

Mayor and City Council Meeting
August 12, 2013

Regular Agenda:

Public Safety – Councilmember Becky Wynn

- 1. Approval of the North Fulton Regional Radio System Tower sites to be located in the City of Roswell on Hembree Road and Cox Road and leased to the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (NFRRSA). *(The Fouts Road Tower site approval will be deferred to a future meeting of the Mayor and Council.)***

Councilmember Wynn introduced this item. She clarified that the Fouts Road tower site approval will be deferred to a future meeting of the Mayor and Council, the date could possibly be decided later on in this meeting. Mayor Wood suggested that the date of the deferral could be decided upon early in the meeting. He asked for Councilmember Wynn's motion for deferral. Councilmember Wynn noted that the City Administrator and one of the Councilmembers will be absent on August 26, 2013; she suggested a deferral until September 11, 2013.

Motion for deferral: Councilmember Wynn moved for deferral of **the Fouts Road Tower site approval** until the September 11, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting. Councilmember Diamond seconded.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Igleheart noted that there was concern with the neighborhood in this area as to whether there would be sufficient time for them to do what they feel they need to do. He stated he would like to hear from those who are concerned about this date for deferral.

Mayor Wood called for public comments regarding the deferral date of the Fouts Road Tower site approval. No public comments or questions were made.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Price pointed out that September 11, 2013 is a Wednesday and not the normal Monday that Mayor and Council meetings are scheduled. Mayor Wood agreed. The Mayor clarified that the motion is to set the hearing for Fouts Road tower site approval on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. No further discussion.

Vote: The motion to defer the Fouts Road Tower site approval until the September 11, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting passed unanimously.

Mayor Wood noted that before the public hearing regarding the Hembree Road and Cox Road locations, he wished to address the question that some citizens have regarding whether the City of Roswell should be participating in the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority. Mayor Wood stated Council voted on the participation in that Authority previously; he asked City Attorney David Davidson to clarify the effect of that vote. Mr. Davidson replied, "That basically holds the City responsible for their monetary portion. It is a twenty-year agreement on the behalf of the City; previously, on January 28 of this year. We would still be liable for our share of the costs that that authority incurs, even if we elect not to participate at this time." Mayor Wood asked if his recollection is correct that it was a unanimous vote of support. City Administrator Kay Love stated she did not recall. Mayor Wood stated citizens have raised the issue of whether the City of Roswell should join or participate in the North Fulton Regional Radio System

Authority. The Mayor explained that Council had made that decision at a previous meeting; therefore, the City is legally bound to participate. He clarified that although that may be a concern to many folks who question if the City should have made that decision, it is not for a vote tonight of whether or not the City is taking on that liability; the City is contractually bound to take on that liability. The Mayor called upon Police Chief Rusty Grant to address the towers at Hembree Road and Cox Road.

Police Chief Grant stated many people travel through the City. The Roswell Police Department and the Roswell Fire Department, the public safety departments of the City, are called upon to protect and care for the people who are in Roswell. Chief Grant explained that over the years, what has been learned through the current radio system, is that the system has a "lot of holes in it." Chief Grant clarified that the reason behind creating this North Fulton Radio System is to patch those holes. Mayor Wood asked for clarification and asked if Chief Grant was referring to the Fulton County Radio System which the City has been piggy backing on. Chief Grant stated that is correct. Mayor Wood said the Fulton County Radio System that is currently available to the City of Roswell is failing. Chief Grant replied that is correct. Mayor Wood asked how long that system has been failing. Chief Grant replied, "When the system was constructed, many homes were not in place where they are now, so we were not aware that there were holes in the system. As time has gone by over these approximate twenty years, we have identified that there are areas that aren't protected." Mayor Wood noted that Chief Grant was not actually here yet, but for the last five years, the City has recognized that the system has been failing and to date, Fulton County has not corrected that system, which led to the cities in North Fulton taking their own action to create a new system. Chief Grant agreed with the Mayor. Chief Grant continued. Chief Grant stated the Fulton County radio system which the City is currently working under, is not a dependable system; it has failed eight times in the last eleven months. During those times, until the City has been able to switch over to another channel the citizens basically were not protected; it has been a difficult situation to be able to switch over to this other system but the City has become quite proficient at it due to the number of times that it has been necessary to switch over. Chief Grant displayed a map outlining the areas of no coverage or very limited coverage. Twenty years ago that area did not have homes in them but does now; it is predominately along the river basin on the southern end of the City, because of the decline in the elevation around that area and the lack of a tower on the east side of Roswell. Chief Grant noted that recently there was a SWAT call where the officers were unable to communicate with one another due to that service not being available. The new system would prevent that situation from occurring.

Chief Grant stated Fulton County has not grown the system as the City of Roswell has grown. The east side of Roswell does not have a tower and one of the reasons why this needs to be done. Additionally, there is the need because Fulton County controls the system that they currently own and Fulton County plans to shut down that system. The City of Roswell will need this radio system to continue to provide public safety within Roswell. Chief Grant reiterated that the Fulton County Radio System is twenty years old. Ninety percent of the system is running on its original equipment with very few upgrades, parts are very scarce, and the reason why over the past eleven months that the system has quit working; it is an antiquated system; Fulton County has not provided upgrades in the last five years; this is a very definite concern for the Police and Fire Departments.

Chief Grant stated that the surrounding jurisdictions of Cobb, Dekalb, Gwinnett, and the City of Atlanta have upgraded to digital technology; Forsyth County is in the process of upgrading. He clarified that the new radio system will allow the City of Roswell to communicate with these cities. The City of Roswell has mutual aid agreements with Cobb County. This radio system

may lead to future mutual aid agreements since the City could better communicate. Additionally, the system will allow the City to communicate with the three other cities who are participating with the City of Roswell: Milton, Alpharetta, and Sandy Springs. He noted that Roswell works very closely with all of these cities; the City of Roswell shares a SWAT team with Alpharetta and Milton, and a mobile field force with some of the other cities. Every day, the City of Roswell Police department works with every one of these cities so communication is important.

Chief Grant explained that there is no viable back-up system to the Fulton County Radio system that the City of Roswell currently uses.

Mayor Wood clarified that the City Administrator had confirmed that it was a unanimous decision to enter this contract regarding the radio system. The issue tonight is not whether or not the City of Roswell moving forward with the North Fulton Radio System Authority; the issue tonight is the details of how this is implemented.

Chief Grant stated this system will replace the existing Fulton County system that the City uses every day. It will be a partnership with Alpharetta, Milton, Roswell, and Sandy Springs. There will be eight proposed tower sites in the area; three of the towers are proposed to be within the City of Roswell. Oversight will be by the North Fulton Regional Radio Authority which was created in 2013 by the Georgia General Assembly. The users of the system will be the public safety departments; Fire Department and the Police Department. The system will be 700 megahertz digital system. Regular maintenance will be part of the contract with Motorola to upgrade and to maintain the system. Chief Grant reiterated that Fulton County has not kept up with maintenance of the current system that the City is using; the City pays into the system but Fulton County controls it, deciding when the upgrades occur or don't occur. Chief Grant stated the new radio system would replace the City's aging 911 dispatch equipment with new digital technology. There will be two thousand years on this radio system, combined from all the cities.

Chief Grant explained how the radio system would be funded. Mayor Wood asked which system he is referring to, the current system or the new system. Chief Grant replied the current system which was built approximately twenty years ago. He explained the funding stating, "The Roswell residents' Fulton County funds went to the system as well as all other Fulton County funds to make up one hundred percent of the funding for this. It was Fulton County dollars that built the system. In addition to that, Roswell pays an annual subscriber fee to be on the system from Roswell City funds. Roswell's annual subscriber fee for this year was \$104,726. The fee is for upgrades to the system as well as maintenance. In the last five years, despite us paying our subscriber fee, there have been no upgrades to the system whatsoever."

Chief Grant explaining the funding for the new proposed system, stated, "The North Fulton Radio System will receive funding from the City of Roswell, as well as Alpharetta, Milton, Sandy Springs. In addition to that, all of the cities will pay an annual subscriber fee similar to what we pay to Fulton County now for continued maintenance and upgrades to the system. The proposed Fulton County system, they are also proposing a new radio system, to replace the system that they have now, the funding for that will come from all Fulton County funds, which will include the City of Roswell taxpayers county funds. In addition to that, the North Fulton cities would also potentially pay a subscriber fee to that system just as we do now to the current system. That agreement has not been worked out, it is too early in the process, but that is a possibility. That is what they are suggesting; that we pay a subscriber fee too, beyond their new proposed system."

Mayor Wood asked Chief Grant how he sees the proposed Fulton County System functioning together with the North Fulton system. Chief Grant stated the two systems would actually communicate through technology with each other so there would be a system in North Fulton that was paid for by the participating cities as well as a southern and central radio system, and through technology, these two systems would be tied together. Mayor Wood asked if they would complement each other or duplicate. Chief Grant stated that is something that would need to be worked out. He said the City of Roswell has reached out to Fulton County as well as all the other cities that are participating, and they are trying to come to an understanding and agreement that there is no reason to duplicate this service. There is no reason to have two radio systems, a Fulton County Radio System and a North Fulton Radio System covering the same area. Chief Grant stated that what the City would like to see happen is for a system to be built in North Fulton area, and then Fulton County build a radio system that would cover the southern and central part of the county. Through technology, the two systems would be able to communicate with each other, which would allow for example, a Roswell officer, transporting a prisoner to the City of Atlanta, to drive to Atlanta and have radio communication seamlessly with their dispatch. As well as for example, a Fulton County deputy transporting someone from the Alpharetta Annex to the jail in the City of Atlanta, seamlessly communicate with their dispatch system. Chief Grant confirmed that this had been proposed to Fulton County; it has been offered by the City of Roswell for months to Fulton County but has gone back many years. As of today, there is no agreement with Fulton County.

Chief Grant noted that COMMDEX is a communication company contracted by the North Fulton Radio Authority. He asked the COMMDEX representative to speak about their role in this system.

Chuck Bethea, COMMDEX Consulting representative, stated they have been contracted by the North Fulton Radio Authority as the project management agent to manage the deployment of the radio system that the Authority has entered into contract with Motorola. COMMDEX was brought under contract in May 2013 but had been conversations with the cities and the Authority as they have moved through this process over the past year or so. Mr. Bethea explained that the primary role of COMMDEX is to manage the overall deployment of the system, to be the technical representative and the project manager for the Authority, represent the cities and their interests. This includes development of specifications for architecture, engineering, RFP's to be produced and released, civil and construction, the investigative work done at the tower sites, as well as the construction of the tower sites themselves. Once the contractors are in place and construction work is moving forward, COMMDEX will manage those contractors to construct the tower sites, and actual deployment of the radio system itself, configuration, testing, and through the acceptance of the system by the Authority. Mr. Bethea stated that in terms of where this project sits right now, the site acquisition process is proceeding, and is part of the reason why they are here, to examine the locations of the Roswell tower sites. The projected schedule had shown that activity to be winding down and completing over the next sixty to ninety days; that is a critical path task; the rest of the system cannot move forward until the site locations have been finalized. Mr. Bethea noted there are a couple of other sites that are also winding up including negotiations with the City of Atlanta for the fire station #21 site. That is one site that is in negotiations; there are some alternates to that as well as a site with Fulton County at Morgan Falls, one of the Sandy Springs sites. Those sites are expected to be completed towards the end of the process but still within the sixty to ninety day window. Also, activities expected to occur over the next ninety days, is that COMMDEX will write Request For Proposal for the architecture and engineering company to perform the investigative and analysis work that will be performed at the sites. Some of the tasks entailed are environmental analysis; there are federal regulations to be adhered to in terms of investigating, soil sampling, water effect, wildlife, cultural resources studies, which must be done as part of that process. Also required are FAA clearances and

determinations to ensure that the tower will not interfere with any flight paths or any other aircraft activity. Mr. Bethea stated that while that work is going on, COMMDEX will be preparing the civil contract or RFP's for the actual tower construction itself, and will work with the Authority to manage those bids and select vendors. Mr. Bethea stated, "Also going on, and this process has actually been done since we were brought on board, and even before that, we have been working with the Authority to negotiate with Fulton County to find ways of cooperation and sharing. There have been several options that have been investigated. There are some technical options that exist. The most efficient way would be to have a single infrastructure in the north and have Fulton County build their single infrastructure, and through technology connect those systems together and share so that users can roam back and forth." He said there have been discussions with the Communications Director of Fulton County; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority have also had face-to-face meetings with the Fulton County Manager. Mr. Bethea stated, "So far there has been no concrete decisions or agreements that the County has come to out of those meetings, so the Authority's position has been to continue proceeding on with the implementation as contracted and continue to work with the County to find ways to share resources, share assets, be it those tower assets or any other technology assets." Mr. Bethea stated that as far as the site planning, the regulatory process can be lengthy. It is part of the architecture and engineering study and investigative work that must go on; that largely revolves around the environmental permitting process; that sampling has to be done and those reports require state and federal approval. Mayor Wood asked for clarification regarding the regulatory investigations, that the City of Roswell would have to meet all federal and state regulations for all of the towers that are approved. Mr. Bethea stated yes. Mayor Wood asked if the requirements are not met, then the City would have to look for a different location. Mr. Bethea stated yes. Mr. Bethea stated that due to those processes being quite lengthy and the possibility that clearances will take very, very long periods of time, it is imperative to get those investigations under way once there is a reasonable certainty that this is a tower site location which the City wants to move forward with. There is a cost that goes into performing those investigations and there is the obvious time and effort involved to perform the investigations. He stated COMMDEX has submitted draft RFP Specification to the Authority to help move forward with that process. He explained that there are several different aspects to the planning and the approvals, and then moving through the final design whether they be the site leases, and obtaining geotechnical analysis and the construction drawings to finalize the tower designs, foundation designs, and the tower drawings, and then taking it through the permitting process. This would be done once the regulatory approvals are in place. Mr. Bethea reiterated that the regulatory approvals are the critical path and must be performed before anything else can proceed. He reiterated that regarding the partnership with Fulton County, there have been multiple meetings with Fulton County Communications Director Barrett and with the County Manager. There has been everything from the sharing of the system itself to sharing of the tower sites, in particular as the County is building their new system they actually have interest in building because they do not have sufficient sites; one of the things they wanted to look at was going on some of the proposed sites for the Authority system. It is actually important to note that in the contracted design that the County has today, the Fouts Road site is in their design. Mr. Bethea clarified that the Fouts Road site is actually included in both of the designs that have been put forth for both the County and for the Authority; it speaks to the criticality of that location and the geography and the terrain. He noted that one of the topics is sharing of that site, the Morgan Falls site, and several others in order to make most efficient use of tax money and existing assets within the County. Mr. Bethea stated that up to this point, the option has been discussed of the two separate systems that have been tied together and allow users to roam back and forth; the County has indicated that is not acceptable to them; it does actually involve them making some alterations in their operations in the way that they conduct their business today, because they would have to separate the units. He stated they have a limited number of units that still operate in the north end of the County; they

would have to change the way those units are dispatched back to their central agency. Mr. Bethea said they have indicated that is not acceptable to them and if that is a condition of the sharing, that they would rather build their own. Mr. Bethea said those negotiations are not final, but that has been the statements made in negotiations so far. He said there are additional options which have been discussed for a number of different locations that will save significant costs to both the County and the Authority by sharing of tower sites, shelters, generators, microwave networks, et cetera. Mr. Bethea stated there is actually more at stake for the County; the County stands to gain more savings if they should partner with the Authority but so far the operational changes that they have needed to make have not overcome the cost saving element to them so far. Mr. Bethea offered to take questions.

Council questions:

Councilmember Wynn asked City Administrator Kay Love to clarify statements made regarding Fulton County and their reluctance of joining, and the detail of why the City does not have a “comfort level.”

City Administrator Kay Love stated, “Some of the comments that have been made related to the meetings that have already have happened have been at the staff level between the City staff and the County staff. There are a couple of groups. There is a technical group and those are the people that have the technical expertise along with our consultants such as COMMDEX and Motorola who help work out the ultimate design of the system but before that can happen, at the staff level, we had to come to an agreement about how to best partner. There is not an intent on anyone’s part to duplicate a system. Fulton County does not have the money to build out an entire system. They have not secured sites here, so very early, we the cities, began talking with them about shared sites whether it was towers or infrastructure or generators. Unfortunately for Fulton County, they have had some change in leadership and their county manager, so those discussions really somewhat stalled during the time. They currently don’t have a permanent county manager, they still are in an interim state, that is the person we are meeting with, we continue to meet, we are hopeful however. The Governor’s aspect of it is the most critical because the system must be maintained and we can’t be dependent upon the County to be operating on a system that is not current when we are paying fees into it with the intent of maintaining and refreshing, so it is the equivalent of driving down the road on different size tires, if that. In our part of the system, we are going to maintain it at a certain level or version of the software or equipment refresh and they don’t have either the funding or the political fortitude to be able to maintain and upgrade the system. That is why it is important for use to proceed with a North Fulton system and continue to look for those ways to partner. We are confident that we will in the end be able to but as this process for regulatory; that staff and political process can take a while as well. We are committed. They have contracted as well with Motorola. We share a like consultant. In that, and it is certainly our goal, to maximize and leverage the funding that has been appropriated to the Authority by the participating cities, and I’m certain that it ultimately is Fulton County’s goal to do the same. I do want to clarify one thing on the funding that was mentioned. Another way to look at it would be that there are different pots of money that fund the current system. The pots of money won’t change. There is still the Fulton County pot for whatever system they build. There is the City’s pot of money for whatever system we build, and then there are the user fees that still have to go into it. The difference is that in the north, the Authority would control the amount of those fees and to the level of maintenance and ensuring that that happens as well as we would be in control of the different top groups and users. There would be opportunities for others to come on as subscribers for the system to grow over the years to help offset and maximize the capital investment that was made on the front end.”

Councilmember Price stated she had several questions. Councilmember Price stated if Fulton County has also signed a contract with Motorola, and presuming it is a straight contract without contingencies, where would the opportunity be for any sort of leverage or reduction or working with Motorola to minimize the duplication. Mayor Wood replied that City Administrator Kay Love suggested that John Byrd with Motorola might be able to help with that answer.

City Administrator Kay Love stated, "John, specifically to the contract, I think Councilmember Price's question regarded the Fulton County contract. Based on what you have explained to the Authority, there is flexibility in that contract, there is a maximum amount of the contract however, they could build to certain points in that contract."

Mayor Wood asked Ms. Love how much the North Fulton contract is. Ms. Love stated, "Not to exceed sixteen million." Mayor Wood stated, "We estimate about sixteen million dollars for North Fulton. Fulton County has how much per county wide?"

John Byrd, Motorola representative, replied, "\$19.6." Mayor Wood asked if they could stand up a system without cooperating with the City for \$19 million county-wide, that would be the equivalent of our service up here. Mr. Byrd replied, "The difficult part for me is that I was not a part of the Fulton County negotiations." Mayor Wood replied, "Here is what strikes me. Either we are paying Motorola way too much for \$16 million to set it up for North Fulton County or Fulton County doesn't have the money to do the whole county because you can't do twice the area for ten percent more cost. That is just logical." Mr. Byrd replied, "I understand the logic and I agree with your comment. The systems, even though the technology is the same, are very different; the number of sites that are put up; the amount of channels that are put up; the flexibility built into the Fulton County contract is that they still have the option of deciding which sites, how many channels. Those details are not available to me. I don't know what they are." Mayor Wood asked if they have not committed to put up any towers in North Fulton. Mr. Byrd replied, "My understanding is the commitment that I have seen, and again, I was not a part of that negotiation, was for them to only put equipment on their existing sites. They would not be able to provide the level of coverage that the North Fulton group is providing with their system utilizing their existing sites." Mayor Wood thanked Mr. Byrd and noted that he thought he answered the question.

Councilmember Price disagreed and stated, "So, at some point then, are we going to be leasing that space on our towers to Fulton County?" Mayor Wood replied that would be a decision for this Council to make, that commitment has not been made. Mr. Byrd replied, "I think what we are trying to do is come to an agreement where it is not necessarily leasing back and forth. It could be some sort of services in-kind for them to allow you to go on one of their tower sites, likewise, you might allow them to go on one of yours or some sort of agreement that allowed talk groups to be shared within each other's different systems, as we went forward. We can't seem to get to the negotiating table to actually sit down and finalize what those agreements would be, but that is the objective."

Councilmember Price said, "It seems odd to me that we've got signed contracts and specific amounts but we haven't figured out what we are getting for it." Mayor Wood replied, "I am not sure that is accurate because the City of Roswell and the Authority which we have does know what we are getting for it. What we cannot tell you is what Fulton County is going to do. Now, if you want to ask what the Authority in North Fulton is going to do, we can give you specific answers. If you want to know what Fulton County is going to do, they don't know what they are going to do." Councilmember Price replied, "I suspect that they are going to charge North Fulton more than we should pay." Mayor Wood replied, "Here is the point; they are not in a position to

charge North Fulton more than we are going to pay from a user fee because we don't have to join with them. Now, unfortunately, they can tax North Fulton but every time they tax North Fulton, they have got to tax Atlanta and South Fulton too. But, as far as charging the City of Roswell, we don't have to participate with them. That would have to be approved by this Council if we use any of those services. That is your decision whether you participate with Fulton County. From a realistic standpoint, it makes sense for governments to cooperate. From a practical standpoint, you can see the difficulty of cooperating with Fulton County." Councilmember Price said she agreed but that at some point we have to communicate when we have emergency issues. Mayor Wood agreed that is correct. He stated, "Roswell has gone again and again to Fulton County to work with them, and Fulton County does not have anybody to make decisions. Unfortunately, at some point in time, we need to get there but it takes two people to negotiate and right now, there is only one person at the table, and that is Roswell. Fulton County is not at the table. As Kay said, they don't have the decision makers up there. We waited for several years for Fulton County to make a decision, we got nowhere and that is what led the North Fulton cities to move forward without Fulton County."

Councilmember Price inquired about the connection to the school systems. She stated that her understanding is that the North Fulton system would not be connected to the schools. She expressed her concern regarding emergencies at institutional settings such as schools; she asked if this would be a problem for the City. Mayor Wood asked for a response.

Mr. Bethea, COMMDEX representative replied, "There are two parts to that answer. County schools have county resource officers that are stationed in those schools. Those are the users that the County is referencing when they talk about the users, the users that still would operate in the north that are actual County users." Mayor Wood clarified, "We have the Fulton County School Board and the Fulton County Government. Those are two different governments entirely. The fact that we have not communicated with Fulton County, where are we with talking with the Fulton County School Board?" Mr. Bethea stated, "The resource officers that are provided in the north, operate on the County system, today." Mayor Wood replied, "Currently, but they could operate on the North Fulton System if they are issued radios and they pay a fee." Mr. Bethea replied they could. He confirmed for Mayor Wood that that option is available should that be deemed viable. Mayor Wood replied that would be deemed viable by the Fulton County School Board and not by the Fulton County Government. Mr. Bethea replied that would be correct. Mayor Wood replied, "The simple answer is we haven't gotten that far but we have a great relationship with the Fulton County School Board. We have great representatives on that board and I have no reason to believe that they wouldn't do that which was most efficient and effective for their citizens. I have a lot more confidence in their decision making process than I do with the Fulton County Commission." Mr. Bethea stated he had been part of those discussions at the County; all of the technical issues have been discussed and have been put on the table. He said this was everything ranging from single unified shared systems to separate systems to hybrids; many, many options have been discussed; he has worked with the County's consultant engineering firm to help identify some of those technical and operational challenges, as well as the cost savings and what is at stake. He reiterated that all of those options have been investigated and presented to the County. Mr. Bethea stated, "So far, the County has not chosen to act on any of those particular recommendations based on the impact that they perceive to their operations. They have listed that as the reason why they continue to want to stay the course of where they are going and pursue a rebuild of their system and opposed to sharing with the Authority."

Councilmember Price inquired about Chief Grant's statement "about Fulton County shutting down its system," and what that means. Chief Grant replied, "The current system that we all

operate under once the North Fulton cities radio system is up and operating and North Fulton has a new system, they are in the process of developing the new system that we are talking about. Possibly two separate systems. Once that happens, the current system that we all are operating on will be turned off.” Mayor Wood stated that another way to explain it is, “The current equipment and the current technology is obsolete and it will be discontinued. Roswell is setting up a new system and we hope to cooperate with Fulton County, and they are setting up a new system. But, the current radios and the current transmitters and the whole current hardware system is obsolete and will cease to be used when the new systems become available.” Chief Grant stated that is correct. Chief Grant noted that Councilmember Price had mentioned that governments need to work together. He clarified that the City works very well with Sandy Springs, Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, Cherokee County, Woodstock, Gwinnett, Dekalb, Dunwoody, all of those agencies; all these local governments work well together. Chief Grant said that over the twenty years in dealing with this radio system, there have been a number of different individuals from Fulton County that were responsible for operating or maintaining the system. He stated, “The one common denominator has been Fulton County regardless of who has been in charge of the system, we have received very, very poor service in our radio system.”

Councilmember Price stated she did not see anything mentioned about Cherokee County in any of the slides and it is an abutting County. Chief Grant replied that Cherokee County has a different type radio system. Councilmember Price asked if the City anticipates ever communicating with them. Chief Grant replied, “It is my understanding that they are giving consideration to changing radio systems so that we would be able to communicate with them. If they change to the system that they are considering then we would be able to communicate with them once we have our new system operating as well.” Councilmember Price asked how the City communicates with them now. Chief Grant replied communication is not by radio but by telephone through the dispatchers; all that is done by telephone between the Counties and then through our separate radio systems and dispatchers, would relay the information to the officers; it is not the most efficient way of doing that.

Mayor Wood directing his comments specifically to Motorola and COMMDEX said, “With this new system which is being proposed and has been adopted by the North Fulton Authority, will we be in a better position to communicate with our fellow governments after this is done than we are today.”

Mr. Bethea replied that at this time, Fulton County is the only one of the metro systems that has not upgraded to Digital Project 25. Project 25 is the national standard, current system. Mayor Wood stated, “We are in bad shape today.” Mr. Bethea replied, “The last one of these systems was discontinued in 2001.” Mayor Wood asked if the proposed new system will give the City a better ability to communicate than the Fulton County system. Mr. Bethea replied yes, and it would be compatible. Mayor Wood asked if in the future Cherokee County upgrades with the current system, would there then be an opportunity there to communicate. Mr. Bethea stated they could be interconnected with the same technology being discussed to connecting to share with Fulton, Cobb, or with any of the other systems in metro that are at these current platform levels.

Councilmember Price asked if Atlanta is part of the Fulton County System. Mr. Bethea replied they have their own stand-alone system that covers just the City of Atlanta and they finished upgrades to their systems just a few years ago. Councilmember Price asked what would be the scenario where the City of Roswell would have to communicate with south Fulton. Mr. Bethea replied, “My understanding with operations, it would primarily be for courts or transport of prisoners or to Grady Hospital, that is the primary reasons although I would defer to Chief for any other cases.” Councilmember Price asked if that is not in the City of Atlanta. Chief Grant replied

it is. Mr. Bethea said he thought she was asking could we potentially use this in the City of Atlanta. Councilmember Price replied, "Why are we feeling it necessary to communicate with south Fulton when it is not even contiguous with us." Chief Grant replied, "The reason for that is because it is all part of Fulton County. I don't know that we would ever need to communicate in south Fulton County, but the new system that Fulton County is proposing would be a system that would cover south Fulton as well as Central Fulton which is basically the City of Atlanta." Councilmember Price replied, "If we are on our own, why do we need to communicate with south Fulton?" Mayor Wood replied, "I think the point is that Fulton County has sheriffs, marshals, and police who operate in south Fulton, and particularly the sheriffs and the marshals and the jail in Fulton. We will be communicating with those Fulton sheriffs and marshals, and other public safety folks and they are operating within the city limits of Atlanta even though they are not City of Atlanta folks."

Mr. Byrd stated the communications is two ways; while we may have someone from this area up north going down to somewhere in Atlanta or in Fulton County, they also may have people coming up here. The idea is that by sharing systems as their people come up here, such as a sheriff, a marshal, someone that has county wide responsibility, then they can operate on this system and likewise, as we travel from here south, we also have the ability to talk on their system which enables through that interoperability device to talk back to our dispatch center just like they can talk back to their dispatch center.

Councilmember Price asked if Milton County were to happen in the near future, how would that enter into all these current negotiations. Mr. Byrd replied, "With the way this system is being proposed, for the North Fulton cities, there is virtually no change whatsoever. There may be some reprogramming of radios but your system that you are purchasing...." Councilmember Price asked if it is an advantage to the City, or disadvantage, or negligible. Mr. Byrd replied, "It is absolutely an advantage to you as you have your own system. If we had a County wide system and Milton County occurred, then the cities on the north side would have to literally either purchase their own system or they would have to take down the system that is up here, somehow reprogram the entire system. You are talking about two to three weeks of down time to do that and reprogram every radio. The divorce in a system unlike what is being proposed and unlike what you've bought is a very nasty divorce." Councilmember Price asked, "So this way, we will have the assets." Mr. Byrd replied, "They are your assets so if that were to occur, then you just keep right on going exactly like you are doing today, you will be managing your own system, you will have oversight of your own operation, and the only issue would be would they still want to be connected to you through the interoperability device."

Councilmember Price asked if the fact that Johns Creek pulled out of the group is surmountable in terms of communication with Johns Creek. Mr. Byrd replied no. Councilmember Price asked what the solution is. Mr. Byrd replied that Johns Creek still has a decision to make at some point going forward; they can still decide to put radios on the North Fulton System, they can decide to put them on the Forsyth County System if they choose. At this point, they are waiting to see what everybody does before they make a decision.

Councilmember Price asked what is left to be decided; the City has signed a contract, Fulton County has signed a contract. She said, "I still don't see where the negotiation is coming from." Mr. Byrd asked if she meant between North Fulton and Fulton or Johns Creek. Councilmember Price replied just North Fulton and Fulton. Mr. Byrd replied, "The negotiations basically come from where can we share to save each other money." Mr. Byrd stated, "We are going to construct this tower here in Roswell, and instead of Fulton County coming in wanting to construct another tower, then Fulton County offers us a space on one of their existing towers at another location and

the North Fulton cities can offer Fulton County space on one of the towers here. That is what I was trying to get to a little bit earlier when I was talking about like services swapping. There is a lot of room to do that, the County can get talk groups on this system up here, it is just programming. Likewise, we can get talk groups on the Fulton County system.” Mayor Wood for clarification, stated the tower itself is going to look the same even if Fulton County shares it with this. Mr. Byrd replied yes. The Mayor said it will be the same transmitter, just different programming. Mr. Byrd replied it will be the same tower but if Fulton County comes onto the City’s tower, then they will be bringing with them antennae and lines that will be connected, mounted on the tower as a part of the system. Mayor Wood asked if it would significantly change the appearance of the tower. Mr. Byrd replied it would not.

Councilmember Price asked about the relationship between COMMDEX and Motorola. Mr. Byrd replied COMMDEX does some work on occasions for Motorola. He explained that occasionally if they are backed up in a project management position particularly, then they would ask COMMDEX to subcontract a project manager to Motorola for a project.

Councilmember Price asked if in this situation, COMMDEX is a subcontractor to Motorola. Mr. Bethea replied, “No, we are an engineering project management firm. We will subcontract out. We offer engineering project management services for public safety radio system projects. In this particular instance, we are contracted by the Authority to be the project manager for the Authority system. We are providing a project manager. Additionally, through this process the Authority has requested technical assistance which we are providing under the same contract but the contract was originally established to provide project management services during the deployment but the contract is directly with the Authority.” Councilmember Price asked if that is the same in Fulton County. Mr. Bethea replied, “Engineering Associates is the company that is working with the County. They are a different company doing the same function. We have engaged with them directly and worked with them as representatives for the Authority and for the County.”

Councilmember Price asked how soon the digital system outmoded. Mr. Bethea replied, “There are no current cancellation plans. The technology shift that is going on now, and I am speaking now more in general in the industry and not just with Motorola but with other platforms as well, is a more software concentric model. Those software platforms continuously change, so what will happen it that you move more into a steady upgrade cycle and that is particularly of import when we talk about the maintenance and the upgrade costs and scheduling that is going on with these new systems because the upgrades do become very important to ensure that the software updates are kept relatively recent. As long as that is done and those software platforms are maintained the systems, there are no current cancellation platforms for either manufacturer for the current system platforms that they have today.”

Councilmember Price said representatives from Johns Creek have stated they have had no issues of lack of coverage. Councilmember Price said, “Are they not being completely forthright?” Mr. Bethea stated he could not speak to the particular operations of Johns Creek and what they deem is acceptable or not acceptable but there are there are maps which illustrate that there are parts of Johns Creek that are below what is normally accepted as public safety grade coverage, based on the current system today. He said the current Fulton County system was designed as a mobile radio system which is a radio in a car which is much more high powered than the portable radio that is covered on an officer’s hip. That was more common twenty years ago when the system was built. Current standards in public safety call for portable coverage which is a much lower power transmitter and those radios then in turn go into buildings which degrades the signal even more. Mr. Bethea stated, “This requires more tower sites to achieve that level of coverage.”

Councilmember Price stated she knew that was much concern regarding tower height. She said, "If more towers that are less high were utilized, is that a solution to what seems to be a lot of concerns of people?" Mr. Bethea explained that that could be done but the thing to keep in mind is part of why the designs for our public safety systems are built to be the most efficient amount of coverage for the least amount of tower sites. The reason why that is, is because if multiple tower sites were built, the tower could be built but it would require replication of all of the equipment that is at the base of that tower; there is a concrete shelter and a lot of electronics. For example, in the Authority's case, that building and the equipment inside of that building represents nearly a \$600,000 investment; that investment would be required to again to outfit another tower site with all the necessary electronics; it would cost more money the more tower sites that are built. He stated that cellular companies do it that way because their concern is more about capacity; by keeping the towers lower to the ground, it is possible to pack more users on a single site and draw more revenue off of it. From a public safety standpoint, capacity is not the issue; it is efficiency and getting the maximum amount of coverage from a minimum number of sites; it is similar to radio or television towers that are built high to cover the largest area possible with the same tower site. Councilmember Price noted driving back from Nashville recently, she saw approximately fifty to one hundred towers but none were over 150 to 200 feet. Mr. Bethea stated that is typical for cellular. Councilmember Price stated these were radio type towers, similar to what Council is reviewing. Mr. Bethea replied, "Whether they were a monopole or a lattice, is irrelevant. What you are looking at is what is the actual occupant that is on the structure. For the structure itself there are all different designs. For example, the tower on Kennesaw Mountain is a monopole but the only users up there are public safety users; that is a county system; there are no commercial carriers up there." Councilmember Price stated she certainly did not see any that were anywhere over two hundred feet.

Councilmember Dippolito said in respect to the height, his understanding is it is not just the radios but there is microwave communication between the towers, and at some point there has to be a minimum height for towers to communicate. He asked if that is correct and if there were to be more towers, how low could they be. Mr. Bethea explained, "For the microwave dishes to be able to communicate between the tower sites, they have to be able to see each other and have enough clearance of the trees to be able to clear the Fresnel zone of the microwave transmission back and forth; that is an elliptical shaped radiation pattern that exists between the two dishes. It is necessary to be clear of the trees plus a margin of any obstructions that are in between the tower sites. It really depends on localized conditions, foliage, tall buildings. That is one of the pre-works that you do to determine if this is a viable tower site; can the microwave dishes see each other." Councilmember Dippolito asked what the minimum height is of the towers the City currently has. Mr. Bethea replied, "The height varies. If we speak today of the existing system, you have sites that goes as high as Morgan Falls which is a 400' tower, down to 180' towers to 200' foot towers, they vary." Councilmember Dippolito asked how high the microwave dishes will be for the system that is being designed. Mr. Bethea replied, "They vary. They will be anywhere between 100' and I think the lowest one we have is 150'. I think we have them up 260' or 280' feet. Somewhere in that range between one hundred and fifty feet and three hundred feet." Councilmember Dippolito said he was trying to determine a range of where those need to be.

Councilmember Dippolito referring to the fact of Johns Creek potentially not being in this program, we do have a tower that is located within Johns Creek. He said he assumed that this tower will continue to be part of the City system. Mr. Bethea replied, "That is a commercial leased site and is with SBA Tower. It is actually the same location as the County site today. It is a commercial site and the lease package has already been drawn up and is ready for execution

with the Authority.” Councilmember Dippolito replied, “So whether or not Fulton County is in, we have that Johns Creek site to provide coverage for East Roswell.” Mr. Bethea stated it also included Alpharetta.

Councilmember Dippolito noted there has been a lot of discussion regarding Fulton County and the impasses in negotiations. Councilmember Dippolito asked City Administrator Kay Love if those had occurred at the state level. He asked if the Fulton County staff has received any kind of direction from their elected officials or if there has been any policy decision on how they should deal with these negotiations. City Administrator Kay Love replied, “I don’t know about any policy decisions. It is my understanding that at least some of the Commission has directed staff to look for the most cost effective and efficient way to stand up the system. I don’t know when they voted on the Motorola contract what the directive if any was to the staff. I did not watch that meeting and have not looked at any of the minutes.” Councilmember Dippolito asked if the negotiations are being held at the staff level, there really hasn’t been an elected official to elected official negotiation. City Administrator Kay Love replied, “No negotiations. There have been some individual one elected official to another elected official general discussions but no negotiations, no details to the point of system design or anything other than just general partnerships.” Councilmember Dippolito asked at what point is that negotiation expected to “bubble up” to the elected level. Mayor Wood stated the typical way the City operates is that we make every effort resolve all the issues on a staff level. Once we feel there is an impasse at the staff level, then the City would go to the elected officials. The Mayor said he tries to work out all the issues at the staff level before that because the elected officials will typically ask what the staff opinion is. Until staff takes a position, it is hard to go to the elected official for them to take a position. Mayor Wood said, “It is my understanding is the problem with Fulton County is not that they have said no, it is just they haven’t said yes and they haven’t taken a position. If we were at an impasse, then we would have gone to Fulton County but we are not at an impasse, we are at indecision. Indecision does not leave you with a good segue to go to the elected officials because they will say they have to wait for staff to make a decision.” Councilmember Dippolito asked for clarification of where exactly the City is with Fulton County because it sounds like we are still are negotiating, waiting for their staff to make some sort of recommendation so that the elected officials can have a discussion. Mayor Wood replied, “Where we are with Fulton County is that this Council approved standing up an Authority unanimously because Fulton County was not working with us. Even though we have made that decision unanimously, we are continuing negotiations with Fulton County to try to work out something with them. We are not waiting on Fulton County. We waited on them for years and had nothing but poor service for years so we are not waiting on Fulton County to protect our firemen and policemen when they are on duty. We are taking the initiative and I appreciate the Council’s giving us that authority to move ahead.” Councilmember Dippolito replied, “Right. My question really was geared toward making sure that there is still room to work with Fulton County and it appears that is ongoing and that is happening, that negotiation hasn’t ceased and hasn’t reached that impasse yet.”

Councilmember Wynn stated, “Councilmember Dippolito, I was one of the elected officials that met with District Three Commissioner Liz Hausmann on this issue. Councilmember Wynn said she and City Administrator Kay Love met with Commissioner Hausmann to make certain she had all the necessary information for her to research this and go back to staff and had all the information that the City has. Councilmember Wynn stated she found out that the Commissioner did not have all the correspondence from North Fulton to Director Barrett. Councilmember Wynn said, “She more or less assured us that this negotiation will not cease, that she is looking forward to moving it forward.”

Councilmember Igleheart noted that most of the technology issues have been touched on. He stated, "Obviously the biggest problem we are all facing is the height and mass of this thing. Are there any ways to either use the current technology or is there anything that is currently or in short term potentially available that can change the way the system is used to make that tower less massive or less high." He said there have been comments made that this is a possibility.

Mayor Wood stated, "I think that Councilmember Wynn had some discussions to proposed reduction in the tower height." The Mayor asked that Councilmember Wynn bring that information out for discussion and then return to discussion regarding further reduction from that, if possible. Mayor Wood said, "I wanted to try to not start from the 400' level at Cox and Fouts because we have already gotten some more information."

Councilmember Wynn replied, "Yes, and this is kind of a flowing thing going. I think that Kay may have to interject here. We met with the people on Fouts Road. We are looking at pushing the tower back and having that as a 350' tower. On Cox, because of the new information that we have, North Fulton County Radio Authority, COMMDEX, and Motorola got proactive to see if it is possible to lower the tower. You have to remember that what we are looking at on these towers is the elevation plus the height of the tower has got to equal 1,400 feet. If it does not equal 1,400 feet, we might as well not even have the radio system. Am I correct on that?" Mr. Bethea replied, "Yes, approximately." Councilmember Wynn continued, "If we don't have that 1,400' and this is not just the Roswell towers, it is the towers in North Fulton has to average 1,400 feet; it depends on the topography, the trees, and everything else we were talking about." Mr. Bethea agreed. Councilmember Wynn continued, "So, on Cox Road, we are looking at no more than 350' but it looks like we could go down a little lower but I am not going to say a number yet because we are not for sure. It will be on the Fire Station #6 property. Because we will be on the fire station #6 property, it will give us some leeway as to the location of that tower."

Mayor Wood returned to Councilmember Igleheart's question. Mr. Bethea replying to Councilmember Igleheart's question stated, "The primary limiting factor with the systems is topography. This particular tower site is specifically being placed to address coverage issues along the Chattahoochee River basin. This is a problem that is consistent through all of the jurisdictions in the City that have public safety users that operate through the river basin; the topography of it is very challenging. It is very similar in the north end of the state where you start to get into the mountains and the hills. Even Forsyth has a good bit of problem in their extreme northwest where the terrain begins to undulate. What happens is you get these little creases of holes. The type of the tower is specifically there to overcome the terrain features and get down into that valley. That is the primary purpose of that tower. That is what is driving the height above the average terrain and the topography; it has to be high enough to clear the lip of that valley and then see down into it, and you'll get good coverage down in there." Mayor Wood clarified that the question was whether there is technology that does not depend upon line of sight. Mr. Bethea replied, "I would say that it is near line of site because there is a certain amount of fill but it is pretty close. Once you start dropping down to where I can draw a line of sight and I start hitting hard obstructions, ground, the shadowing takes over. You cannot overcome physics. The only other mitigation that there is, is some smaller sites that you would string all along and now you are back into the scenario of yes, I'm building shorter towers, but I am building more of them; the net analysis is you are costing yourself a good bit more money to do that."

Councilmember Diamond asked if there are any other potential carriers that might be on the proposed towers, whether they are Fulton County or the Authority. Mr. Bethea responded, "Right

now on the towers that are to be built there are no carriers projected, but that is one thing that is in the discussion to help offset the cost of the tower construction itself.”

Mayor Wood responded, “Let me tell the position I have directed my City Attorney, and that is on these sites which are towers which are built on the Roswell sites, these three towers, that we would not be granting blanket authority to the North Fulton Authority to hang anything they wanted. It would come back to this Council for any decision if there was anything else that went on there. There currently is no proposal to put additional towers on there. I will tell you that is a Council decision. David Davidson will tell you that this Council cannot bind future Councils as to that decision. It will be your-all’s decision as to what goes on this property. All we are proposing today is public safety.” Mr. Bethea stated, “The only other that has even been in any discussion would be the County to share the asset. There have been no discussions with any cellular. That is theoretically possible again, to offset costs in the future, if that decision is made, but there are no discussions that have been entered into with anyone at this point.”

Councilmember Price asked if the towers are the property of the City. Mayor Wood replied, “The anticipation, although there has been no agreement reached, and any agreement would have to come to this Council, is leasing space for a tower to the Authority with the sole purpose of the tower for the North Fulton Authority. That would be up to this Council whether they could hang something else additional on there. The lease has not been presented to you but what we are proposing is a lease for a tower for a specific purpose for the North Fulton Authority.” Councilmember Price asked who owns the tower. Mayor Wood said right now, the anticipation is that the Authority will own the tower but they would not own the land, and they would be subject to a lease from the City; that lease would govern all aspects of the operation of that tower. Councilmember Price said, “So presumably, any revenues from any co-location would go to this Authority and not to the City?” Mayor Wood clarified that there is no presumption of co-location of anyone else; it would be up to this Council, because the lease would provide that “we are leasing this tower space to you for this sole purpose.” It would require coming back before this Council to renegotiate any additional transmission from that tower. Councilmember Price replied, “It sounds like this entity is not even going to have any elected official oversight so I’m not sure when we get to weigh in since we have sort of minimally weighed in and much after the fact.” Mayor Wood replied, “That is an incorrect conclusion. The Authority is leasing this space for a tower, so for the purposes of their transmission tower, we have a lease. To make a decision to put an additional transmission on that would not be within their authority under the lease. Their authority would be limited to the tower and their transmission.” He explained that the lease would state is a sole purpose lease. It would have to come to this Council to decide whether any other use of this tower is made. It would be the sole discretion of this Council and their decision whether to allow any other use of that tower other than the specific lease use granted, which he knew that City Attorney David Davidson would say that the specific lease use granted would be for this public safety authority. Mayor Wood clarified that there is not lack of oversight, it is absolute control by this Council; it is not the sale of property, it a lease for a specific use and a limited use. Councilmember Price responded, “Right, but Roswell is not building the tower, the Authority is building the tower.” Mayor Wood replied, “Right, they own the tower but they would be in breach of the lease if they put a separate transmission under there and we could enjoin the use of that and take it down, by law.” Councilmember Price stated she had no further questions at this moment.

City Administrator Kay Love confirmed for Mayor Wood that Motorola had a short presentation planned for this meeting which is related to the system itself.

Mr. Byrd, Motorola representative, noted that several issues that he had prepared as part of his presentation had already been covered in the discussion this evening; he had been asked to discuss Motorola's involvement with the North Fulton Radio System, and provide an overview of how we have arrived to where we are today. Mr. Byrd said he would begin with a situational overview of what it was like in 2007 when much of this started in the Fulton County area; Project 25, a national standard that was developed specifically for public safety two-way communications and Motorola's role; and review the Fulton and North Fulton projects and timelines; question and answer period.

Mr. Byrd stated that in 2007, Fulton County had the same countywide analog trunked radio system that is in use today. At that time, the system was sixteen years old and had essentially reached its end of life from a technological standpoint. Mr. Byrd stated, "Basically, what that means is the hardware was at a point where it was going to start being difficult to get parts and also it would not be capable of handling future system upgrades and things of that nature." He stated there were occasional intermittent system issues; there were channel failures due to outside interference. He added that Motorola started having concerns regarding finding replacement parts. Mr. Byrd stated the system itself was designed for mobile coverage. Residential and commercial growth on the north side of Fulton County had expanded further north so at the time the system was built it handled the communications that was needed but as the cities expanded north, they actually began to expand outside the range of the communications system. He said, "A good example of that was Windward; as Windward developed, and a lot of the residences moved in there, Alpharetta operated on the Fulton County system which just portables. When they had to start going into Windward, the portables were no good to them anymore and they had to come back and buy mobiles for all their vehicles so that when their officers got in there they would be able to talk."

Mayor Wood clarified that a portable is something that is worn on the body; a mobile is something that is carried in a vehicle and not carried inside. Mr. Byrd confirmed that a mobile is a fixed unit in the vehicle. A portable is normally carried by the officers on their belt; the portable does not have the same coverage that the mobile has. He said, "When they went into Windward, for example, as long as they were in the car it was fine but if they had to get out and chase a suspect or go to a home, there was no way for them to communicate over the radio system any longer." Mr. Byrd stated that coinciding with that, the demands for the first responders also was becoming more intense. He said, "The public was demanding that when a guy arrived at their home, that he was able to perform more services in the field instead of waiting until they transported him back to the hospital, again, increasing the demand on portable radios."

Mr. Byrd referred to Project 25. He stated that as mentioned earlier, Project 25 was in full swing and was the conversion of analog systems to digital. He said that everyone in this room remember when the cellular companies did that; they made everyone turn in their analog cellphone, which was replaced with a new digital cellphone. Mr. Byrd said the same thing happened in the public safety communications industry.

Mr. Byrd referred to the Echo 25 document displayed on the overhead screen. This document came out in approximately 1992, indicating how the accounts were affected in the Metro area. Cobb County and Forsyth County were the first two counties that made the analog to digital conversion; most major counties in the Metro area were through with that conversion by 2006. Mayor Wood stated the document listed Fulton County with a 2013 conversion date but Fulton County still is not there year. Mr. Byrd replied, "No sir. The four at the bottom that are not bolded, are actually contracts that have been recently signed to go ahead and make the conversion but they have not been installed, implemented, and accepted at this point. That is interesting to

note though that Fulton County signed their contract this month.” Mayor Wood stated that Fulton County and Clayton County are neck and neck on proceeding on this.

Mr. Byrd stated Motorola’s role is to come in, assess the customer’s requirements, assess their long term objectives, and develop a system solution to meet those objectives. Motorola is a total system supplier so when an entity buys a system Motorola is responsible for it all. Mr. Byrd said that applies whether it is the design, engineering, manufacturing of the equipment, certification of that equipment that is not manufactured by Motorola to guarantee that it will integrate and work properly with their systems. There is project management system implementation and optimization as well as the warranty and post warranty support. He said Motorola’s project team for the North Fulton Project, has collectively over 160 years of experience doing these public safety systems. Mr. Byrd referred to Project 25 and clarified there is over ten years of experience of installing those systems.

Mr. Byrd stated Motorola’s initial kick-off meeting with Fulton County and all the municipal cities was held in 2007 to start going moving forward with this system. Over the next two years, Motorola provided that group multiple system configurations and possibilities, and cost projections for the different systems. In 2009, Motorola had no commitment and that is what launched the North Fulton system because after two years of going through the process and trying to move forward, nothing was happening. In 2010, a contingent of the North Fulton cities voted to move ahead with a North Fulton County system.

Mr. Byrd stated the objectives for the North Fulton County system are a flexible, current and proven technology that will meet needs for the next fifteen years (the Motorola system will last at least fifteen years); compliant with the APCO Project 25 standards; inside building coverage throughout the cities; managerial and operational control of the system to be able to make decisions on software upgrades or expansion; multi-jurisdictional inter-operability with Fulton County and other surrounding jurisdictions (this is built into the system); and a total system package.

Mr. Byrd stated that in 2010, the process started over again with the cities on the north side. Multiple different system possibilities and configurations were looked at; some include building on to the urban area network, creating a zone off of the Cobb County network; and two or three different configurations in working with Fulton County.

Mr. Byrd stated, “Two years later in 2012, the Public Safety Communication Committee agreed that they wanted to go ahead and go forward with the 700 megahertz Project 25 Phase Two System.” Mayor Wood clarified, “At 2012, unanimously selected at that time, included Johns Creek.” Mr. Byrd stated yes, it did. Mayor Wood stated, “Initially, they unanimously decided to move forward with this system.” Mr. Byrd agreed with Mayor Wood stating that is correct. Mr. Byrd said that at the end of 2012, Sandy Springs went ahead and purchased Phase One of the proposed system. In March 2013, Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell came in to the formed North Fulton group and purchased Phase Two. Mayor Wood clarified, “In 2012, Sandy Springs contracted for that. Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell made a commitment to join with them at the time.” Mr. Byrd agreed.

Mr. Byrd summarizing, stated, “In a period of three years, essentially the North Fulton cities all came together, they vetted the potential systems, they passed legislation through the State to become an Authority, they developed intergovernmental agreements between themselves, and budgeted funds to move forward with the project. He said, that as an example, Fulton County again contracted with Motorola in August 2013, six years after the original kick-off meeting with

Fulton County; eight months after Sandy Springs had contracted; nine years after the move took place within Metro Atlanta to go ahead and start going digital. Mr. Bryd stated, "That really is kind of feed the entire project and got everything moving forward. I do want to say that the great thing that is going on here with the new technology because we haven't had this technology before, where municipalities and counties can buy their own systems, connect them together, and have seamless roaming back and forth between the systems. That is new. We are finding it more and more common for those things to be done on a regular basis now. That gives a city like Roswell which is more progressive than a county like Fulton the ability to operate their system and enhance it as they chose going forward. It gives Fulton the ability to do the same thing at their time and at their budget and still be connected and have seamless roaming between each other." No further comments or discussion. There were no Council questions.

Mayor Wood asked City Administrator Kay Love if there was anything further to be presented by the City. Ms. Love stated that staff had a presentation regarded to the sites specific related to the particulars on each of the sites. Mayor Wood replied that he would like to complete the presentation after which there would be a short break followed by public comments and questions. He noted that he appreciated everyone's patience because this is an important decision to be made that affects all of the City's police officers, firemen, and citizens and requires that the City be thorough in the presentations.

Police Chief Rusty Grant stated there are three proposed tower sites in the City of Roswell. To begin the discussion he referred to the site located in north central Roswell. Chief Grant said there were two sites that were actually considered as possible sites; the Verizon Amphitheatre and the Roswell Public Works facility on Hembree Road. The elevation of the Verizon Amphitheatre was much higher; there is an existing tower there that the City would place devices on however, the tower is full at the top; the City would place the device further down the tower. This means the elevation would not be as drastic as it appears. The lease cost would be \$72,000 per year at Verizon Amphitheatre. The Hembree Road Public Works site is owned by the City; it was purchased in 1996 for a little over \$2 million. The tower height for this location would be 400 feet; the tower would be 840 feet from the closest residence, an apartment complex. Chief Grant stated that his recommendation would be to place the tower on the Hembree Road Public Work site. A map of the location was shown on the overhead which indicated the approximate tower placement location at the Hembree Road Public Works site.

Chief Grant explained that two other sites were looked at on the west side of Roswell; the locations are at a Lackey Road property and Fire Station #6 on Cox Road. The elevation is somewhat similar with Fire Station #6 being slightly higher. The cost of the property for Lackey Road was never explored because the City already owned the property at Fire Station #6. That property was swapped with the Fulton County Board of Education in 1994 for 816 Atlanta Street. The tower site at this location will not exceed 350 feet because there must be a 1,400 foot elevation to the top of the tower; there may be some flexibility based on the physics of that location. Chief Grant stated that his recommendation is Fire Station #6 location; it is City owned property and would be a good location for coverage.

A slide of the Cox Road Fire Station site was shown on the overhead.

Chief Grant showed a slide indicating the City's coverage with the Fulton County radio system. Chief Grant showed a slide depicting the City's coverage with a 300 foot tower at Cox Road. He confirmed for Mayor Wood that the slide depicted coverage utilizing a 300 foot tower, but the City would not be able to go with a 300 foot tower at Cox Road because it would be below the

1,400 foot elevation; it is not to exceed 350 feet. Chief Grant clarified that the slide showed how much better the coverage is even at 300 feet over what the City currently has.

Mayor Wood stated the Fouts Road tower location discussion was deferred; it would not be discussed this evening. Chief Grant noted that the remaining portion of his presentation related to Fouts Road. Mayor Wood reiterated that Council was not considering Fouts Road tonight at this meeting.

Mayor Wood clarified that a ten minute break would follow completion of Council questions.

Council comments:

Councilmember Wynn stated that it is her understanding that the subdivisions of Litchfield and Brookfield, and a part of Mountain Park are not covered by the existing towers on west Roswell. Mayor Wood asked if those areas are not currently covered. Councilmember Wynn said she wanted to be sure everyone understood that the towers on the west side of Roswell will help with the dead zones in that area. She said those dead zones included: Litchfield, Brookfield, Fox Hall, Mountain Park. Chief Grant clarified that is correct; he agreed that there are holes in the radio system on the west side just like there are on the east side of Roswell.

Councilmember Price requested that Chief Grant return to the slide that indicated the coverage of the current Roswell sites. Chief Grant displayed the slide of the current coverage. Councilmember Price asked for visual clarification of the location of the new sites, compared to the old sites, and why those sites could just have higher towers. Chief Grant replied, "The existing site we have right now is Roswell High School. Fire Station #6 will be northwest of that location, closer to the county line." Mayor Wood stated a better question to ask would be if the City put a 350 foot tower was put at Roswell High School would it cover Litchfield 100; he asked if that study was done. Captain Sweeney responded but it was not audible for transcription. Mayor Wood stated Councilmember Price's question related to why taller towers could not just be located at these locations. Captain Sweeney said they looked at the Roswell High School site and ran it up to 350 feet, which the school was opposed to it. He said there is a ridge that runs King Road north, it runs from west to east. Mayor Wood stated it is Cox Road. Captain Sweeney said it is just a little bit before that; the transmission will not go over that ridge into Mountain Park; several spots were tested; Mountain Park Elementary School. He said to get anything to work properly for Litchfield along the Little River which is where Fox Hall is located, they had to get to the north of that ridge, which is where Fire Station #6 came in. Fire Station #6 sits north of the ridge and sees back to the south much better than King Road's look to the north.

Councilmember Price asked if these three sites are going to be rendered obsolete and if the county owns the structure. Captain Sweeney replied that the county owns it. It is a high area handpicked by the county. Roswell High School sits quite high as is well known from the water tanks which recently built there. He noted that water tanks usually co-exist with high towers. Captain Sweeney said they did not have that luxury of going to a lot different places but they did find out that Cox Road sits at a favorable elevation and a geographically centered location. Captain Sweeney said, "To answer your question, the County will continue to use those sites, that is part of their answer recently to us, is that they are going to use the existing towers and they are going to convert them to their digital system but only those five sites north of Interstate 285." Councilmember Price asked how they propose to fill in the gaps. Captain Sweeney replied, "They don't. The only thing that we have seen is the original RFP that was on the website. The original RFP, assumed that they can co-exist on the towers that we planned to put up in North Fulton, and they put money in for two separate towers but they didn't have a place to put them nor a plan to stand them up. As it sits right now, they are going to go on their existing towers,

which I would like to add, are over twenty years old. The infrastructure at the bottom of those towers is over twenty years old and all the equipment in those buildings is over twenty years old and there is no plan to replace that equipment just the radio equipment in the buildings.” Councilmember Price asked if it is anybody’s suggestion that these would be terminated at some point. Captain Sweeny said he could not speak for the County. He said, “Knowing the County’s behavior in the past, I would predict that they would continue to run those sites into the ground until they are no longer usable. I think we talked about this before is that many of their sites are overloaded or close to overloaded because they have re-sold cellular service and other vendors, renters on their sites with no real forward looking to see what their future use for public safety. It was more towards trying to get revenue back for it at the time rather than saying what do we need to look for the future of our police and fire fighters. Right now, I don’t think their options are good at those sites.”

Councilmember Diamond asked for more information about new technology that can address the “fall zone” concerns of the towers. Captain Sweeny stated that is something which he has recently learned. He stated he spoke with an engineer at the manufacturer over the phone. Captain Sweeney said, “Basically what they do is instead of building like they build in Florida, they build all these towers really, really strong to stand up for hurricanes, but there are no break points for them; what they do for places like this where we are real concerned about a tower falling over on somebody’s building and possible loss of life, that they build in a failure point into the tower and expect from the day that it is built what the fall zone is. Let’s just say it is a 400 foot tower and they want it to fall pretty much within a hundred feet of itself, they build in potential points of failure in the tower so that if the tower is overstressed, instead of it just falling over on itself 400 feet, that it would fall over and down on itself. That is apparently a proven technology and they guarantee that it will do that.”

No further questions from Council. At 8:57 p.m. a ten-minute break was issued. The meeting reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

Mayor Wood invited public comment on the Hembree Road and Cox Road radio tower locations and said the Fouts Road location has been deferred.

Public Comment:

Stephen Gregg, 12620 Old Surrey Place in Roswell said he lives in Old Surrey Place subdivision next to fire station #6 and made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road radio tower site:

- Until four years ago Old Surrey Place was a private subdivision with a private road. During one of their community meetings, Harvey Smith said to him on behalf of the Mayor and City Council that he would like the subdivision to join the City of Roswell. Mr. Gregg asked why and the response was that they would be able to voice their vote because they are currently in Fulton County and have no voice. The residents discussed this and made a decision to join the City of Roswell.
- He said Council is well educated on the process and he heard a lot of interesting statements at this meeting, but he only became aware of this radio tower two days ago. He said he was amazed because he lives next door to the fire station and he never received any type of notification about this and added that if someone owns a multi-million dollar home and finds

out their value is going to decrease about 20%, they would be upset. He noted that this tower is not being built next to any of the Councilmember's homes.

- He said he heard a lot about wildlife issues, home devaluations and about the possibility of this 400 foot tower falling onto a home but he heard the young police officer who just spoke state that it would collapse on itself. He said he is a software engineer and does a lot of math and knows that things do not always work as they are planned. He cited an example of a demolition in Philadelphia that was supposed to collapse on itself but collapsed on the building next to it.
- He thanked Councilmember Price for asking the most penetrating questions but said he thought some of the other questions were not as important for a project of this size.
- He said he worked for the federal government about 10 years and understands government and understands when he hears that Fulton County can't work with downtown. He said after what he heard tonight, he realizes he left the federal government because he couldn't get anything done.
- He heard what was said about frequency and duration but didn't hear the exact amount of frequencies, but thought he heard eight. He didn't hear the duration and asked if the outage would be five minutes or ten minutes or an hour and would it be spotty coverage that could be covered with other shorter towers. He listened to the argument about large towers versus smaller towers but never heard a convincing story other than from the contractor and consultants which might benefit from them. He asked where were the independent City staff engineers who would evaluate this in the best interest of the City.
- He said as a business person, he always asks who stands to gain from this and said and asked if the police department needs it. He noted that the Mayor said they have an old antiquated system and are several years behind and he said he can appreciate that and believes the City should have a digital system but asked if this is the best way of implementing this so as to not hurt homeowners. He said he has 30,000 customers in his business and that may not be a lot compared to Council's constituents but he is one of their customers and he pays a lot of taxes. He said he appreciates what Council does for him and the City but sometimes they should ask if they are doing the right thing.
- He said although he learned a lot tonight, he needs to be more educated about this issue in order to talk to Council smartly. He requested that Council defer the vote on the Cox Road location for a period of time that would give the residents in his community including Harvey Smith who is currently out of town enough time to become more educated about this. He added that Council has had a lot of time to think about it and that perhaps in the end there is a better way.

Susan Booth, 9000 Stonelake Court in Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- She referred to a Council meeting in February 2010 that had a full house and a noisy crowd and she said that Mayor Wood welcomed everyone and said it was wonderful to see the citizens engaged and involved in their community and told them that Council makes better decisions when the citizens are down there giving their advice.
- She said she was not here to give advice because she is not a professional in the field of technology but she wanted to share some of the research and observations she had made over the past few weeks and share her opinion of how it relates to the NFRRSA project.
- She said she is the daughter-in-law of a retired fire captain and more sensitive to the needs of first responders than some others who they might have heard from over the past couple of weeks. She understands and agrees there is a need to improve communications especially when responders jump off fire trucks and run into burning buildings or when police officers climb from a SWAT vehicle to negotiate a hostage release.

- She said she is opposed however to the idea that the problem can be only be solved with a 350' or 400' tower within the city limits of Roswell. A tower this size is very rarely used in city limits and almost never near residentially zoned property. This type of tower is seen on interstates. A 400' tower and the community slogan, "Keep Roswell Beautiful" are simply not compatible. These towers are the equivalent of a 26 story building of which there are none in this City and that would deface the City's skyline. She said the surprised looks on some of the faces recently at a 300' balloon test told her that many of them didn't really realize how high 400' actually was before considering this project.
- She said the health risks of these towers has been questioned for years and the results are debatable. Some people in the medical field strongly caution against living near one and others will say there is nothing to worry about. As long as people have questions, the towers will remain a liability. She quoted a California realtor that said, "Perception is everything. If the public perceives it to be a problem, then it is a problem." She said another realtor said, "even houses where there is a transformer out front makes people shy away." She said many Roswell neighborhoods have underground utilities and that will make a tower of this size even more obtrusive. She said an appraiser in New Jersey spoke before the Bridgewater city council in 2012 regarding a tower of only 130', the kind that could be made to look like a pine tree and he said, "I believe this tower will have an adverse effect and impact the surrounding properties and I believe this is something that needs to be considered. The presence of a tower shrinks the buyer pool." That same appraiser also said that they had never seen a situation where a tower did not have some kind of effect on the nearby residential values whether it was through lack of appreciation or by reduced sales prices and those lost values in turn effect nearby neighborhoods through lower comps. She said everyone understands the basic law of supply and demand and when no one wants to buy your house, you will not get the asking price. She said the City of Roswell would be wise to preserve its tax base by protecting the value of its citizen's homes and she added that smaller disguised towers could be used that would preserve the fabric that is the Roswell that everyone loves.
- She urged Council to put pressure on the NFRRSA to revise the plans that would incorporate smaller towers that might cost more up front but would be money well invested in the City's citizens, skyline and in their first responders.

Janet Russell, 260 Willow Springs Drive, Roswell made the following comments:

- She said she does not live near any of these towers but she has a lot of questions and thanked Councilmember Price for asking a lot of them for her. She requested that after asking all of her questions, if the professionals could answer.
- She said they have never been told who the authority is. She asked who they are, how they are chosen, how they are paid, and who are they accountable to.
- She said she understands that service would be extended to Mountain Park and asked if they would contribute financially to the \$16 million cost of this project. She said by size of population, some of the cities that are participating rank in order of Sandy Springs first with a population slightly greater than Roswell, then Roswell, Alpharetta and Milton. She was surprised by how huge the population is of Johns Creek but said they opted out of this until they see how things go. She asked how it is determined how much each of the participating municipalities would pay and if it is based on land mass or population.
- She said at the end of the presentation, they heard that Fulton County signed an agreement to expand and update their project to digital and asked why the Authority would spend \$16 million to upgrade to digital if Fulton County is going to spend \$19 million. A map was shown of the holes where the towers don't work and yet the towers would be shared in the same place and she asked if there wouldn't still be holes in the same places. The

representative from COMMDEX said the Fouts Road location had already been chosen by Fulton County and she asked why the City would need to build another tower or build a bigger one there if Fulton County was already doing that. She heard there is a 20 year contract but this project has a 15 year shelf life. She said the school officers who are employees of Fulton County have very important jobs in the schools and she asked if they are on Fulton County's wavelength and would the Cities of Roswell, Alpharetta and Sandy Springs be able to communicate with them seamlessly and quickly should there be an emergency. She said that had not been addressed.

- She said the people who presented here tonight have a lot to gain by these projects and of course they are going to tell you that you need them. Fulton County just hired Motorola for \$19 million and the NFRRSA just hired them for \$16 million and that totals \$35 million. It is already known that the system will be obsolete before the project is fully implemented so this is money being thrown away.

Mayor Wood addressed Ms. Russell's comments and said, "I will try to answer the questions that have already been answered tonight, Janet, but I am afraid you missed the answers. You asked why we are not partnering with Fulton County. To put it in a nutshell; they are unreliable. We might as well partner with Clayton County. You asked about the holes. The map shows the holes that would be filled with Fulton County is not currently filling them. You asked about the number of towers. I think we told you the towers that were going up. Fulton County is not putting towers where they need to be. You asked about the contract. There is a 20 year agreement with the North Fulton cities. We are going to be adjacent to those cities for much longer than 20 years. It is not a contract with the hardware or the software people - it is a contract with our other cities to enter into a long term relationship for public safety. That is based upon those cities being there...Alpharetta for 150 years. Sandy Springs and Milton being new cities but we expect them to be around for at least the next 20 years. You asked about Fulton County communicating with their school officers. Currently, there is no way for our officers to communicate with Fulton County. The new system will allow that capability if Fulton County is willing to accept and enter in a partnership agreement. We cannot force them to but we will have the capability now that we have a digital system. You said that in your opinion you are not a techy but the system would be obsolete and is now currently obsolete. We are buying a state of the art technology. If your argument was valid, we would never enter into a contract because there would always be a possibility of being obsolete." Mayor Wood asked City Administrator Kay Love to address the remainder of Ms. Russell's questions about the authority and how it operates.

Kay Love said, "The North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority is made up of representatives from the participating cities which is Alpharetta, Milton, Roswell and Sandy Springs. The city administrator or manager or their designee are the officers. There are a number of committees or work groups that work with the authority such as our public safety personnel who have the technical expertise. The authority has contracted with consultants such as COMMDEX and Motorola. Those have been through competitive processes. Sandy Springs took the lead back in December before the Authority was officially stood up for the legislation. That is how the first phase of the contract was signed. We had an intergovernmental agreement at that time that all the cities approved in the December or January timeframe depending on when Council meetings occurred. That is at the point that Johns Creek did not enter into an IGA. When the Authority stood up then those contracts transferred from Sandy Springs and the other cities respectively to the Authority. The compensation - the legislation which I believe is House Bill 526 does provide for compensation should the Authority decide to provide compensation to officers and or any employees that it hires. I can tell you that there is no intent for us as the officers to compensate ourselves. The only thing that might be appropriate would be any travel

related to Authority business and that would have to be approved by the Authority. I can tell you for myself and I can only speak for myself; I am compensated by the City of Roswell and I do not intend, nor would I accept any compensation from the Authority for the duties which I perform on behalf of the City of Roswell and the Authority. Related to Mountain Park; we do have a public safety agreement with Mountain Park. They pay which might seem like a small amount; to the City of Roswell but is a very large amount to them. It is in the arena of \$35,000-\$38,000 a year for which we provide public safety services to them. We do have a mutual aid agreement with them. They do specifically in the area of the fire department, train with our folks so they do not have a financial capital contribution. They will be subscribers on the system and that is anticipated.”

Mayor Wood said, “I guess the next question was Sandy Springs and the other cities; how do we apportion the capital costs and the operating costs between the respective members of the Authority.”

Ms. Love said, “That is by land mass, population and number of radio units. It is a weighted average. Roswell’s is 32% - it is the highest percentage because we have a higher percentage of radios as compared to others. But, it is a weighted average that we contribute. That equates to approximately \$5.2 million of the \$16 million of the capital cost. The operating costs have not been determined yet because the system has not been stood up. However, with the information that we have based on the technology, through our consultants and other contracts, we estimate that after the first year; in year two, the maintenance and operation will be approximately \$1 million for the entire North Fulton system.”

Public Comment continued:

Rick Evans, 12740 Old Surrey Place, Roswell made the following comments on the Cox Road radio tower site:

- He said the residents in his community only found out about this recently when someone put a handwritten pamphlet in their mailboxes. He said the Council and this City do many good deeds but felt for something this impactful they should have kept the local people in the loop. He said it was not just him but everyone in his community. He said he can’t cut down trees if they don’t meet a certain circumference or hang plywood in a basement to refinish it without permits and there are processes and due process for all of this. He said somehow this was missed. He requested that Council defer this.

Sylvia K. Morrow-Nocon, 9055 Twelvestones Drive, Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio towers:

- She said they heard for the first time tonight that the heights of the towers are being reduced and that is an encouraging step in the right direction.
- She pointed out that three of the eight towers are located in the City of Roswell and yet the City represents only 32% of the intergovernmental agreement. She said the towers violate the City ordinances for towers; although it exempts government owned towers from its application and exempts towers erected on City property. She said just because you can do something doesn’t make it right. She grew up on Old Riverside Road on the Chattahoochee River and said she knows the area and loves this beautiful City that has a reputation for embracing nature. She loves the greenway and parks and is disturbed by what is being done here and feels it is stealing the soul of the City. This City is at the heart, a town and if someone wants a town or community they stay here; if they aspire to live in a city they would live in Atlanta. She said she lives in the Fouts Road area and has a vested interest to keep this the Roswell that embraces nature and a lifestyle that they enjoy.

- She asked Council to keep these things in mind when making their decision.

Lee Fleck, 435 North Pond Trail, Martins Landing in Roswell made the following comments about the radio towers:

- He displayed an artist's rendering of a 400' tower and said he wanted to provide a perspective of what 400 feet is. He then displayed various slides of buildings in Las Vegas and said the height of Caesar's Palace is 425', the Las Vegas Hilton is 400', Planet Hollywood is 400', The Palms is 400' and the Marriot Grande Las Vegas is 420'. He said the Eifel Tower is a little over 500' and these radio towers are going to be Roswell's big chicken landmark and that is what they have coming.

Wilton Rooks, 6345 Barberry Hill Drive in Gainesville, Georgia made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- He said he is not a Roswell resident but he is the Executive Director of Scenic Georgia, an affiliate of Scenic America and one of their board members is a Roswell resident and more importantly, his granddaughter lives in Roswell.
- He said Scenic Georgia and Scenic America are committed to scenic beauty not only for the natural places but also for the built environment and we spend more time on our city streets and neighborhoods than on the mountaintop vistas. Roswell has earned a well-deserved reputation as a municipality that cares about its neighborhoods and aesthetics that was demonstrated by their strong stand against billboard blight. A great challenge today is how to take advantage of 21st century technology without sacrificing the core values that are the hallmark of growth and development in Roswell and the center of so many of their positive growth decisions. Roswell invests substantially in neighborhoods through recreation, arts, and cultural programs that serve as major enticements to people who want the community experience that Roswell has to offer. Roswell's natural scenic areas and its emphasis on scale for business development serve as reminders that these are important characteristics that people seek.
- It was just demonstrated how tall a 400' tower can be and it needs to be positioned so as not to distract from neighborhoods or pose safety hazards. There should be a concern about any tower placed in close proximity to buildings, houses, streets or recreation areas where people will be impacted either visually or from a safety standpoint.
- He asked if shorter towers or different communication technology could be used. He said they heard some references to obsolete technologies and he agrees with Mayor Wood that it is impossible to buy the latest technology because by the time you buy something, it is probably obsolete. They have to make the best decisions possible to move forward, but said they should keep in mind that communications is one of the fastest growing areas of technology and things are available today that never would have been anticipated 10-20 years ago. He understands that a reliable and effective 911 system is critical but urged Council to balance that need with the need of the residents for peaceful enjoyment of their neighborhoods and to live in the great place that has already been created.

Thayer Gallison, 8990 Ridgestone Court in Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- He expressed his appreciation to the Roswell police and said they are some of the best out there. He said the gaps in coverage that were shown on the map that the City police have is shameful.
- He understands why the City joined the NFRRSA and said Fulton County has clearly not kept their system up to date and has dragged their feet and the timeline shown from other cities

proves that. In the end however, the citizens of Roswell will own the land and the lease on this tower and could benefit from potential future revenue opportunities.

- Politics present Council with a lot of difficult decisions but ultimately they must weigh the public good with the good of individuals, the most sacred thing they have to do which is why they were elected. The public and the citizens of Roswell and North Fulton need this system or a similar one but at present the NFRRSA is clearly representing only one side of the case which is their needs and they are asking for the brass ring. He asked why else would there be a 300' tower on Cox Road and a 400' tower on Hembree Road when it turns out that a 400' wasn't actually needed on Cox Road. But that is what they asked for so clearly they are representing one side. He asked if that tower could be lower and other towers could be considered to be lower, what else is there that Council does not know about what the NFRRSA is doing. He said he is confident if they could have, they would have slammed these towers through putting them exactly where Council has proposed. In the end it is up to the Councilmembers to weigh public benefit versus harm to individuals. He believes that with additional information from the City's Police and Fire Department first responders and the citizens who may be affected by these towers, everyone could benefit.
- He asked that they give the police and firefighters and first responders the system they need but that the Council take their sacred duty to make it a system where everybody wins.

Preston Shirmeyer, 2295 Twelvestones Drive in Roswell made the following comments on the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority:

- He asked for clarification on something Councilmember Price talked about when she asked about the towers being owned by the Authority and that the City would be leasing the land to them. He asked where the revenue would go if later it was approved for co-location.

Mayor Wood replied that would depend upon the Council who would make the decision whether or not to approve an amendment to the lease. Mr. Shirmeyer said if they approve the lease, then it could be approved to make the revenue come back to the City, not to the NFRRSA. Mayor Wood said correct. Mr. Shirmeyer said the City would have ultimate authority on where the money for the co-location goes. Mayor Wood said correct.

Mr. Shirmeyer continued his comments:

- He said with that in mind, he would like to see options laid out to the City so they could make an informed decision. The Authority has shown that three 400' towers are needed and that is what they want the Council to vote on. He said they have not seen what the cost would be for these three towers versus the cost of six towers at 200' or eight towers at 180'. The Authority has only said that it would be more expensive if lower towers were used but have not said exactly how much more so the citizens cannot look at this and know if it makes sense for the Council to vote on this versus the other options that could be three times the cost. He said the Authority has also not shown what the coverage would be if smaller less obtrusive towers were used throughout the City. Perhaps the coverage could go up by 3% which might be more expensive but still better because it would be a better system.
- The length of service of the system and potential revenues for each of the towers should be taken into account. If the Authority looks at co-location offsetting the price of the equipment in the original investment of the towers, they might find using more small towers with co-location revenue turns out to be less expensive, but that is not known because those questions have not been asked and have not been presented.
- There might be a better solution where property is not devalued for so many citizens. This will not only affect the people who are directly impacted but would have a chain reaction in property values throughout a larger area because of comparable values.

- He said he would stand behind this if it turns out to be the only solution and would know they are helping the first responders, but there are too many unknowns and wants more information presented to Council so they can make an informed decision. He requested that Council take all of these things into consideration and defer this so other options can be seen for smaller towers as well as their cost.

Jill Fagalde, 9065 Twelvestones Drive in Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- She thanked everyone for taking time to reply to their numerous concerns. They are not always the answers they want to hear but it is nice to know someone is listening because this process has been rushed and came on like an avalanche. It would be nice to take a step back, take a deep breath, and think very clearly at what they are doing here.
- She moved here with her husband 20 years ago and they could have chosen any neighborhood in the greater Atlanta area but they carefully chose Roswell because it is a beautiful community that is growing cautiously and conscientiously and has all the values she takes very personally.
- Council and staff may feel they have been looking at this for a long time but it has come upon them very fast. The residents in her community did not find out about this until the last minute and she said the people on Cox Road probably found out because one of her neighbors passed out information because they realized this has been very hush-hush. There is current activity to rush the vote for this system on these sites and she asked where the transparency is because they have not told them anything. Based on information they were able to see before tonight's meeting, they believe minimum due diligence has been done regarding taking a vote on such a critical matter. She said she is also a business woman and knows there are many alternatives these days and many companies providing wonderful services and the City has not examined all of the options.
- She said she came here tonight to say that the citizens count on their elected officials for guidance and leadership and to raise the bar. They may not like to work with Fulton County, but they are our neighbors and there is a common goodwill that is necessary in order to function correctly. She said this is post 911. Previously, policemen, firemen, and first responders weren't connected to schools and the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing but all of that was resolved and it was seen in Boston and in other cities all over. She said she doesn't see where the City is going with this and said are they going back to splinter groups or are will they raise the bar. She said go to the governor or the state senator like Councilmember Dippolito offered and ask them to force Fulton County to do their homework. That is Council's responsibility and the citizens implore them to do that in order for there to be one functioning greater Atlanta area that can respond to the best or worst of occasions that everyone must be prepared for. There is no time for bickering and arguing and splinter groups; it is time to get together and raise the bar and the City of Roswell can do that.

Troy Bartlett, 9220 Twelvestones Drive in Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- He said he first learned about this at an informational meeting and it seems a lot has changed since then and he learned a lot tonight. He did not realize until that informational meeting how much the City's emergency services had been suffering with an inferior system. He recognizes the importance of repairing that and it may be that the Authority is the way to do it, but there is not enough information at this time to make that decision. It sounds as if they have given up on working with Fulton County but he heard several things that made him think there might still be a chance to cooperate with them. Fulton County just signed a contract so they are obviously serious about making progress. It also sounds like the City

only recently gave them the information that they needed to help make a decision. He feels it is disingenuous to only be voting on two of the sites tonight and not the Fouts Road site. He said he is not a telecommunications engineer but he knows that if you fix two points, you very seriously limit where the other one can go and effectively they may be actually voting on the Fouts Road site as well tonight if they vote to fix the other two.

- He said he agrees with many of the points made by his neighbor, Preston Shirmeyer, tonight and they need to see all of the options in order to make the best decision. He requested that Council defer this vote.

Francis Gentile, 2325 Twelvestones Drive in Roswell made the following comments on public safety:

- He said he has been a resident of Roswell for 17 years and loves the City and its beauty and has concerns about the environmental effects these towers could have on the community and real estate values. He said he has done his research and they do have an effect.
- Public safety is a more important issue and things were mentioned about how the towers can collapse. Those are very legitimate issues that need to be looked at further.
- Alternative technologies such as satellite technology should be considered and many other things need to be looked at.
- He said he wanted to go on record with the Mayor and Council stating that he is against the three locations of the radio towers as they stand at this time with the information that has been put forward.

Jerry Cross, 2300 Twelvestones Drive in Roswell made the following comments on the proposed Cox Road and Hembree Road radio tower sites:

- They found out about this through a very small ad in the newspaper. He thinks this is happening too fast and \$35 million is too much. The Council needs to think more about this. From what he heard tonight with all the pot shots taken at Fulton County; he doesn't think the City of Roswell is any better than them and there isn't much difference in the timeframe, only a month or two. The City needs to talk a lot more with Fulton County. He requested that the vote be deferred.

No further public comments. The public hearing was closed.

Council comments:

Councilmember Igleheart stated he had two questions based on comments made by the public. He asked for clarification that if Council would be voting on the height of the location this evening. Mayor Wood replied, "We do not have a motion. I am anticipating a motion on Cox Road and Hembree Road that would include a maximum height. We would still explore possibilities to lower that but I am anticipating a motion that would say not to exceed." Mayor Wood stated Councilmember Wynn was nodding her head. He said his understanding from previous discussion, the height was not to exceed 350 feet at Cox Road, with the hope to reduce it; not to exceed 400 feet at Hembree Road. Mayor Wood stated that as further engineering studies are done, if the City can reduce the heights of those sites he was certain this Council would support it. He clarified that the City is not entering into a contract with the Authority, this is for Council approval of a site, approval of a height not to exceed, so that extensive and expensive further review can be done to see if it passes all the regulatory muster. Councilmember Igleheart asked if Council decides upon two locations tonight, would that essentially determine the third location. Mayor Wood replied, "No sir." Councilmember Igleheart asked for a response from someone with a technical background. Mayor Wood asked for Motorola or COMMDEX to respond. The Mayor said, "To give you an example Councilmember Igleheart, there has been

discussion about putting it elsewhere on the park property which has an equal location, that is an alternative. We are not aware of any more property that is available but I understand there are other potential locations; they all have their problems. I think Councilmember Wynn talked about a proposal that is further away from Fouts Road than originally proposed but are there other potential sites with sufficient elevation, yes.”

Mr. Bethea replied to Councilmember Igleheart’s question if voting on two does in effect, by de facto select the third. Mr. Bethea said, “Not necessarily. The towers are located to address specific concerns. I will let Motorola speak and the design engineer who was working that is not present, but in my engagement with him and asking him questions, and looking at the analysis that has been done, these tower sites are located to address specific coverage problems in those locales. We talked about Mountain Park and that is predominately why Fire Station #6 is where it is. Fouts Road is specifically to address the river; Hembree Road is to address some of the areas central and north. That site was originally the Verizon Amphitheatre, shifted more into the Alpharetta side but the Hembree Road is looked as an alternative to that; not necessarily, because those towers are specifically targeting specific areas. Even if you move one of them you may still get that at of those areas to address that particular concern.” Councilmember Igleheart stated he had no follow-up question at this time.

Councilmember Dippolito noted that there have been a lot of questions asked about more towers and making them lower, which if all the costs were the same that would be ideal but unfortunately they are not. He said he would like to hear from the engineers regarding whether that has been explored, what the possibilities are for doing that, and if it is possible to take a quick look at that to weigh the two costs; several citizens this evening raised legitimate concerns; there have been no options given. Councilmember Dippolito said he knew the City had looked at a couple of different sites in each of these areas. The City has primarily looked at City property. He asked if it makes sense to go out and look for other opportunities; is that something that could be accomplished over the next couple of weeks to see if there is a possibility out there. Mayor Wood called COMMDEX forward for that question.

Mayor Wood said one of his concerns is that as the City multiplies the sites, if the City accepts the argument of aesthetics and property values, it may be increasing the impact on Roswell citizens because the more sites, the more property values are impacted. The Mayor said it is not an easy answer and not an answer of putting up more sites resolving all the concerns of the citizens who do not want a tower next to them. He said his experience has been that even at the 150 feet, the City has strong neighborhood opposition for aesthetics reasons and arguments of health, and the same arguments are made whatever height it is; the City may be spreading the pain; that is a Council decision of how it impacts, but it is not a simple matter. If the number of towers is increased, the problem may be shorter, but the problem is in a greater territory. Councilmember Dippolito agreed with the Mayor in that it would possibly impact more people but it is an important question to ask to know what the option is.

Mr. Bethea replied, “It can be done. I certainly cannot argue from a technical standpoint that could you go say from building three sites in the City of Roswell to building six sites in the City of Roswell that are lower and achieve the same coverage whether it is six or eight or ten, whatever that number is. Could it be done? Certainly. But, it comes to a question of the Mayor’s point of how many different neighborhoods are you going to impact, how much property you would have to procure, and then ultimately what is the cost. It is a cost benefit analysis that would have to be performed. Typical ways the marching orders that are done when these systems are designed, and city-municipal budgets what they are, are ‘give us the maximum of bang for the minimum amount of buck.’ To do that, you do it with the fewest number of tower sites.

Anything you do where you start increasing tower sites you will increase cost.” Councilmember Dippolito said that is understood; the question is what would that additional cost be and is it worth it. Councilmember Dippolito said the City may find out that we have six towers that are all in commercial areas or we may find out that we have six towers that are all in residential areas, but to the Mayor’s point, it would actually double the problem, but the answer to that question is not necessarily known yet. Mr. Bethea responded to the Councilmember Dippolito’s comment about all commercial sites versus all residential sites. He said, “Towers need to be in areas where towers need to cover. That is particularly true - the lower the tower is to the ground because the shorter the tower is, the closer in the units are to talk to it. If you lower the tower, then you are putting in a smaller ring if I have a specific area that I am trying to target and I am using a lower tower, then it reduces the number of options of places where I can locate that tower. If the problem is down in the Chattahoochee River basin, then I am restricting even more the number of options. There are no commercial properties south of Holcomb Bridge Road along the river. That is really part of what is driving the location of that tower site. You could lower it but you may need another one in an additional neighborhood on top of that as well. That analysis could be performed.” Councilmember Dippolito replied that if perhaps the towers were all lowered to two hundred feet so they are slightly larger than a cell tower, what would be the impact; would this impact more places across Roswell or would it not have as much negative impact on as many of the residents. Councilmember Dippolito asked if that is something that can be accomplished in a short period of time or would it be long and complex to determine. Mayor Wood stated there are two questions. If this question is given to the consultant, it would be necessary to provide parameters; if there are two towers, how high would those towers need to be or if there is a height limit, how it would be. The consultant may be able to provide a parameter. There would also be a cost for the time. Councilmember Dippolito replied, “I think if you look at it from the standpoint of a cell tower, which typically is 150 to 175 feet. If we went slightly taller than that, say 250’ is the maximum; if we have got 250 as maximum, how would that impact? I would like to get it down 200 or 175. I am not sure we can get there without having an extraordinary amount of towers. To some extent it would be nice to have a little bit of guidance on what is realistic. Do you all have a sense for that. You all did the study on this.” Mr. Bethea replied, “It also comes back to what is the threshold at which it is too much because certainly, just based on the discussion we had earlier regarding cellular architecture and what the cellular companies do because they have a different design goal in what they are trying to do and they keep the towers low to the ground on purpose. But, they have dozens, dozens, and dozens of towers just in the Roswell area and so that becomes cost prohibitive for a municipality to do that because they are generating revenue off of those the way a commercial carrier is. The other parameter is not just what your maximum height is, but how much is too much because you can run those parameters almost to an infinite number of permutations. If you give some parameters, we can try to establish, you would be at least at this many sites to achieve the same level of coverage with a 250 foot tower or 200 foot tower.” Councilmember Dippolito replied, “So what other parameters would you need?” Mr. Bethea replied, “What would be the maximum height you would be willing to entertain and what would be the maximum number of sites given a fixed cost of equipment that is at the base of that tower. How much additional cost would it be - \$3million, \$5million; at what point do we stop?” Councilmember Dippolito stated he did not have an answer for him. Mayor Wood stated, “To answer the question if we want to, I’m sure the consultants will work as long as hard and run as many permutations as you are willing to pay for. So from a standpoint of what can the consultants do, yes, but if you all decide to send it back to consultants, I think you need parameters.”

Councilmember Wynn referring to a discussion approximately two hours ago when it was stated that “200 foot elevations you still need the line of site.” She asked if she was correct; the line of site is still needed regardless of the height of the tower. Mr. Bethea replied, “The towers need

line of site to each for the microwave dishes to be able to see each other, yes. You are primarily working from the line of site to the portable radio itself. It has to at least clear minimum terrain.” Councilmember Wynn said she heard from Captain Sweeney that it is necessary to go north due to the ridge on Cox Road, and that on Fouts Road there are bowls around Riverside up to Azaela and why the height is very important. Referring to the comment to go to six towers, Councilmember Wynn stated, “It might not be six towers, it could be twelve, fourteen, sixteen, or eighteen towers. If we give you a parameter of 250 feet you could come back and say it could be twenty towers. Or, if we tell you 250 feet it could be fifteen towers.” Mr. Bethea stated that is correct. Councilmember Wynn said, “So, we would have to find twelve, fifteen, or twenty sites for these towers, am I correct?” Mr. Bethea replied, “Potentially. You would have to run the analysis to determine what that exact number is.” Comments made from the audience prompted Mayor Wood to remind everyone this was not the opportunity for public comment during the meeting itself. Councilmember Wynn stated she was trying to get an idea of worst case scenario. Mr. Bethea replied, “Yes, it could be that.” Councilmember Wynn noted that each tower will require equipment and roads. Mr. Bethea replied, “Yes.” Councilmember Wynn said, “And the price does not change on the height of the towers.” Mr. Bethea replied that is correct. Councilmember Wynn said, “What is the cost per tower, right now, the estimated cost per tower for the equipment.” Mr. Bethea replied, “For the shelter and the equipment that is inside it, so excluding the tower structure itself, just the building and the equipment inside of it for the configuration that the Authority is undertaking is approximately \$600,000 per site.” Councilmember Wynn said, “So, if we double, that is \$1.8million more that we would have to pay if we went to six towers.” Mr. Bethea replied, “Each additional, so to go from three sites to eight sites, would be additional \$1.8million.” Councilmember Wynn replied, “If we have to go to ten sites, and whatever.” Mr. Bethea replied, “That would be correct.” Councilmember Wynn said her understanding is that if Council votes on Cox Road and Hembree Road tonight, Fouts is a done deal. If we only vote on Hembree tonight, is Cox and Fouts a done deal?” Mr. Bethea replied, “No ma’am.”

Councilmember Price referring to depictions in the Council Chambers asked if those are current and also future depictions. Chief Grant replied he would look closer at the maps to be certain. Mayor Wood replied that his recollection is that there is a third map which shows Litchfield having very poor coverage under the current system, and that it had been shown on the overhead. Mayor Wood asked that staff pull up the current system map on the overhead for comparison to the two depictions on display. Councilmember Price said, “I know we are talking about a different type of system and more reliable system, on the other hand if we are talking now about coverage, I am not sure other than the Chattahoochee River, we are seeing that huge of an increase in coverage and it doesn’t really surprise anybody, I guess, to see that Johns Creek pulled out because the new system doesn’t seem to offer them improvement. What percent are we calling ideal, desirable.”

Chief Grant displayed the current Fulton County system on the overhead. Captain Sweeney stated, “The map on the left is indicative of no Fouts Road site. We pulled it out of there completely to see what the coverage area is. If you notice the red triangles; there is no red triangle down on Fouts.” He pointed out the problem areas on the map.

Councilmember Price asked if that is with a “whole new system or using existing towers.” Chief Grant stated the map on the left displayed the coverage using existing towers. He said there is not a tower in east Roswell at this time. Councilmember Price stated, “Right, but are those towers falling apart?” Mayor Wood asked Captain Sweeney to come back to the podium. Captain Sweeney stated, “What you are seeing on the overhead is the existing Fulton County system as we know it today, that is what we talked on today.” He also pointed out the proposed system for

the North Fulton Regional Radio Authority. He said they are identical in coverage, except for, "We pulled out Fouts Road because one of the questions that came from Mr. Richardson in Twelvestones, was what happens; we haven't seen the map without the tower there; what coverage does it provide." Mayor Wood clarified that the map on the left showed the Hembree Road location and the Cox Road location. Captain Sweeney agreed; he said everything in the system that is proposed on the northside, except for Fouts, on the left. Councilmember Price asked what another red dot meant on the map of the east side. Captain Sweeney replied, "That is the tower we are leasing that is on Johns Bridge Road." He confirmed that it will be part of the system; it is one of the ones that the City has already secured. Councilmember Price asked if it is newer than the others; is there any reason not to supplement the existing towers. Captain Sweeney replied, "That tower is a tower that is sitting right next to a much shorter Fulton County tower that doesn't provide us coverage in the area. It is a great place for a tower because of its altitude or its ground elevation. A company, SBA, built the tower there that is 350 feet. It is pretty much empty at the top. We've contracted with them, the Authority has, to take the top of the tower, which by the way, improves the coverage in Johns Creek, significantly." Councilmember Price said, "Johns Creek seems to have a rather lack." Captain Sweeney replied, "There is doubt about that and I can say that if they had been part of the original negotiations with us when we were deciding where to put towers and looking at the 76 maps that we have trying to put them like a chess game that would give the most bang for the buck, as Mr. Bethea referred to, is that we would have put a tower out there quite possibly, and the system may have been cumulatively more than \$16 million, but they weren't involved in that. They backed out." Councilmember Price replied, "That still begs the question though that they are adjacent to us and in the future for mutual aid, etc., don't we need to communicate with them? I don't like to see us punishing them." Captain Sweeney replied, "We're not punishing them, but everybody is bringing equal value to the table I think. They had the chance to do that and they didn't. They still have mobile coverage out there." Mayor Wood replied, "Councilmember Price, I am confident that if we want to put another tower in and pay for it, they would be happy with our tower. But, this is what the cities are paying for that are participating. Johns Creek has chosen not to participate so we are not punishing them, we are just not providing them service that is unnecessary for us that they may wish and they haven't participated in. There is no effort to punish Johns Creek; we are simply trying to set up a system and this tower although it is located in Johns Creek, we didn't locate it there to serve Johns Creek, we located it there because it was the best tower we could find to complete service to Alpharetta and Roswell. There is no intention for punishment. It was done because it made sense." Councilmember Price said, "Right. But at some point they are going to have, well, I know they are talking about going with Forsyth. It is all very confusing. If Fulton has to put something there, then it would sort of behoove us to have some control over that site if they put another one there. Anyway, hopefully, we will go back to the drawing board and work on some of this. I just want, for the record, to say that the Eiffel Tower is 1,034 feet so there is probably no comparison that we would have something at the height of the Eiffel Tower. Another thing that kind of disturbed me earlier; a couple of the earlier slides seemed to be this rush, rush, rush. I have always been told that if someone is trying to sell you an investment and they are telling you it is only going to be good till midnight, you just don't even talk to them anymore. When I see that on the slides it gets my neck up a little when I see somebody say we've got to decide this, we've got to decide this. I know we are behind the eight ball over time and we need to do something but I am sure another few weeks of discussing this whole system in total would not hurt. I will certainly defer to Council Wynn since it is her department but I would certainly be in favor of deferring this."

Councilmember Diamond said when she looked up the Fulton County proposal for them to do the whole system it did not include anything upgraded on the east side; it was an alternative potential future. She asked Captain Sweeney if that is correct. Captain Sweeney replied, "The original

proposal that I read was that they were going to put no new sites to the east at all. The Johns Creek site that we referred to, which is the right triangle, the SBA site, they were going to put something on their existing tower and that is as far east. They have no intention of adding a tower to cover Johns Creek.” Councilmember Diamond asked, “And so if any of the areas of coverage that we have been asking about for ten years or so, were any of those going to be upgrades with the system they are proposing?” Captain Sweeney replied, “Not in Phase One. They provided a document to Ms. Love and the Council, I believe recently that directs that they would only do a Phase One installation; their intent because, really I don’t think they have a plan, is that they were going to put it on the six existing sites north of I-285, only.”

Councilmember Igleheart asked if the tower height is reduced to 250 feet, how many towers would then be required and what parameter area; could it for example be possible that if it is dropped to 250 feet it would take two towers or if dropped to 200 feet it would take four towers. He asked how long it would take to make this determination, and if it can be made. Mr. Bethea replied, “You don’t really know until you start doing it. It is a very iterative process. You adjust a parameter and then you run the simulation; this is just computer simulation. That is what you are looking at. What happens is you adjust parameters say, ‘I’m going to drop all these to 200 feet and then you see what coverage holes that opens up and you run it again. It becomes a very iterative process and it is as much art as it is science to be able to do it quickly and be able to determine what is the right thing to push and pull and adjust to yield the right design. The simulation tools have gotten better to automate some of that, but it is still a fairly iterative process. It is hard to judge but is it something that can be done within weeks.” Councilmember Igleheart stated Council obviously does not know the parameters to provide, but if we do know that every fifty feet that is dropped would increase two sites or becomes something like that number, then everyone would have an actual figure to be dealing with for 300 feet, for 200 feet, and an extra \$3 million. Mr. Bethea replied, “It could very well be a different answer, per site. It depends on the immediate topology around that site. Completely for arguments sake, say tower “A” I reduce by 100 feet and that may require me to build just one more site, but this site over here, just because of the topology that site sits on and the surrounding topology if I drop that site under, it may cause me to build two more sites to get the same equivalent coverage. It is very unique and specific to the topology around where you are putting that tower site.” Councilmember Igleheart replied, “Because if I understand correctly, the parameters we started with would get the least number of towers on public property and that is how we were.” Mr. Bethea replied that is correct and how it starts.

Mayor Wood called for further questions. None were heard. Mayor Wood called for a motion.

Councilmember Wynn expressed her appreciation to everyone who came to the meeting this evening. She noted that this is a difficult decision for Council to make; Council is concerned about protecting all 90,000 citizens of Roswell as best as they can; she clarified that this radio system is also for the City’s first responders. Councilmember Wynn stated, “The system has gone down eight times. When I say the system has gone down, it is countywide down time. Not just here in Roswell, not just in north Fulton, it is all of Fulton County. We cannot have our first responders in a burning house with a mask on and all of a sudden they can’t talk to one another. That is what has happened; they can’t talk to one another; they can’t see one another; they have to back out. We had an issue on Oxbo Road that outer perimeter SWAT could not talk to the inner perimeter SWAT. They had to go to cellphones. The motion I am going to make I know is not going to make a lot of people happy but I have to look at everything. I have been dealing with this for two years. I understand what is going on.”

1st Motion: Councilmember Wynn moved for **Approval of the North Fulton Regional Radio System Tower sites to be located in the City of Roswell on Hembree Road and Cox Road and leased to the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (NFRRSA).**

Councilmember Wynn stated her motion was to approve the Cox Road site with the criteria that it will be no more than 350 feet, and that it would stay on the Fire Station #6 site which gives us some latitude about where we can position that one; with this motion it is to include Hembree Road with no height restriction because it is located in a Commercial Light Industrial area and 400 feet is needed there.

Mayor Wood stated, “We have a motion for somewhere on the Fire Station property on Cox Road with a 350 feet max; Hembree Road 400 foot max.”

The Mayor called for a second. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Wood asked Councilmember Wynn if she had an alternate motion. Councilmember Wynn said, “Yes sir, I do. I had a feeling that was going to happen. I apologize to my first responders out there.”

2nd Motion: Councilmember Wynn moved to approve the Hembree Road site and to defer the Cox Road site to the Mayor and Council meeting on September 11, 2013, along with Fouts Road.

Mayor Wood for clarification asked Councilmember Wynn if the Hembree Road site was a maximum of 400 feet. Councilmember Wynn replied yes.

Mayor Wood asked if there was a second on the motion to approve the Hembree Road site for 400 feet. Councilmember Diamond seconded. Mayor Wood called for further discussion.

Council comments:

Councilmember Price said, “If negotiations or discussions with Fulton County yield some fruit, and the existing towers can be modified, added to, et cetera, would this one even be needed at Hembree Road?”

Mayor Wood replied, “The vote is to approve this site. There will be regulatory discussions. Gentlemen, if we approve this tonight, when would we be through the regulatory process.” Mr. Bethea replied, “A minimum of ninety days.” Mayor Wood stated that negotiations with Fulton County will continue during those ninety days and even after the regulatory process, then there is a bidding process. Mayor Wood asked how long the bidding process and the construction would take. Mr. Bethea replied, “Just the bidding process could take sixty to ninety days.”

Mayor Wood stated that would add another ninety days, so this is up to 180 days, and it would also require approval of the lease; this would mean at least 180 days before there is breaking ground. Within that 180 days, the City will continue discussions with Fulton County. If Fulton County comes to the table, there is no intention of this Council to duplicate services but being behind Clayton County is not where the City wants to be nor is it where any Councilmember wants for the City of Roswell first responders; they need first rate equipment and first-rate technology. The Mayor said delaying this decision until Fulton County comes to the table, if it is beyond 180 days, he did not think any Council member would support it.

Mayor Wood stated, “So the answer is, we will continue Fulton County negotiations, and there is always that opportunity for something to turn, but the motion here tonight would be Hembree Road, 400 foot max, the process begins. The process is not complete; there is the regulatory

process, negotiating the lease, further discussions, all those can change. We may get in the regulatory process and find there is something unanticipated. I hope it is not, but it is possible. That is where we are, so if you are saying will we continue negotiations with Fulton County, yes, but I will tell you you'll have at least 180 days to work something out with Fulton County before you break ground, if they come to the table and change their mind."

Councilmember Diamond stated she was happy to have the discussion about the next two towers. She said that as a lifetime resident of Fulton County, she thought that some people have been led to believe that this is some kind of spat where we are all just pointing at each other and not really be effective. She said, "The problems in Fulton County are systemic and wide and well documented. There is a reason that our legislature, the State Legislature, took action this year to try to curtail some of the punitive actions that go on at Fulton County. If you have lived here any amount of time, and as a lifetime resident, I thought I knew how bad it was until I got in this job. I cannot tell you the things we have seen, and to put our first responders in the hands of Fulton County and hope they will come up with a system, I think that is irresponsible, and I will not support that. How we go about it we can talk about that, but relying on the County, I am not comfortable with. I think we can come to some kind of agreement. It is about control. They want us to build it. They are happy for us to build it but they want us to hand it over when that is over and then charge us what they choose to charge us at some undetermined amount to use it. I am not going to be a part of that." Councilmember Diamond reiterated that she was happy to talk about how to go about it but she would not put our fate in the hands of Fulton County.

Councilmember Dippolito expressed his wholehearted agreement with Councilmember Diamond's statements. He said, "It is critical for us to move forward on this and it is critical for us to be in control of the situation. I still would like to see options on the other towers because they are in more residential areas. I know we are deferring Fouts Road but moving that further back toward the park helps immensely in that situation. Cox Road has not had the same level of scrutiny as Fouts Road just because we haven't had the public feedback until tonight on that particular site. I would love for us to look at alternatives and see if we could figure out reducing those heights to 250 feet, trying to stay there. Let's see what that does and if we can make that work. It may turn out that we will have two towers that will have to be directly into residential areas on the east side which is not as good as having one tower in the park where we can hide it for the most part. We don't know the answer to that and I would like to know that answer before we move forward."

Mayor Wood stated, "Right now, the vote is not on deferring on Cox Road, which I anticipate will pass. The immediate vote before Council is on Hembree Road. Are you suggesting we defer Hembree?"

Councilmember Dippolito stated he understood and was explaining his vote. Councilmember Dippolito said, "I would be supportive of Hembree Road because it is in a very industrial area, particularly that location. The other two sites I would like to see some further study on so I will support the motion for Hembree."

Mayor Wood asked that comments at this time be regarding the Hembree Road site. Councilmember Igleheart asked if the motion was to defer both sites, Hembree Road and Cox Road. Mayor Wood replied that Councilmember Wynn had proposed that but the motion and the second was limited to the Hembree Road site; Cox Road would be taken up separately.

Councilmember Orlans replied, "They all go together to some extent. I think we can look at some alternatives for the other two sites. I think it is pretty definite that we need a system. As

Councilmember Diamond mentioned, we have tried to work with Fulton County for years on this. It is something we needed a long time ago. I don't see them jumping in to do it for North Fulton the way we need to do it. Those are things that are going to have to be taken care of on another day. I have to believe, too, from the elected officials that I know, when it gets to them, they are not going to want to spend the money to duplicate systems in Fulton County, so I think the negotiations hopefully will go to the best of working together and we can get moving forward with the Hembree tower and look at these alternatives on the other sites to make sure we have covered all bases. Let's move forward with this one."

Vote for approval of the Hembree Road site, maximum 400 feet: Councilmember Orlans, Councilmember Igleheart, Councilmember Wynn, Councilmember Dippolito, and Councilmember Diamond voted in favor. Councilmember Price opposed.

Return to Cox Road site deferral.

Mayor Wood stated he was returning to the Cox Road site. The Mayor asked Councilmember Dippolito to authorize a further study of tower heights. He noted that Councilmember Dippolito mentioned earlier that he would like to see a study completed of multiple towers more than just the one on these two sites. Councilmember Dippolito replied yes. Mayor Wood said he would like to limit the number of meetings, and be certain that Council has all the information they need to make the decision. He suggested that if the Council wants to do a further study, he would suggest that be put on the table and find out how long that would take to prevent another deferral of this item. Mayor Wood asked Council to discuss if they wish to further study, what the study would be, and how long it would take before this comes back. Councilmember Dippolito replied, "My recommendation would be to try to limit the towers to 250 feet, do a couple if iterations. The gentleman from COMMDEx mentioned it may take a week to do that, more or less. We should have that information fairly quickly and well within time for the September 11, 2013 meeting." Mayor Wood noted that City Administrator Kay Love mentioned potential contractual issues. Ms. Love stated, "Mr. Bethea, COMMDEx is under contract for the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority. The City Council of Roswell is contemplating asking for some iterations or additional work. How does that fall into this current scope of work. Would that be falling within the iteration allowance that we have for consideration for site tower selection or would that be a scope of work that would need to be contracted separately." Mr. Bethea replied, "It is not currently in our scope of work to perform right now." Ms. Love asked if the City would have a choice of going back to the Authority with the Council's recommendation for the Authority to take that up and engage that as an additional scope of work or contemplate contracting that separately through the City of Roswell directly with COMMDEx. Mr. Bethea replied, "If that is what the City wishes us to do, then yes." Ms. Love replied, "And depending on the costs, that may or may not fall within our procurement threshold."

Councilmember Wynn asked if it would be possible to know by tomorrow or by Wednesday morning regarding the cost to do the extra studies. Mr. Bethea replied yes. Councilmember Wynn stated she would like to know within 36 hours instead of 48 hours.

Councilmember Wynn asked Ms. Love if it is under her purview to accept would this need an RFQ or RFP? Ms. Love replied, "Correct, depending on what the dollar amount is, we could require to get quotes or if it is a large enough dollar amount it could require a competitive process, depending on what the scope of what entails." Councilmember Wynn replied, "Then, I am kind of at a dilemma here because I know I am going to be making a motion for a deferral, but I don't know how long this deferral should be. Should it be until September 11, November, December, January, February, March? If we have to go through the RFP process again, that

could add how many days or months, or weeks.” Mayor Wood said he thought there were two choices, either schedule it for September 11, 2013 and you may or may not go forward and the word may have to go back out to this people to defer if it cannot be put together, or defer it until October in which you are pretty comfortable to have everything worked out. Councilmember Wynn asked City Administrator Kay Love how long it would take if an RFP is necessary. Ms. Love replied, it would need to be on the streets for thirty days; the City would have to evaluate it. Ms. Love stated she thought forty-five days minimum, depending on what is in the scope of work. There has been a lot of conversation tonight and in fairness to COMMDEX, they would need an opportunity to go back and develop that scope of work, and what the task would actually be so that we would see how that falls and what actually we are procuring. Councilmember Wynn replied, “Mr. Mayor, let me run this by you, sir. Defer Cox Road until September 11, 2013; we should know within a week if we need to go out for an RFP, and I think at the time, if you don’t mind, we could bring it to Council however you would like to, and see if we need to defer it further or how we are going to do.” Mayor Wood noted that City Administrator Kay Love would like to respond. Ms. Love stated, “One option, as this is the challenge of doing this on the fly, is trying to consider everything. The North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority has a meeting on September 3rd. It is a matter that they could take up to see if is this something that the Authority wants to contract for. It is not just the City of Roswell. The City of Roswell is a participant in this ‘journey’ so, the Authority could decide to engage COMMDEX through their current contract through a change order depending on what the cost was and what the limits within the Authority are. So, we just need to know what the estimated cost is and then we can best determine whether it is going to go through the Authority or it is going to be a separate contract with the City of Roswell.”

Mayor Wood stated, “Councilmember Wynn, this would be my recommendation. Councilmember Wynn asked if she could make one more question. Councilmember Wynn asked, “How long would it take after you know to do these studies?” Mr. Bethea replied, “I would anticipate you could probably complete it within one to two weeks.” Councilmember Wynn responded, “Let’s go ten days?” Mr. Bethea replied, “Split the difference.” Councilmember Wynn said, “Ten business days or ten calendar days?” Mr. Bethea replied, “I don’t want to tie my engineers up. Conservatively ten working days, but we would like to complete that sooner.” Councilmember Wynn thanked him.

Mayor Wood responded, “Councilmember Wynn this is my recommendation. My recommendation is that you defer it until September 11th. See what, in talking with the Authority, with Ms. Love, talking with COMMDEX, get an idea, and you should know a week before, you know by the second meeting with this Council, whether or not you are going to be able to meet that time zone and so we could, in plenty of time for all the residents of Roswell to know, we could either confirm that it is going forward, or defer further if it looks like you’ve got more time. My recommendation is move to defer as you have suggested, and if you need more time you can have a further vote to defer. I am sure this Council and with sentiment of the citizens, if more time is needed to get all the answers you all have wanted, they have already shown a willingness to get all the facts on the table. And, I don’t see a problem with a second deferral, if you needed it. If you don’t need it, move forward.”

Councilmember Wynn responded, “So, Mr. Mayor that is how come you make the big bucks.” Mayor Wood stated he was just making suggestions.

Motion:

Councilmember Wynn stated, “How about this, just short and sweet. Defer Cox Road until September 11.”

Mayor Wood stated, "There is a motion to defer to September 11 with a possibility of later deferral if this Council chooses. Do we have a motion to defer until the 11th. So we would have both things coming forward." Councilmember Wynn replied, "Yes sir." Mayor Wood asked for a second.

Further Council questions:

Councilmember Dippolito stated, "Clarification on the motion. Are we including as part of the deferral, that we are going to have COMMDEX give us some pricing and make those decisions?" Councilmember Wynn replied, "That is part of it." Mayor Wood stated, "We would be developing it. That is not part of the motion. It is a motion to defer." Councilmember Dippolito responded, "I wanted to make sure that we are deferring..." Councilmember Wynn stated, "We are deferring, but were giving guidance to do that." Mayor Wood stated, "Here is where we are. We don't know whether we are going to have to contract for it or North Fulton is going to contract for it. I am hoping that Kay prevails upon the Authority to move this forward and if not we may have to." Councilmember Dippolito stated, "I just want to make sure that the guidance is understood." Mayor Wood replied, "The guidance is understood. We've got the guidance. We have a motion to defer." Councilmember Dippolito replied, "Right, thank you." Councilmember Wynn replied, "This said the guidance is understood." Councilmember Dippolito replied, "In that case, I would second."

Mayor Wood clarified there was a second to defer. He called for further discussion on the motion to defer until the 11th. There was no further Council discussion.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.