



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Monday, November 4, 2019

5:30 PM

Griffin Recreation Center

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 at the Griffin Recreational Center, 5301 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaite, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, and Tammi Thurm.

Absent: Councilmembers Michelle Kennedy and Goldie Wells.

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts, and City Clerk Angela Lord.

Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Mayor Vaughan requested prayers for the family of Former Senator Kay Hagan.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Greg Nash of the Guilford Metro 911 Department who served as Courier for the meeting.

Mayor Vaughan asked for a motion to excuse Councilmember Wells from the meeting.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaite to excuse Councilmember Wells from the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

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

Councilmember Outling entered the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 19-0632](#) Staff Update

City Manager Parrish extended greetings to District Five meeting attendees; highlighted district improvements; spoke to Parks and Recreation facilities; to construction projects; and to education and prevention outreach programs provided by the Fire Department.

2. [ID 19-0703](#) Legislative Update - Johnny Tillett/McGuire Woods

Mayor Vaughan stated staff had requested to postpone item #2/ID 19-0703 to the November 19th Work Session.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to postpone the Legislative Update to the November 19, 2019 work session. The motion carried by voice vote.

Assistant City Manager Larry Davis requested item #3/ID 19-0735 to be heard later due to a traffic delay with the Fellows being recognized.

4. [ID 19-0743](#) Resolution Recognizing the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc.

Councilmember Hightower read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to representatives of the National Caucus and Centers on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA).

Carrie Martin, NCBA Program Manager voiced appreciation for the recognition; spoke to the programming to assist seniors; and introduced Wanda Payne, NCBA Assistant National Director of Employment Services, and Brenda Cogdell, Job Developer Guilford/Montgomery Counties.

Moved by Councilmember Sharon Hightower, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.

305-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CAUCUS AND CENTER ON BLACK AGING, INC.

WHEREAS, the Greensboro office of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc., (a/k/a NCBA) located in the NC Works Career Center at 2301 W. Meadowview Road in Greensboro partners with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act with Workforce Development;

WHEREAS, NCBA serves as a voice and advocacy platform for African-American and low-income minority seniors in Greensboro and Guilford County;

WHEREAS, "helping seniors live a comfortable life and remain active and productive" is the motto for the Greensboro office of NCBA;

WHEREAS, the aim for the association is to assist African-American and low-income minority seniors with services related but not limited to disabilities, homelessness, literacy skills, limited English proficiency, low-employment prospects, and anyone who is a Veteran in Greensboro and Guilford County;

WHEREAS, NCBA encourages and empowers healthy lifestyle choices; services offered includes providing information regarding counseling, nutritional resources, medical screenings, employment training and job placement services, and provide affordable and high-quality housing to African-American and low-income seniors; and

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

It hereby declares support for the mission, advocacy and support services of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. to African-American and low-income seniors residing in Greensboro and Guilford County.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

5. [ID 19-0672](#) Resolution Recognizing November 19, 2019 International Men's Day and November 2019 as International Men's Month

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to James Rosa.

Mr. Rosa representing the Rosa Foundation, spoke to positive male role models in the community; and voiced appreciation for the resolution.

Moved by Mayor-Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.

306-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 19, 2019 AS INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY AND NOVEMBER AS INTERNATIONAL MEN'S MONTH

WHEREAS, an idea developed in the early 1990s to tackle gender inequality and focus on inclusion and appreciation between men, women, and children;

WHEREAS, to build an awareness that the role of men in our lives affect our relationships, marriages, youth, families, and communities;

WHEREAS, a time to reflect on the educational, political, social, technological, scientific, athletic, religious, and economic contributions men have made to society;

WHEREAS, the need to focus on progressive and positive interactions with women and children, along with strengthening our neighborhoods, schools, and places of worship;

WHEREAS, the opportunity to advance the dialogue of unemployment, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol dependency, lack of education, domestic violence, and mental instability;

WHEREAS, this day is celebrated in over eighty (80) countries;

WHEREAS, "The Six Pillars" include (1) Focusing on Men's and Boy's Health, (2) Improving Gender Relations and Gender Equality, (3) Promoting Healing and Forgiveness, (4) Highlighting Male Role Models, (5) Improving Men's Roles in the Community, Family, Relationships and Childcare, and (6) Promoting Basic Humanitarian Values;

WHEREAS, the City Council, on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro wishes to recognize November 19, 2019 as International Men's Day, and November 2019 recognized as International Men's Month; and

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

It is hereby recognized Tuesday, November 19, 2019 as International Men's Day and November 2019 recognized as International Men's Month.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

3. [ID 19-0735](#) Recognition of the International City/County Managers Association - Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (ICMA-YSEALI) Fellows

Mayor Vaughan stated Council would hear item #3/ID 19-0735 at this time.

Interim Budget and Evaluation Director, Jon Decker spoke to the the Young South East Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI); to innovative programs; international professionals in agriculture; and to sustainability in other countries.

Riza Magbitang of the Philippines and Dang Le Na of Vietnam referenced their experiences as YSEALI Fellows; voiced appreciation for the City of Greensboro serving as a host; and spoke to sharing their experiences.

6. [ID 19-0742](#) Resolution Declaring Saturday November 20, 2019 Small Business Saturday in the City of Greensboro

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record; and stated the resolution would be mailed to the Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP).

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.

307-19 RESOLUTION DECLARING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2019 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IN THE CITY OF GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, the 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 30.7 million small businesses in the United States, they represent 99.7 percent of all firms with paid employees in the United States, are responsible for 64.9 percent of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2018;

WHEREAS, small businesses employ approximately 47.3 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

WHEREAS, 94 percent of consumers in the United States value the contributions small businesses make in their community;

WHEREAS, 96 percent of consumers who plan to shop on Small Business Saturday® said the day inspires them to go to small, independently-owned retailers or restaurants that they have not been to before, or would not have otherwise tried;

WHEREAS, 92 percent of companies planning promotions on Small Business Saturday said the day helps their business stand out during the busy holiday shopping season;

WHEREAS, 59 percent of small business owners said Small Business Saturday contributes significantly to their holiday sales each year;

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; and

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

That it hereby declares Saturday, November 30, 2019, 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) Nancy Hoffmann

7. [ID 19-0717](#) Resolution Recognizing the Month of November 2019 as “No Straw November” in the City of Greensboro

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to Solid Waster Senior Manager, Chris Marriott.

Mr. Marriott voiced appreciation for the resolution; and spoke to waste reduction.

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.

308-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2019 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. Single-use plastics remain in the environment indefinitely, harming wildlife, impacting water quality, and littering the environment;

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

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

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro celebrates America Recycles Day on November 15, 2019 to promote stewardship of natural resources, and plastics such as straws make up a large portion of debris removed;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro wants to support local nonprofit groups, schools, and businesses that have pledged a commitment to No Straw November. During this November, the City encourages businesses and restaurants to provide straws only upon request and to seek reusable or alternatives to plastic straws. The public is invited to pledge online to refuse plastic straws when they are not desired and encourage local businesses to minimize plastic straw waste;

WHEREAS, the Greensboro City Council's goal is for Greensboro to become a leading city for sustainable efforts and this commitment to reducing single-use plastics supports those efforts; and

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

That it hereby recognizes the month of November 2019 as No Straw November in the City of Greensboro.

(Signed) Nancy Hoffmann

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the absence of Councilmember Kennedy; and asked for a motion to excuse her from the meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to excuse Councilmember Kennedy from the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Vaughan stated now was the time to hear speakers from the floor.

Dr. Angail Ahmed voiced concerns with the naming of the Specialized Area Community Transportation (SCAT); referenced definitions of the word SCAT; and requested a change to reflect a positive name.

Jamie Gaddy voiced concerns with SCAT fee structures; and with customer service.

Councilmember Hightower invited Dr. Ahmed and Ms. Gaddy to a meeting on November 6th.

Wayne Abraham, Chair of the Greensboro Participatory Budgeting program provided data on ideas submitted; on votes cast; outlined the number of votes per district; presented a gift to Councilmember Outling for the most votes in a district; and stated the winning idea would be announced next month.

Hester Petty voiced concerns with open Government; public comment procedures; and spoke to the Marcus Smith incident.

Justin Harmon voiced concerns with the public comment procedures.

The following speakers spoke to solar power; clean energy; climate changes; the LEED initiative; a resolution supporting Greensboro as the greenest city by 2040; dirty fossil fuel; and working with the Community Sustainability Committee:

Toni Lindahl; Margaret Rowlett; Kattie Latham; Bill McNeil; Gary Kenton; Izzy Cooper; Nelson Stover; and Trashun Shaw.

Nicole Lindahl spoke to street designs; public involvement; and voiced concerns with bike and pedestrian access.

Luis Medina voiced concerns with the Greensboro Police Department (GPD); the Marcus Smith incident; and with the 1979 incident.

Billy Belcher voiced concerns with the GPD; and the Reconciliation Report.

Cameron Crowder representing the Working Class Homelessness voiced concerns with homelessness; regarding the Marcus Smith and Jared Jones incidents; public transportation with for people with disabilities; and spoke to the Bill of Rights.

Marcus Hyde voiced concerns with the GPD; the Marcus Smith incident; and the 1979 incident.

Council discussed previous times that Council had offered statements of regret; and apologies.

Lewis Pitts voiced concerns with the procedures for public comment; the Marcus Smith incident; and referenced the opinion of Frayda Bluestein of the University of North Carolina School of Government.

Mayor Vaughan explained Council would not comment on litigation items; and deferred to City Attorney Watts.

Omar Jones voiced concerns with Minority Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) participation on contracts; and economic justice.

Discussion took place regarding the M/WBE new software and programming; percentages measured for the first six months of 2019; and challenges that need to be addressed.

Councilmember Thurm requested clarification on the construction percentages for the first six months of 2019.

George Longworth voiced concerns regarding the Marcus Smith and Jared Jones incidents; and read a statement from Brian Witkins.

Zolonda Woods spoke to housing concerns; code violations by Section 8; commended Greensboro inspectors; and requested a meeting with council members.

Mallory Cerkleski and Jacquelyn Sullivan, seniors at Guilford College spoke to the carbon footprint of Greensboro; to studying abroad; and requested Council to take action on climate change.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

There were no items calling a public hearing.

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

There were no items for discussion by the City Council.

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 City Attorney.

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 7:45 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR