



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

3:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on the above date in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiteer, Mike Barber, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Justin Outling and Tony Wilkins.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers and City Clerk Betsey Richardson.

2. Presentations

1. [ID 15-0739](#) Human Relations Commission Update - In-State Tuition Equality

Councilmember Abuzuaiteer commended the Human Relations and College Commissions in moving the item forward; recognized members present from the Human Relations Commission; stated the Commission had adopted the resolution in April 2015; and recognized Dr. Love Crossling for a presentation.

Dr. Crossling made a PowerPoint Presentation on the campaign for tuition equity; outlined the criteria to obtain in-state tuition; spoke to the immigration population; to the importance of tuition equity; referenced the cost of out-of-state tuition; made comparisons in tuition costs, emphasized the changing demographics in the area; ratio of working adults; demand in labor force; outlined the benefits in supporting tuition equity; and spoke to the need for collaboration to address the issue as well as to realize the importance of the topic. Dr. Crossling invited Maria Cortez-Perez and Saul Rodriguez to share their personal experiences in seeking in-state tuition.

Ms. Perez stated she had graduated from high school; spoke to the challenges in trying to obtain financial assistance to attend college; and stated she would continue to pursue going to college.

Councilmember Barber asked Ms. Cortez to provide the history of her undocumented status; commended her for her presence; thanked her for putting a face with the issue; and spoke to the system being flawed.

Ms. Cortez spoke to her family's reasons for coming to the United States from Mexico; stressed that her parents had wanted her to receive a good education; voiced that she was dedicated to the community; and was patriotic.

Mr. Rodriguez who is currently a student at the Middle College at UNCG provided the history of his family's journey to the United States; stated he wanted to go into the medical field; and asked for Council's support for in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

Dr. Crossling stated these were just several of the many stories; and stated that she was seeking input from the Legal Department and the College Commission in moving forward.

Councilmember Hightower asked if the item could be placed on the City's Legislative agenda.

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to the process for getting this included on the Legislative Agenda.

Dr. Crossling thanked the students for sharing their personal stories; and thanked Council for consideration of the item.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer X, Exhibit No. 24 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

2. [ID 15-0740](#) ReCommunity Recycling - Contract Update

City Manager Westmoreland recognized Assistant City Manager David Parrish for presentation of the item.

Assistant City Manager Parrish provided a PowerPoint Presentation; outlined the history with ReCommunity; stated that the current contract was set to expire in 2018; explained that the recycling world had changed since 2013; spoke to modifications that had been agreed to regarding residuals and contamination; to glass recycling; voiced that state regulations had impacted the recycling industry; stated ReCommunity wanted to have discussions about rewording the contract in order to reduce costs; reminded Council of the long term relationship with ReCommunity; and to why they were here to make a presentation to Council.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced concerns regarding the City's legal obligation as a result of the bid process used for the contract; inquired about the rights to terminate the contract; asked if the City had any legal obligation to those who placed bids on but were not awarded the contract originally; and what the cost would be as a result of termination of the contract. City Attorney Carruthers verified that the City was currently involved in the contract; spoke to the City's obligation regarding termination of the contract; added that was not staff's recommendation; stated Council may want to hear the presentation; and stated it would not be illegal to terminate the contract.

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to rebidding the contract; and stated it would cost approximately \$2 million if the City chose to terminate the contract.

Discussion took place regarding impact to the City should it terminate the contract; staff's recommendation; and respecting the long term relationship between the City and ReCommunity.

Councilmember Barber asked if there was an objection to Council placing the item on the Infrastructure Committee agenda for continued discussion; added that companies did not come back to cut the City a break; and suggested continuing the dialogue.

Attorney Tom Terrell spoke to the recycling community when the contract was signed; and referenced a time when the City had asked ReCommunity to renegotiate the contract.

Councilmember Hightower suggested the item also go before the General Government Committee.

Brief discussion took place regarding the Council committee schedule for the month of September; process for committee meeting agendas; and a request for the City Clerk to provide Council with an updated meeting schedule.

Mayor Vaughan requested that City Manager Westmoreland have the exempt employee holiday pay matter in place prior to the Veterans Day holiday.

Councilmember Wilkins left the meeting at 3:44 p.m. and returned at 3:48 p.m.

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3. [ID 15-0741](#) Greensboro Fiber Initiative

City Manager Westmoreland recognized Assistant City Manager Mary Vigue for the item.

Assistant City Manager Vigue began a PowerPoint Presentation; provided the background for the item; spoke to working through the issues and the legal ramifications associated with the item; to meetings with the group that initiated the Request For Proposal out of Raleigh; why the City wanted to create its own brand; and recognized Information Technology Director Jane Nickles to continue the presentation.

Ms. Nickles continued the PowerPoint Presentation; explained what Greensboro focused on with regard to its

fiber assets; outlined the purpose for the project; added that there would be little or no cost to the City for implementation; outlined the goals and provided a map of the current fiber network for the plan; spoke the connection to City facilities; referenced the signal system project in 2008; and the benefits for Greensboro to build out a broadband network and become a gigabit City.

Discussion took place regarding the City's traffic signal capacity for the Department of Transportation; other uses of fiber optics; the recent FDC ruling which helped the City; limitation of the North Carolina Legislature; verification that the City would not be the end provider; and the City of Wilson's plan.

Ms. Nickles spoke to leasing dark fiber to companies; outlined the key objectives, reviewed the focus site map showing fiber networks around economic development areas; outlined the benefits of the plan; and stated it could potentially be a revenue source.

Assistant City Manager Vigue added that the item would go before the General Government Committee and possibly the Infrastructure Committee; confirmed that the plan would promote areas of the City that could become digital; would allow expansion to become a true gig City throughout all of Greensboro; and would ensure that underutilized areas would be covered.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about speakers from the floor discussing their candidacy from the podium during Council meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the topic.

City Attorney Carruthers stated he would provide an opinion on the issue of candidates campaigning during the Speakers from the Floor portion of the meetings; and explained the process for speakers staying on topic when speaking to business items and public hearings.

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3. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 4:01 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR