



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Monday, November 5, 2018

5:30 PM

Council Chamber

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 following members present:

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

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, Interim City Attorney Jim Hoffman, 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 Hightower to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Chamreece Diggs of the Parks and Recreation Department 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.

Councilmember Wells confirmed she was participating via telephone.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 18-0596](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Gerald Anthony White

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read the resolution into the record; provided comments regarding Mr. White; and asked Dr. Linda White to come forward.

Dr. White expressed the family's appreciation for the resolution; and spoke to her husband's character.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson recognized her daughter Shannon in the audience.

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

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

273-18 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE GERALD ANTHONY WHITE

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2018, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Gerald Anthony White;

WHEREAS, White, a native of Richmond, Virginia was a 1961 graduate of Maggie L. Walker High School; and continued his education at Morgan State College;

WHEREAS, from 1962 until 1966, White served his country in the United States Air Force;

WHEREAS, during his employment with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, White lived in various cities throughout the country;

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated member of Laughlin Memorial United Methodist Church where he served in many capacities for the following: chair of the Cemetery Committee, Financial Secretary, Finance Committee member, church Treasurer, Historian and member of the Inspirational and Chancel choirs;

WHEREAS, while serving as chair on the Cemetery Committee, White always ensured that flags were displayed properly on Veterans Day and other appropriate holidays;

WHEREAS, for 14 years, White participated in and became president of, the Spiritual Renaissance Singers of Greensboro;

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 Gerald Anthony White, 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 his 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 Gerald Anthony White as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

2. [ID 18-0687](#) Resolution Recognizing the Month of November as “No Straw November” in the City of Greensboro

Councilmember Abuzuaiter stated that Councilmember Wells was co-sponsoring the resolution; read the resolution into the record; thanked the recycling division for their work; and presented the resolution to Field Operations Senior Solid Waste Manager Chris Marriott.

Mr. Marriott thanked Council for the resolution; and their support of recycling efforts.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, 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

274-18 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2018 AS “NO STRAW NOVEMBER” IN THE CITY OF GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, an estimated 500 million straws are used and discarded every day in the United States, which is enough to wrap around the Earth two and a half times;

WHEREAS, single-use plastic is a particularly harmful form of pollution and, upon disposal, remains in the environment indefinitely, harming wildlife, impacting water quality, and marring the aesthetic character of the environment;

WHEREAS, plastic does not biodegrade in the environment, but instead breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics, which are increasingly showing up in drinking water and the tissues of aquatic animals with potentially dangerous human and environmental health impacts;

WHEREAS, single-use plastic pollution presents a danger to public health by increasing the pathogens and chemicals in waterways and lowering water quality, requiring significant resources to address;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro celebrates America Recycles Day, November 15, 2018 to promote stewardship of its natural resources, and plastics such as straws make up a large portion of the debris removed;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro wishes to support the efforts of local nonprofit groups, schools, and businesses that have pledged a commitment to No Straw November during the month of November 2018 and encourages businesses and restaurants to provide straws only upon request and to seek reusable or alternatives to plastic straws;

WHEREAS, the public is encouraged to refuse plastic straws when they are not desired and encourage local businesses they patronize to minimize plastic straw waste.

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

That it hereby recognizes the month of November 2018 as No Straw November in the City of Greensboro.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

3. [ID 18-0729](#) Resolution Declaring Saturday November 24, 2018 Small Business Saturday in the City of Greensboro

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, 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

275-18 RESOLUTION DECLARING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2018 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IN THE CITY OF GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, City of Greensboro, celebrates its local small businesses and the contributions they make to the local economy and community;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 30.2 million small businesses in the United States, they represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States, and are responsible for 65.9 percent of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2017;

WHEREAS, small businesses employ approximately 47.5 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

WHEREAS, about 90 percent of consumers in the United States say Small Business Saturday has had a positive impact on the community;

WHEREAS, an estimated 89 percent of consumers who are aware of Small Business Saturday said the day encourages them to Shop Small all year long;

WHEREAS, approximately 73 percent of consumers who reportedly Shopped Small at independently-owned retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday did so with friends or family;

WHEREAS, the most reported reason for consumers aware of the day to shop and dine at small, independently-owned businesses was to support the community;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro supports local businesses that create jobs, boost the local economy and preserve communities;

WHEREAS, advocacy groups, as well as public and private organizations, across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.

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

That it hereby declares Saturday, November 24, 2018, as:

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

And urges the residents of the community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

(Signed) Michelle Kennedy

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vaughan stated this was the time for speakers from the floor; and that speakers would be allotted five minutes each.

Stephanie McDonald, 612 South Elam Avenue stated she was a member of Working America; referenced speaking at previous meetings regarding the expansion of bus routes; spoke to what a portion of the 2016 Transportation Bond funds had been spent on; requested a breakdown of how the remaining bond funds had been allocated; voiced the need for an efficient bus system; and referenced the economic development impact with regard to public transportation.

Sondra Wright, P.O. Box 811 provided a history of the work of the Minority and Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Coordinating Committee; reminded Council it had been approximately a year since the work had begun; referenced requests made by several entities; voiced concern that an updated program had not been put into place; the importance of expertise when working on the issue; asked that the consultant, Griffin and Strong be authorized to write the program and revisions; referenced the Legal Department's initial draft of the program; expressed concern that the program assignment had been passed along to different departments; emphasized that complacency needed to stop; and requested Council to move forward with the finalization of a program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested that staff answer the questions of the speakers.

Councilmember Hightower confirmed she had some dialogue with Ms. McDonald; referenced changes that would be made to bus routes; and stated the proposed cost neutral changes would make some differences.

Mayor Vaughan requested City Manager Parrish to provide a breakdown of how the remainder of the 2016 Transportation bonds had been allocated.

Councilmember Hightower voiced agreement with Ms. Wright regarding the length of time the M/WBE issue was taking; referenced the meeting with Tammy Hall; reminded Council that the current M/WBE program was out of compliance with the state; outlined what needed to be done to bring the program into compliance; expressed that the real issue and problems were not being addressed; emphasized the need to move forward; and to put resources behind the issue.

William Belcher, 5939 West Friendly Avenue spoke on behalf of Working class and Homeless Organizing Alliance (WHOA); read a statement from the group; spoke to boycotting the businesses that supported the solicitation ordinance; the homeless bill of rights; the need to organize a poverty commission that included homeless persons; encouraged the establishment of an hourly living wage of \$15; and spoke to the rights of residents to be in public spaces.

Councilmember Kennedy referenced being a subject matter expert on homelessness; persons coming through the doors of the Interactive Resource Center (IRC); emphasized that targeting local businesses did little to face the issues Downtown; confirmed that there had been numerous meetings recently to discuss partnerships for a solution; and reiterated that targeting a small group of business owners was wrong.

Jim Waynick, address unknown spoke to the responsibility and liability of being a landlord; to rules that needed to be abided by for scooter renters/riders; expressed concern for the safety of scooters and LimeBikes in the City rights-of-ways; spoke to trip and fall lawsuits; provided photographs of scooters left around the City; voiced the need to think about pedestrians who utilized sidewalks; and about being sued as a result of scooters left in the vicinity of his properties.

Anna Schatz, student at UNCG emphasized the need for prenatal care for women in the City; spoke to the impact on women who received little or no prenatal care; importance for women to receive prenatal care after the first trimester; reasons why women did not seek prenatal care; suggested a rewards program be offered to encourage women to seek care; and asked for Council focus on unborn children.

Mayor Vaughan suggested that Ms. Schatz provide the statistics and her suggestions at a Guilford County Commissioners meeting; and stated the Commissioners met on Thursday evenings.

Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street thanked the City staff for putting together the PlanitGso meetings throughout the community; voiced concern with the lack of accountability for the Greensboro Police Department employees; referenced the top ten occupations that were more dangerous than policing; spoke to dismantling the 'blue wall'; and asked Council to watch the body worn camera video of Mr. Jones.

Brian Crean, 801 West McGee Street thanked the City for the purchase of battery operated/electric buses; voiced the need to embrace new modes of transportation; the problem with the parking of scooters and bikes; emphasized that scooters and bikes were environmentally friendly; suggested the need for a creative solution for parking them; and the need for a policy or law that regulated where scooters and bikes could be parked.

Mayor Vaughan stated that this concluded the speakers from the floor.

III. ITEMS CALLING PUBLIC HEARINGS (One Vote)

There were no items calling public hearings on this agenda.

