



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

4:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

### I. Call To Order

This City Council Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:00 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 Abuzaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Justin Outling, Goldie Wells, and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Councilmember Mike Barber.

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

Mayor Vaughan stated Councilmember Barber would arrive during the regular Council meeting.

### II. Presentations

#### 1. [ID 17-0533](#) Update on Homelessness Prevention Funding Options

City Manager Westmoreland referenced conversations to pull the item from the work session agenda; and stated Partners Ending Homelessness would be discussed during the regular meeting.

Discussion took place on confirming the item being removed from the work session agenda; and for discussions to take place during the regular City Council meeting.

#### 2. [ID 17-0532](#) Update on Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission Development Work

City Manager Westmoreland highlighted previous discussions regarding the Police Community Review Board (PCRB); challenges and suspension of the PCRB process; provided an update on the two remaining cases for the PCRB; spoke to the development and proposal of the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission (CJAC); the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE); the interactive work being done; recognized David Sevier, Irvin Allen, Tom Phillips and City staff for work on developing the commission; highlighted proposed qualifications for members of the commission; funding elements; and reviewed a timeline for moving forward.

Discussion took place regarding the timeline for pending cases; and addressing concerns for citizens that wanted to file a complaint.

Mr. Sevier identified actions by the PCRB Ad Hoc committee; made a PowerPoint Presentation; spoke to working closely with City staff; and the recommendation to the City to join NACOLE.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about who would be attending the NACOLE conference.

Mr. Sevier clarified one commission representative would attend.

City Manager Westmoreland added that City staff would be attending as well.

Mr. Sevier provided a brief history regarding the proposed CJAC; outlined the roles and governance of the commission; spoke to the need to continue the review process of body worn camera footage; to understanding mental health issues; to the need to report and communicate information to the community; and to qualified potential commission members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced concerns with excluding grassroots people.

Mr. Sevier outlined the proposed appointment process; and the inclusion of representatives from high impact areas.

Councilmember Hightower asked for clarification of the high impact areas.

Mr. Sevier confirmed that representatives from high crime areas would be included; and outlined a follow up timeline.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the work by staff and the Ad Hoc committee; the framework of the commission; outlined the next steps; spoke to the NACOLE conference in September; providing an update and proposed resolution at future meetings; referenced this being an election year; and stated the commission could be moved forward by a new council.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to address complaints; the history of cases referred to the PCRB; identifying patterns; and the process for filing and forwarding complaints to the commission.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter left the meeting at 4:29 p.m. and returned at 4:30 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the focus of the proposed commission; triggers for immediate review of incidents; transparency; law regulations; review of body worn camera footage; the need for productive communications between citizens and the Police department; restrictions for the commission to view personnel issues; concerns regarding discourteous officers; and cases that were not directed to the PCRB.

Mr. Phillips spoke to the history of Council reviewing cases prior to the committee; the suspension of the PCRB; the potential of new legislation; and not reviewing every complaint.

Discussion took place regarding concerns with reviewing of complaints; the PCRB being suspended; involvement for Council under the proposed commission; the potential for policy changes; staff research of best practices across the nation; presenting a request to the Legislature; policing in Greensboro; and the projected timeline for implementation of the commission.

Council discussed a reinstatement of the PCRB; and the appeal, mediation and voluntary processes.

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to confidential conversations; citizens reviewing body worn camera video without receiving context of the footage; clarified the intended process and design of the PCRB; and spoke to staff following the direction of Council.

Discussion continued regarding the mediation process; diversity in the program; the need to forward cases to Council in a timely manner; community frustrations; and the need for a temporary solution.

City Manager Westmoreland confirmed the option for complaints to be filed through the Police department, the Human Resources department and the City Managers Office; spoke to staff providing a monthly update to Council; outlined the process for internal investigations; and provided an update on current PCRB cases.

Councilmember Hightower requested information on a remedy for a speedier process; and spoke to the need to notify the public regarding transparency policies.

Councilmember Wilkins left the meeting at 4:51 p.m. and returned at 4:56 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan voiced concerns with the need for a solution; limitations by the legislature; and the need for the

PCRB to be reinstated until a new commission could be implemented.

Moved by Mayor Vaughan, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to reinstate the PCRB. The motion carried by voice vote.

**3. [ID 17-0574](#) Recess to Closed Session**

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to go into closed session to consult with and to preserve the attorney-client privilege with the City Attorney pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) and to discuss matters relating to the relocation or expansion of industries or other businesses, including potential economic development incentives that may be offered in negotiations, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4). The motion carried by voice vote. Council recessed to closed session at 4:57 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 5:37 p.m. with all members in attendance except for Councilmember Barber. Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hoffmann to return to open session. The motion carried by voice vote.

**III. Adjournment**

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:37 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN  
MAYOR