



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

5:30 PM

Council Chamber

Present: 9 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. Wells

Call to Order

This City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the above listed members present.

Also present were Interim City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Vaughan recognized Councilmember Wells to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

Interim City Manager David Parrish recognized Andrew Harvey of Guilford Metro 911 who served as Courier for the meeting.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Mayor Vaughan explained the Council procedure for conduct of the meeting.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 18-0220](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Jack D. Zimmerman

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record; invited the family to the podium; and recognized persons in attendance in the audience.

Ms. Zimmerman voiced appreciation for the resolution on behalf of the family; and spoke to Mr. Zimmerman's work within the community.

Councilmember Wells spoke to Mr. Zimmerman's dedication to the community; and to her experience working with him.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hoffmann, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

087-18 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE JACK D. ZIMMERMANN

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2017, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Jack D. Zimmerman at the age of 92;

WHEREAS, Jack D. Zimmerman was born October 13, 1925 in northeast Guilford County, moved to Greensboro in the early 1950's, and served in the United States Army;

WHEREAS, while serving on the Greensboro Police Department as a Patrol Officer and a Detective from 1951 through 1980, Mr. Zimmerman was instrumental in the organization of the Greensboro/Guilford County Crime Stoppers;

WHEREAS, his service to the community included the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress, the Guilford County Commission on Aging, Transportation Planning Board, the Transportation Advisory Board, the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, Rosewood Neighborhood Association, NC Retired Police Officers Association, Wilcox Neighborhood Association, was a founding member of the Northeast Greensboro Business Association, was a long time member of the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Greensboro, the Greensboro Civitan Club and assisted in the organization of National Night Out events;

WHEREAS, Mr. Zimmerman was a distributor for Amigo Wheel Chair Company in which he championed disabled senior citizens with wheel chair needs and founded Jack Zimmerman and Associates, an Amway Product Company;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by Jack D. Zimmerman the outstanding contributions he has made to the community, and the legacy he leaves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for Jack D. Zimmerman's many years of dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Jack D. Zimmerman as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

2. [ID 18-0219](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late John Robert Stewart, Jr.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read the resolution into the record; recognized Mr. Stewart's family; his classmates from Dudley High School; presented his wife Betty with the resolution; and spoke to the decorations while attending holiday events at their home.

Ms. Stewart thanked Council for the resolution on behalf of the family.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Thurm, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

088-18 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE JOHN ROBERT STEWART, JR.

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2018, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late John Robert Stewart, Jr.;

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Navy in 1965, Stewart received an honorable discharge;

WHEREAS, upon leaving the Navy Stewart earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Guilford College; and Master's Degrees in Criminal Justice/Sociology from Nova Southeastern University and in School Administration from North Carolina A&T State University;

WHEREAS, Stewart retired in 2012 after a successful career working at Davidson College, Winston Salem State University, Shaw University, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Guilford County Schools, One Step Further Mediation Services, Mediator for the United States Postal Service, and State and Federal Courts;

WHEREAS, during his career he received a Governor's Award in 1987; served in the capacity of Administrator, Certified Mediator, Teacher, Trainer, Human Resource Director, Corrections Officer, Assistant Principal, College Professor, Vice President and President.

WHEREAS, Stewart served as a Criminal Case Consultant to various Attorneys as well as the Vice President of the Winston Salem Urban League, and was the founder and CEO of Individualized Service Providers (ISP) Mediation Company;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by John Robert Stewart, Jr. the outstanding contributions he has made to the community, and the legacy he leaves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for John Robert Stewart Jr.'s many years of dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late John Robert Stewart, Jr. as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

3. [ID 18-0207](#) Resolution Declaring the Month of May as "Bike Month" in Greensboro

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record.

**Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hightower,
to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:**

Ayes, 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower,
Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie
F. Wells

089-18 RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS 'BIKE MONTH' IN GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, National Bike Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the many benefits of bicycling, to promote bicycle safety, and to encourage residents of the City to consider the bicycle as an alternative mode of transport; and

WHEREAS, bicycling provides an economical form of transportation, recreation and physical exercise, and is an important part of the transportation mix in Greensboro and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, growing numbers of Greensboro residents are currently bicycling in the community, and bicycling travel demand is expected to continue to grow in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, the bike share provider LimeBike began operating in Greensboro in June 2017 and is expected to significantly increase levels of bicycling in the community; and

WHEREAS, enhanced public awareness of bicycle safety issues is key to reduction of crashes; and

WHEREAS, general promotion of bicycling as an active means of transportation and a healthful recreational activity has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, to help raise awareness of bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation, May 14 – 18, 2018 is designated as "Bike to Work Week"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro, consistent with the Bicycle, Pedestrian, Trails and Greenways Master Plan, seeks to improve bicycle facilities, encourage bicycling as a healthful and environmentally sound activity and to increase the popularity of bicycling; and

WHEREAS, the Greensboro Department of Transportation has a goal to install 75 miles of bicycle lanes in the City of Greensboro by the end of 2022, primarily through resurfacing and delivery of major roadway projects that include bicycle accommodations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That the month of May 2018 is hereby declared 'Bike Month' and the week of May 14-18, 2018, as Bike to Work Week; and all residents are encouraged to participate in the events planned and all road users are urged to share the road safely with bicyclists.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson recognized Taylor Hill from Piedmont Classical Academy in the audience; and spoke to Ms. Hill shadowing her for the day.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vaughan explained the order that the speakers would be taken in.

David Hamsten, 2304 Golden Gate Drive, Apt. A, thanked Council for adopting the resolution recognizing May as Bike Month; invited them to the Wheels on the Greenway event on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; referenced Vision Zero; explained the mission and work of Bikesboro; spoke to the use of the word accident rather than crash; highlighted the bike giveaway program in the community; spoke to working with neighborhoods in connecting to people who were in need of bikes; and voiced the importance of pedestrian crossings and safety as well as bike lanes.

Jamey Gaddy, 4900 Tower Road, Unit D spoke to SCAT Paratransit system issues; voiced concern with delayed trips; to getting to work and appointments late; spoke to the tripping hazards of the bus lifts; and informed Council she had spoken with Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) board members but received no response.

Councilmember Hightower emphasized the need to address the issue; spoke to changes being made; to previous conversations; and suggested Ms. Gaddy contact Candace at Transdev for assistance.

Diana Davis, 1102 McDowell Drive provided an update from the Greensboro Regional Realtors Association; information on new and existing home sales; average sales price of residential properties in the City; spoke to the quality of life and walkability in the community; and referenced a speech made about Smart Growth by Chris Leinberger.

James Rosa, 707 Kirkman Street provided the history of his drug use and addiction; referenced being homeless; provided his experience coming through a program to overcome his addiction; and emphasized the need to address

the opioid epidemic.

Jeff Pruitt, 1050 Revolution Mill Drive voiced concern for the opioid crisis; spoke to the work of Community Care of North Carolina; prescription opioid addiction; explained a program called Project Lazarus that involved the use of Narcan by public safety personnel; thanked law enforcement agencies for their work on the issue; emphasized the need for treatment and counseling in all communities; asked Councilmembers to take part in the Healthy Guilford Coalition; and emphasized the need to overcome the drug addiction issue.

Michael Pippin, 1907 Gracewood Drive voiced his concerns with the investment made at the North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) Farm; referenced a lease agreement with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and addressed the impact to existing facilities when funding had been provided to other entities for similar programs.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to documentation she had regarding the project; and suggested Mr. Pippin reach out to the Governmental Affairs Department at NC A&T.

Mayor Vaughan stated that Council would hear from speakers regarding homelessness and panhandling at this time.

Anna Heroy, 320 S. Elm Street spoke to their business along South Elm Street; stated that restrictions needed to be placed on panhandling; voiced concern for the impact panhandling had on their business; and spoke to persons feeling intimidated by panhandlers.

William Heroy, 320 S. Elm Street voiced he had compassion for the homeless; referenced a Mike Wallace interview on homelessness; voiced concern with panhandling near his business; suggested the City provide a place for the homeless to go during the day; emphasized he would like to remain Downtown after 41 years; and requested an open discussion on the issue.

Marcus Hyde, 211 S. Mendenhall Street spoke in support of the City Workers Union; thanked Council for the resolution changing the name of Aycock Street; spoke to persons who were homeless; decisions that they made; voiced disappointment in the legal advice provided to Council at the last meeting; concern of the criminalization of poverty; provided a quotation from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and added that City workers deserved more than \$15 an hour.

City Attorney Tom Carruthers stated his office would be willing to meet with Mr. Hyde; spoke to finding a common ground; and the need for discussion on the issue.

Richard Vaught, 407 E. Washington Street voiced concern for the decision made by Council on the panhandling ordinance; the advice of the City Attorney; suggested that a Poverty Board be formed; and inquired about other forms of solicitation being within a certain distance of ATM machines.

Bryce Carter, referenced information that had been provided to Council; informed Council he would be speaking to the \$15 minimum wage; referenced market adjustments for City salaries; and encouraging people to work for the City.

Arthur Erickson, 617 N. Mendenhall Street spoke to a joint proposal with the Fire Worker's and the City Worker's Unions; suggested all City workers be eligible for a step plan rather than merit increases; requested that City salaries be moved to the 75th percentile range to create a competitive edge in recruitment and retention; and stated he had been with the City for 21 years.

Charles French, 9 Grassy Knoll Circle thanked Council for their leadership in handling the tornado recovery; emphasized that the community had come together to help each other to strengthen Greensboro; asked Council to remember the workers during the budget cycle; stated today was International Workers Day; provided an overview of what the City Workers Union was requesting; and referenced partners who were assisting the community during the recovery.

Councilmember Hightower thanked Mr. French for his work removing storm debris; and voiced appreciation for the workers.

Mustafa Parks, 1616 East Market Street stated he was an advocate for City workers; referenced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream; the impact of raising the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour; highlighted the number of times the minimum wage had been raised since 1938; spoke to the difference in wage increases between managers and subordinates; and asked that Council do the right thing.

Lindsay Caesar, 2332 Hiawatha Drive stated she would continue to support the Homeless Union; referenced the work of the City workers who stepped up to assist with the storm recovery; working conditions of City workers who restored water during the winter storms; spoke to the wages of City employees; requested the process transition from merit increases to step plans; and emphasized that City workers deserved to earn \$15.00 an hour.

Alex MacMillan, 2406 Gracewood Court mentioned International Workers Day celebrated worldwide; stated he was an educator with Guilford County Schools; spoke to the impact of employee wages on families; to the role City workers played in keeping the City running; to issues educators faced; invited people to join them in Raleigh on May 16th to protest; spoke to human rights; and urged Council to implement a step plan for all workers.

Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street voiced support for the City workers; stated she was in support of a step plan similar to police and fire; to competitive wages paid to City workers; requested that the guidelines for trash pickup be advertised to educate citizens; and commended City workers for their work.

Mayor Vaughan thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to human rights issues; to the root cause of homelessness; emphasized that Council had prioritized housing as an issue which would assist in ending homelessness; voiced that she would not stand behind separate but equal policies; referenced a march she had attended in Los Angeles with regard to International Workers Day; and spoke to the obligation of the Council.

Councilmember Hightower gave kudos to, and spoke to the importance of, supporting City workers; referenced campaigning to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour; spoke to her commitment to moving things forward; and to looking into a step program for all City workers.

Mayor Vaughan expressed appreciation for all of those who assisted with the tornado relief; provided an overview of what had transpired over the past two weeks to clean up impacted neighborhoods; voiced concern for the trauma that people experienced; referenced her commitment for benefited City employees; and verified the minimum wage issue would be included in the upcoming budget.

Councilmember Wells thanked the City workers for their work over the past several weeks; stated they were well equipped to perform the job; emphasized that Council was listening to concerns of those who spoke this evening; and reiterated Council's commitment to the resolving issues.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated she resided in the Kings Forest neighborhood; thanked the workers for their efforts; emphasized that it took a village; that she would support the \$15.00 per hour minimum wage; she believed in livable wages; and voiced support for the City Workers Union's other requests.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter echoed what had been stated; thanked the workers for their dedication; verified Council was listening; voiced the need for a healthy organization; and thanked City employees for what they did.

III. ITEMS CALLING PUBLIC HEARINGS (One Vote)

There were no items calling public hearings for this agenda.

Matters to be discussed by the Mayor and Members of the Council

Councilmember Hightower expressed gratitude to City workers; voiced that she was grateful for those who had helped the storm victims; emphasized that there was still a long way to go to rebuild a better East Greensboro; spoke to the need to engage stakeholders impacted by the panhandling ordinance; to the unintended consequences of the ordinance; voiced that she wanted things to be fair and equal; and stated she wished to bring the item up for reconsideration this evening.

Mayor Vaughan confirmed that Councilmember Hightower wished to change her vote from the last meeting on the item.

Councilmember Outling voiced concern that a substantive action be considered during the community forum meeting; referenced the format for the first meeting of the month; and added that Council should follow the process.

City Attorney Carruthers explained the procedure to reconsider an item; and spoke to the votes on an ordinance.

Councilmember Outling expressed concern that this might set a precedent; and spoke to expectations of people for the community forum type meetings.

Councilmember Hightower stated that she wished the item to be reconsidered; verified that the request had not come from outside; spoke to pushing policy; and reiterated that she was asking if the item could be reconsidered this evening in order for her to change her vote.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter recalled that Councilmember Kennedy had been denied a vote at the last community forum meeting; emphasized that items needing a vote should be delayed; and stated she would prefer not to set a precedent.

Mayor Vaughan stated the two situations were not similar.

Councilmember Wells expressed that Council needed to follow the process for the community forum meetings; stated she understood Councilmember Hightower wished to change her vote; and added that the vote should be done at the second meeting of the month.

Councilmember Hightower reminded Council she had made the request at the end of the last meeting; emphasized this was not a new item; that she wished to change her vote; and stated she would request the item at the next meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy suggested that Councilmember Hightower request a vote to be taken at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Hightower requested that the item be placed on the May 15th meeting of Council for reconsideration in order that she could change her vote.

Staff confirmed that the item would be placed on the next agenda.

Councilmember Thurm thanked those who had assisted with the tornado recovery; and commended those behind the scenes who kept things going.

Councilmember Hightower congratulated Interim Assistant City Manager Steve Drew.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter provided congratulations to Mr. Drew; kudos to the public safety workers; and stated that the entire City had pulled together during the efforts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked Jon Bon Jovi for his \$10,000 contribution toward the tornado recovery; stated she would be speaking at the National Day of Prayer on Thursday on the Governmental Plaza at 11:45 a.m.; asked Council if they would be willing to have a photograph made with Ms. Greensboro before the next Council meeting;

and thanked all of the people that assisted with the tornado recovery.

Councilmember Wells thanked those who came from other cities to assist with recovery efforts; spoke to the neighborhood support; and emphasized that East Greensboro would recover for a better future.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced agreement with the comments that had been made; emphasized she was proud of the way the community responded; stated May was Mental Health Awareness Month; and voiced that mental health was a critical part of the community.

Councilmember Hoffmann reiterated what had been said regarding City staff; stated the staff could provide training to other cities; spoke to what had been accomplished over the past two weeks; to attending events at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; stated that the series of public engagements with the community for the Cultural Arts Plan would be rescheduled for June 6, 7, 8 and 9; and would be advertised for citizens next week.

Matters to be presented by the City Manager

Interim City Manager David Parrish welcomed Acting Assistant City Manager Steve Drew; commended the City staff for their response to the recent tornado; stated the City led the way both regionally and nationally; spoke to the leadership in the organization; and voiced appreciation for Council recognition of staff.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to a program of the Greensboro Bar Association in working with qualified persons for expungement of their records; referenced the assistance of Legal Aid in the process; stated that over 350 individuals had participated; that approximately 80 had been signed up for referral to the Bar Association; and stated that the City Legal Department would be assisting with ten cases that would take approximately seven to ten months to complete.

Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:37 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR