



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

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 4:05 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, Michelle Kennedy, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson; and Councilmember Justin Outling.

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, Interim City Attorney Jamiah Waterman and Assistant City Clerk Mary S. Brooks.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 18-0613](#) Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning Director Sue Schwartz made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP) on the Comprehensive Plan update; spoke to the inventory completed of existing conditions; to attended events and feedback from the community; to the phase of crafting the vision and setting goals; to bringing the goals and vision at the January Council meeting for adoption; and to developing strategies. Planning Director Schwartz continued with discussion on the continuing speaker series event; invited Council to a lunch and learn scheduled for November 5th with guest speaker Urban Revitalization Strategy Consultant Majora Carter, who founded the South Bronx Community Program; spoke to the continued feedback from the community; to editing and reworking the draft; to specifics the public wanted to know; to attending civil civics groups; and to the vision statement.

Councilmember Wells spoke to what the goals would look like in twenty years.

Mayor Vaughan requested to have staff be more deliberate in their thinking and to come up with measures for the goals for the Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Director Schwartz spoke to making timelines; and to having a consensus before moving forward.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to creating major targets and goals; and to being more substantial and dynamic.

Councilmember Hightower arrived at the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Councilmember Hightower voiced the need for flexibility with the goals; and inquired on where the ideas came from.

Planning Director Schwartz spoke to changing the vision statement; to the first plan that was started in 2003; to responding to future goals; to feedback on the recent hurricanes as being resilience and to the sustainability; gave an overview of where the goals came from; and outlined the data and research done by staff.

Councilmember Kennedy asked what kind of demographics were responding for feedback.

Planning Director Schwartz stated that demographics were not captured at this time; spoke to the diverse feedback

from the 2018 North Carolina Folk Festival; to recommended feedback to launch the next interest group, Generation Next Greensboro; and to the need for continued specifics in surveys.

City Manager Parrish stated he would keep Council updated on the goal process; and spoke to having a final version at the beginning of next year.

2. [ID 18-0666](#) Chapter 16 Greensboro Code of Ordinance Amendment with Respect to Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Scooters Update

City Manager Parrish stated that the Departments of Legal, Transportation, and Police were looking into a process for a draft model of best practices in working with operators of electric scooters; and to putting an ordinance in place.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to feedback from the community on the danger of the scooters.

Police Chief Wayne Scott spoke to less than safe interactions with the scooters; and to regulating the business owners.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern of the integrity of those who rented the scooters.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter arrived at the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Transportation Director Adam Fischer discussed marketing of the electric scooters; spoke to the dangerous behavior of the renters; to concerns with not following traffic laws; and to the permitting process for each vendor to have with required safety regulations.

Engineering Transportation Manager Chris Spencer made a PPP on Chapter 16 Greensboro Code of Ordinance Amendment with Respect to Motor Vehicles and Traffic-Scooters; gave the definition of an electric scooter; spoke to the deployment of lime bikes and agreement with UNCG that was set to end August 1, 2019; to how many scooters were in operation; to when the Bird company deployed in August; highlighted the user agreement of the companies; communicating with other cities; spoke to North Carolina state law; to the benefits/concerns; expressed the risk toward pedestrians; to recommended modifications of the existing ordinance; highlighted details for a permit application; and explained the incorporation of the bike and scooter shared program.

Councilmember Thurm asked why there were only restrictions for riding electric scooters on sidewalks in the Central Business District (CBD).

Mr Spencer stated it was a result of internal discussion with other cities' experiences.

Deputy City Attorney Terri Jones spoke to the current City ordinance in place based on the high pedestrian usage in the CBD.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern on the safety of riding on all sidewalks; spoke to requiring helmet use; and asked if the electric scooters were in the same category as mopeds for permitting.

Mr. Spencer spoke to the legal requirements to operate scooters in the City; outlined the requirements to submit applications from companies; stated the scooters were not the same as mopeds; spoke to creating a definition that specifically defined electric scooters; to helmets not being required but recommended; and to providing educational campaigns to ensure safety.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter voiced concerns to the unannounced and legality of the drop off of scooters within the City; to the safety precautions; scooter impact during the roll out of Vision Zero Greensboro; and agreed with Councilmember Hightower regarding not allowing scooters on all sidewalks.

Councilmember Thurm inquired on the impact the ordinance would have with electric scooter owners.

Mr. Spencer stated the language in the ordinance would state it was unlawful to operate a scooter shared program without permit; and that they both would have the same requirements of operations.

Councilmember Kennedy inquired on the establishment of designated drop zones; voiced concern with the control of drop zones; and asked if the scooters included helmets.

Mayor Vaughan voiced the need for safety requirements for night time usage.

Mr. Spencer stated he could not speak to the requirements at this time; and spoke to adding more safety requirements to the permits.

Discussion took place on safety issues with the "last mile" option; on the state enabling cities to enact ordinances; on communications with the North Carolina Mayor's Coalition; on having a definition for the electric scooter put in place; on permitting fees for companies; on the need to having a structure in order before fees could be charged; and on reasons citizens were renting the scooters.

Mayor Vaughan requested more time before giving direction on an ordinance; asked for legal advice on protection from potential lawsuits; and spoke to waiting on the results for the Charlotte, Durham, and Raleigh ordinances that would be adopted.

Councilmember Auzuaiter spoke to the penalties for companies dropping off scooters without permission from the City.

City Manager Parrish stated Council would be updated on the outcome of Raleigh, Durham, and Charlotte at the November 20th meeting of Council.

3. [ID 18-0679](#) Chapter 21 Section 21-8 with Respect to Personnel Discussion

City Manager Parrish discussed the employee's ability to run for office outside of Guilford County; and on keeping the current City policy in place.

Interim City Attorney Jamiah Waterman explained the Hatch Act of 1939 on federally funded job positions that would prevent them for running for office.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter gave an example of the ability of an employee living in a different county to run for office in their county if employed by the City; and spoke to the ability of changing the language in the Human Resource Policy.

City Manager Parrish discussed how other communities allowed employees to take leave while running for office; and spoke to possible conflicts of interest.

Councilmember Kennedy asked who made the determination on changing the policy; spoke to the ability to exercise freedom of speech for employees; and to risks and conflicts of interest.

Interim City Attorney Waterman spoke to the political policy in the City's policy manual; and to the ordinance put in place making it unlawful to run for office.

Discussion took place regarding employees' ability to run while living in another county; to conflicts of interest with regional partners and other counties; to looking at running for office on an exceptional basis if in a different county; on when the policy was put in to place in 1993; and on the current ordinance.

Interim City Attorney Waterman stated it would take an action from Council to change the current policy.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter discussed the University of North Carolina's (UNC) School of Government's opinion on

municipalities setting their own rules; and on the Conflicts of Interest Laws for North Carolina Public Officials and Employees.

Mayor Vaughan stated Council would vote on this item at the Council Meeting.

(Copies of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer A Exhibit No. 23 which are hereby referred to and made apart of these minutes)

III. Adjournment

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:32 P.M.

MARY S. BROOKS
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR