



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft General Government Committee

Monday, February 8, 2016

4:30 PM

Council Chamber

### Call to Order

This General Government Committee meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 3 - Vice Chair Mike Barber, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower and  
Councilmember Tony Wilkins

Absent: 1 - Chairperson Yvonne J. Johnson

Also present were Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

### Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Councilmember Barber explained the Council procedure for conduct of the meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson from attendance at the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

### **I. CONSENT AGENDA (One Vote)**

**Moved by Councilmember Wilkins, seconded by Councilmember Hightower to refer the consent agenda to Council. The motion carried by voice vote.**

1. [ID 16-0087](#) Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to Contract No. 2014-5195 Infor Lawson Software Subscription to Add an Analytics Subscription
2. [ID 16-0100](#) Resolution to Advertise 2015 Real Estate Liens
3. [ID 16-0088](#) Ordinance in the Amount of \$20,000 Amending State, Federal and Other Grants Fund Budget for the Appropriation of the SETRAC Grant from the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau
4. [ID 16-0097](#) Budget Adjustments Requiring Council Approval 1/5/16-1/25/16
5. [ID 16-0096](#) Budget Adjustments Approved by Budget Officer 1/5/16-1/25/16
6. [ID 16-0114](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the General Government Committee meeting of January 11, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes of the General Government Committee meeting of January 11, 2016 was adopted.

### **II. GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA**

There were no general business items for this agenda.

**III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****7. [ID 16-0138](#) Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Overview Presentation - Rick Lusk, Finance Director**

Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson recognized Finance Director Rick Lusk for a presentation.

Mr. Lusk made a PowerPoint Presentation that outlined the Guilford County Occupancy Taxes; the County levy of three percent; the City levy of three percent; explained how the percentages were allocated from said taxes; what the funds could be used for; provided an explanation of the Occupancy Tax distribution for Guilford County and the City; addressed the funds currently in the City Capital Account and the City Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Fund; and stated the City currently had \$1 million in debt service reserve. Mr. Lusk added that continued growth going forward would be two to three percent; spoke to payments that would be made; referenced improvements that had been made at the Coliseum Complex and Aquatic Center; and spoke to the reserve availability during an economic downturn.

Councilmember Wilkins asked if approval for a pass-through from Guilford County needed to be made annually; inquired if the upcoming basketball improvements would need to go through the County level; and requested clarification of the \$3 million figure shown on the presentation.

Mr. Lusk responded the pass-through approval was done on a project by project basis; outlined what the taxes could be used for; and clarified that the \$1 million figure was for the City Capital Account.

Councilmember Hightower asked how long it would take to payoff the \$6 million debt for the Aquatic Center; and asked what the interest was.

Mr. Lusk stated the debt would be paid off in 2030 as the bonds were issued in 2010 with payment to be made over a twenty year period; and confirmed the interest rate on the note was 3.5%.

Councilmember Wilkins thanked Mr. Lusk for the information.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 8, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

**Matters to be discussed by the Mayor and Members of the Committee Members**

There were no items for discussion by the Committee members.

**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**

Councilmember Wilkins referenced discussion in a recent closed session; asked City Attorney Carruthers' opinion as to whether the City should stay the course on the redistribution lawsuit or pull out to avoid bleeding and/or a financial burden to taxpayers due to the changes that had taken place since Council last met; and if it would alter the outcome of the case.

City Attorney Carruthers responded that the City was co-counsel with the Southern Coalition; stated that the Coalition would bear the burden of Discovery in the trial on the racial allegations; outlined the arguments did not run to the City; spoke to the constitutional argument the City was looking at; when and if it was appropriate to make a Dispositive Motion pursuant to the Scheduling Order by the judge; confirmed that he would inform Council when that determination had been made; and stated that it was in the interest of all the parties to maintain the status quo.

Councilmember Wilkins explained why he had asked the question based on the changes that had been made.

Councilmember Hightower asked if the most recent Supreme Court outcome on Districts 1 and 12 would have an impact; voiced concerns with the map makeup; and racial gerrymandering.

City Attorney Carruthers answered that there would be no direct impact; verified that the Voting Rights Act no longer applied as it was with preclearance requirements; that the other portions of the Act were now being emphasized by the Federal Courts; added that the City would see more challenges in the future; spoke to the Legislature pondering going into early session to address redistricting; and to what he would expect as a result of this type of litigation. City Attorney Carruthers added that the Southern Coalition had successfully amended its pleadings based on race.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councilmember Wilkins, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 4:46 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON  
CITY CLERK

MIKE BARBER  
VICE-CHAIR