



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

3:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:00 PM 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 Abuzuaiter, Mike Barber, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Zack Matheny, and Tony Wilkins.

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

Mayor Vaughan called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Councilmember Wilkins asked Mayor Vaughan for permission to address the Council; spoke to the presentation given by Bob Savino, Purpose Recycling at the September 11th work session; conflicting statements; refusal to supply tax returns to Council; Mr. Savino working without a Privilege License; and requested the item be pulled from the October 7th City Council agenda until the City had received a sustainable business plan.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to requesting 2012 tax returns; a letter submitted by Mr. Savino; stated Mr. Savino was uncomfortable sharing tax returns; and the City staff's efforts to ensure businesses had licenses.

Councilmember Hightower referenced a conflict of interest concern made by Mr. Savino; and inquired of Interim City Attorney Carruthers as to any legal issues regarding a conflict of interest.

Interim City Attorney Carruthers referenced a conversation with Councilmember Wilkins; stated the direct financial benefit requirements; and spoke to the situation not rising to the level of conflict required by law.

Discussion ensued regarding documentation provided; acquiring information from Andy Scott; standard practices for obtaining tax returns, annual audits and 1099's from businesses; retail sales of mattresses; and the City's process for fines.

Councilmember Wilkins spoke to collateral; statements made by Mr. Savino; and conflicting information.

Discussion took place regarding City fines; Purpose Recycling being fined and penalized; the levying of the fines; date of application and operation start date; the need for a comprehensive report; and privilege licenses.

Councilmember Wilkins restated his request for information being provided; and requested Council support.

Mayor Vaughan requested City Manager Westmoreland to contact Mr. Scott to obtain requested information.

2. Presentations

ID 14-0637 Participatory Budgeting Committee Update

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson provided a brief explanation of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Committee; and stated the purpose of PB.

Interim Assistant City Manager Mary Vigue gave an update on PB; and inquired of Council about providing a presentation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated that for the record, she would like the presentation to be made.

Mayor Vaughan questioned financing of the PB.

Councilmember Barber left the meeting at 3:22 p.m. and returned at 3:25 p.m.

Interim Assistant City Manager Vigue stated financing was part of the presentation; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); spoke to the history of the PB; the purpose of a Resolution; and allocation of funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Discussion ensued regarding a breakdown of expenses; per District funds; contingency of budget process; Greensboro being a representative form of Government; Council being voted to represent; constituents administrative cost; estimates from a PB firm in New York; reallocation of current resources; safety concerns with cutting services; and citizens having a voice.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to adding items to the budget; funds being reviewed; and the impacts of fund reallocation for staffing changes on ladder trucks.

Councilmember Fox spoke in support of PB; the item helping people understand government; referenced a trip to Washington DC with Councilmember Hoffmann; spoke to Boston's PB process; and the benefits of PB in government and the community.

Council discussed unwanted cuts to current services; the lack of community involvement in District Budget meetings; PB engaging citizens; citizens identifying with and prioritizing projects.

Interim Assistant City Manager Vigue introduced Larry Morse.

Mr. Morse made a PPP; described purpose of Participatory Budgeting Project; spoke to the cost of launching the project; how it worked; public assembles; implementation of projects; referenced Vallejo California PB cost; non-personnel and operating cost; public education; informed decisions; stronger communities; accountability; and transparency.

Discussion ensued regarding a volunteer based program; trained facilitators; a steering committee; funding from local Foundations; community support; a project coordinator; and professionalism.

Councilmember Hightower inquired of Assistant City Manager David Parrish regarding the cost of facilitators for the East Greensboro Study Focus Groups.

Councilmember Matheny requested to see the contracts for the East Greensboro Study Focus Group facilitators.

Council discussed the inclusion of the item in the next budget discussions; building stronger neighborhood grants; evaluating performance of City administrative positions; City turnover; and including all Districts in PB.

Councilmember Hoffmann left the meeting at 3:53 p.m. and returned at 3:54 p.m.

City Manager Westmoreland clarified the purpose of the PB Committee; and verified steps staff would take.

Discussion continued regarding shifting money within districts; involving citizens as shareholders; ethnic groups; budget deficits; negotiations of fees; being committed to projects; future Council decisions; long term positive impacts; privilege licenses; and tax revenues.

Interim Assistant City Manager Vigue stated project would be up and running by 2017; verified staff would be ready to move forward; and would have a resolution for the October 7th City Council meeting.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to not being comfortable with the \$500,000 start up figure; and expressed it would be better served during the budget process.

City Manager Westmoreland commended the work done; clarified Council's willingness to support a pilot program for FY 2015 -16 with a reevaluation for FY 2016-17; and expressed the project was worthy of supporting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson inquired as to whether Council would be voting on the item at the next Council meeting; and spoke to tweaking details.

City Manager Westmoreland verified support of majority of Council. Council voted to move forward with the item by a voice vote of 8-1 with Councilmember Wilkins voting 'no'.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer W Exhibit No. 22 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

2a. Closed Session

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Fox to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, and conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer of employee pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sections 143-318.11(a) (6), to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City Attorney and Council and to consult with legal counsel concerning pending litigation in the matter of Terry Walsh, Greensboro Cabaret, Inc. v. City of Greensboro, and to consider and give instructions concerning the settlement of these judicial actions, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3)." The motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Vaughan and City Manager Westmoreland postponed the remaining agenda items until the next Council Work Session.

Council recessed to closed session at 4:12 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 5:15 p.m. with all members in attendance except Councilmembers Matheny and Hightower.

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to return to open session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Vaughan announced the hiring of City Attorney Tom Carruthers; stated an official announcement would be made at the October 7th City Council meeting; and stated City Attorney Carruthers salary would be \$152,000 base salary, \$6,000 executive compensation, for a total of \$158,000 annually.

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 5:23 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
ACTING DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR