 14, from 6-9 p.m. or on April 21, at 6 p.m. for lantern making workshops.

GDS will guide you through creating a lantern for the parade. Rules of the parade are as follows: no flying lanterns; no dogs; no fire lit lanterns; LED/battery powered lights only; bicycles are OK, but those using them will need to walk them; golf carts are OK, but must follow pedestrians at the back of the parade; strollers and wagons are OK. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

- The Avondale Estates Tree Board is piloting a program to offer trees to interested residents who will choose a tree, from a limited selection, to have planted in their front yard by volunteers. Residents pay 50 percent of the cost (approximately \$50-\$60) of a 15 gallon tree and the City would pay the remaining 50 percent. The Tree Board met with Joe Balkcom from Georgia Power/Southern Company to learn about Gwinnett County's tree planting program and how Avondale Estates can pioneer a similar program. Balkcom revealed Gwinnett County's program is funded by a federal grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission but they offer the same proposed details of choosing a tree, funding, and planting as the City would offer. This project will be pursued in 2018. The Board and Arboguard Tree Specialists will inspect the mistletoe on the trees in the verge throughout the City and provide an assessment. A plan of action including cost and scope will be presented to City Manager Brown in the upcoming weeks.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at The ArtLot. View pictures from the event [here](#).
- South City Partners and the City held a Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the start of the new development at the City's western gateway. View pictures from the event [here](#).
- Hess Drive, Lakeshore Drive (from Hess Drive to the dead-end), Berkeley Road (from Clarendon Avenue to Dunwick Drive), and North Clarendon Avenue (from North Avondale Road to Old Rockbridge Road) have been inspected. A punch list was created and sent to HEH Paving to complete work needed. After the punch list is complete the City will issue a final payment.
- The current phone system at City Hall has limited capabilities that include not being able to transfer calls to the Public Works Department, loss of function due to a power outage, analog system, the inability to add new phone lines and replace phones if one breaks. In order to provide better service to residents and the community, a new phone system needs to be purchased. The new system will update the City's phone technology to the current market availability, improve firewalls, provide better Wi-Fi, improve efficiency, and allow associates to better serve residents and the community. Staff is reviewing options.
- The February 2017, Financial Statement was reviewed. The total General Fund revenue for the month amounted to \$283,376.23. The total General Fund expenditures for the month amounted to \$256,747.00. The cash balance in the General Fund operating account, General Fund Reserve and the combined investments totaled \$2,814,884.02.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Chief Thomas attended the DeKalb County Chiefs Association monthly meeting hosted by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department. Guest speakers included a federal prosecuting attorney and representatives from the Atlanta Police Department Gang Task Force and United States Marshal's office. The meeting addressed the growth, enforcement, and prosecution of gang members and gang violence in the metro-Atlanta area.
- AEPD provided traffic information and accident data to City Planner Stevens for help with a grant proposal to improve the stretch of roadway on North Clarendon Avenue and North Avondale Road.
- Investigator Gillis attended the monthly Metropol Meeting in Atlanta. A presentation was given outlining the new secure portal information sharing network that will be used beginning April 2017 for all Metropol members.
- AEPD officers conducted a quarterly safety inspection of AEPD Headquarters and service vehicles.
- Corporal Bollinger spoke to students at the Globe Academy as part of their Community Awareness Day event.
- A speed data study was conducted on North Clarendon Avenue, monitoring southbound traffic with the speed display set in the "off" position. The study covered the period, February 19-26. The report revealed that 32,151 vehicles traveled the area at an average speed of 20 mph in a posted 30 mph zone; 32,092 of the 32,151 vehicles were operating within acceptable limits during the study.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Public Works Department Director Griffin attended a Stormwater Management Workshop. Topics discussed included illicit discharge (any discharge not stormwater), low impact development, green infrastructure, plan review, and the new interactive bluebook, available strictly on their website.
- Blew leaves off of the roof of the Scout Hut.
- Cleaned overgrowth from the westbound side of Laredo Drive and blew leaves from the eastbound side.
- A fallen tree limb was removed from 4 Fairfield Plaza.
- Re-installed fence fabric that had fallen down of the fence at the City-owned tennis courts.
- Backfilled the curbing on North Clarendon Avenue next to the Tudor Village Building.

- A potential water leak at Lake Avondale was inspected.
- Removed broken concrete slab and bench from the City managed tennis courts.
- Trimmed fountain grasses at Lake Avondale.
- Met with a sales representative from Carolina Environment Systems for an inspection of the new garbage truck.
- Assisted with Georgia Department of Transportation Off System Safety Grant Application.
- Installed DeKalb School of the Arts banner at the intersection of North Avondale Road and Clarendon Avenue.
- Replaced damaged street sign post at the corner of Laredo Drive and North Clarendon Avenue.
- Removed the sand/salt mix from the curb line on South Avondale Road, trash from City-owned property in the business district, and stickers from all street signs in the business district.
- Filled the pothole on the crosswalk next to First Baptist Church.
- Household Waste Removed – 22 tons
- Yard Waste Removed – 4 tons
- Sign Violations – 17
- Special Pickups – 7
- Site Visits - 19