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

Mayor Vaughan expressed on behalf of Council condolences to the family of Sheria Stringer; stated Council shared the family's difficult loss; and stood in solidarity with the City employees.

Councilmember Kennedy announced the Triad Health Project Red Ribbon Run and Aids Walk on November 17th at 2:30 p.m. at Joymongers; the upcoming Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 5:00 p.m. on November 18th at West

Market United Methodist Church; and stated that the tithes would go to support a non-profit organization.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson extended congratulations to the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NCA&T) football team; stated that Homecoming Weekend was the third largest economic event in Greensboro; and asked City Manager Parrish to research allowing residents access in and out of their neighborhoods during the event when the streets were blocked off.

Councilmember Hightower voiced the need for moving the M/WBE process forward; stated she shared some of the speaker's concerns regarding scooters; spoke to safety of persons riding said scooters; pedestrian safety; City and personal liability; stated she had questions regarding viewing the Zared Jones body worn camera footage; and asked if she could request to see the video.

Interim City Attorney Hoffman stated he would get back to her with an answer.

Discussion took place regarding Council's vote to not view the video.

Councilmember Hightower added that the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA had been torn down last Monday to make way for the new \$99 million Engineering Research and Innovative Complex at NCA&T; voiced appreciation for the contributions NCA&T had made in the City; and stated she looked forward to their continued development in 2019.

Councilmember Thurm reminded everyone that Sunday November 11th was the Friends Giving Feast at Center City Park; spoke to the event raising funds to promote free programming at the Downtown parks; thanked citizens for attending the Temple Emmanuel Solidarity Service; stated she had attended the Jordan Lake One Water Association meeting several weeks ago; and that she would be representing the City going forward with regard to regional water quality.

Councilmember Outling thanked staff for their efforts and work on the PlanitGso project; referenced Majora Carter speaking at an event earlier today; spoke to discussions and framework for the project; referenced the Consumer Apparel Retail Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG); provided an overview of the percentage of seniors that had obtained jobs in the field upon graduation; and outlined the work of the program.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to the Faith Action Gala; stated she attended the High Point Family Justice Center grand opening ceremony; referenced attending the service against violence at Temple Emmanuel; congratulated the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's 50th Anniversary; stated she attended the 1st Annual Chiefs' Motorcycle Ride on October 27th to raise funds for Special Olympics; voiced concern with the scooter and LimeBike issue in the City; confirmed she was not opposed to the scooters; asked that a policy be put in place regarding when a company could drop a product throughout the City; referenced the rollout of Vision Zero in the City; and asked that City Manager Parrish research the City providing specific parking areas for LimeBikes and scooters.

Mayor Vaughan provided an overview of how the City of Asheville was handling the issue; and spoke to the need to figure out a balance for the City.

Councilmember Wells extended condolences to the Stringer family; spoke to a successful District 2 Town Hall meeting that took place several weeks ago; to NCA&T's development in East Greensboro; to the InvestEast Project; and emphasized that NCA&T was one of the treasures for the City in District 2.

Mayor Vaughan encouraged people to vote on Election Day.

Matters to be presented by the City Manager

There were no items for discussion by the City Manager.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

There were no items for discussion by the Interim City Attorney.

Councilmember Hightower requested a presentation on the Greensboro Transit Authority's updates and changes at an upcoming meeting of Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson extended kudos to students at UNCG and NCA&T; and requested City Manager Parrish research having local universities and colleges participate in painting their emblems on manhole covers around the City as part of the Streetscape project.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to go into closed session, pursuant to N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11, subsections (a)(1), (a)(3), and (a)(6), in order: to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A, Section 168; to establish the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract; to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, and conditions of employment of a public employee; to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to consult with the Interim City Attorney and the attorney retained by the City, and to give instructions to legal counsel concerning pending litigation In The Matter of Custodial Law Enforcement Recording Sought by the City of Greensboro.

Council recessed to closed session at 6:45 p.m. Council returned to open session at 8:25 p.m. with all members in attendance.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to return to open session. The motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Thurm that effective December 1, 2018, the City Council of the City of Greensboro award the City Manager a merit increase of five percent setting his annual salary at \$204,552. The motion carried by voice vote.

Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:28 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR