



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

3:30 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:35 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuziater, Mike Barber, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Councilmember Jamal Fox.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers and Deputy City Clerk Angela Lord.

2. Presentations

1. [ID 17-0254](#) Financial Update

City Manager Jim Westmoreland introduced Budget and Evaluation Director Larry Davis who provided a Power Point Presentation (PPP); an overview of upcoming budget calendar meetings; and the adjusted 2017 meeting calendar.

Councilmember Wilkins asked about generating more public participation.

Mayor Vaughn spoke to the online resources available; and suggested interactive resources be created to encourage public participation.

Councilmember Hightower entered the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

City Manager Westmoreland provided examples of City resources for keeping the public informed; spoke to the successful public turnout in recent Greensboro meetings; and addressed the need for more interactive resources.

Mr. Davis reviewed the ten-year timeframe of the budget; spoke to the financial status; identified budget trends and annual challenges; the State's decision to begin assessing sales taxes; and spoke to tax revenues in specific areas.

Mr. Davis introduced Finance Manager Rick Lusk who provided a long-term General Funds Revenue assessment of the budget between 2007 through 2016.

Discussion ensued among Council regarding the lag in economic recovery; tax percentage estimates regarding the reevaluation; the City's ability to complete projects at the present tax rate; the effectiveness of the current property taxes; procedures for voting on the budget; the completion of projects without a tax increase; and the need to maintain current tax rates.

Mr. Lusk provided clarification regarding the delays in recovery; spoke to future growth patterns and projections; the decline in the sales taxes between 2009 and 2016; and reiterated the reevaluation process.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the reevaluation process; stated the goal was to avoid a tax increase; spoke to reliance upon debt services; addressed the City employee compensation issues; the need for additional revenue; and expressed optimism for the completion of City projects under the current tax rates.

Discussion ensued in regard to maintaining an effective tax rate; concerns for City services; employee retention and compensation; sustainability of City programs; funding for employee compensation; City priorities; and a balanced budget.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer Z, Exhibit No. 13 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

2. [ID 17-0255](#) Recess to Closed Session

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City Attorney and Council; to consult with the City Attorney and the attorney retained by the City, to give instructions to legal counsel concerning the handling or settlement of a claim or mediation pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3), to prevent disclosure of personnel information and body worn camera recordings which are privileged or confidential under G.S. 160A-168 or not considered a public record and are released pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4A, which is necessary and essential to the proper function of Council to inspect, and in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and (a)(10); and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character and fitness of public officer or an employee or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge or grievance against an individual public officer or employee pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). The motion carried by voice vote.

Council recessed to closed session at 3:59 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hoffmann to return to open session at 5:35 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Adjournment

It was the consensus of Council to adjourn the Work Session.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:35 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR