



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft General Government Committee

Monday, March 7, 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 City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and Deputy City Clerk Angela R. Lord.

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

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

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

I. CONSENT AGENDA (One Vote)

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

1. [ID 16-0143](#) Ordinance in the Amount of \$24,975 Establishing State, Federal and Other Grants Fund Budget for the Appropriation of FY 2015 Fair Housing Training Program Grant Funds
2. [ID 16-0219](#) Budget Adjustments Requiring Council Approval 1/26/16-2/22/16
3. [ID 16-0220](#) Budget Adjustments Approved by Budget Officer 1/26/16-2/22/16
4. [ID 16-0149](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the General Government Committee meeting of February 8, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes of the General Government Committee meeting of February 8, 2016 was adopted.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

There were no business items for this agenda.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. [ID 16-0119](#) Participatory Budgeting Update

City Manager Westmoreland recognized Participatory Budgeting (PB) team members from the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG); and Budget and Evaluation Director Larry Davis to speak to the item.

Mr. Davis introduced speakers Dr. Spoma Jovanovic and Vincent Russell; stated they represented the research team; spoke to the contract for the evaluation portion of PB; and to feedback on the research.

Dr. Jovanovic thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present information; spoke to receiving national attention; stated the third team member Rodney Johnson was not in attendance; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); explained that the purpose of the PB was to engage citizens with local government; spoke to the history of the PB; Steering Committee appointments; outlined the process for the item; provided a history and timeline for the collection of ideas that were coordinated by Ranata Reeder and Erica Lindenberg; and added that the item was in the second phase of the process.

Councilmember Wilkins spoke of the voting process for residents in April 2016, voiced concerns with all residents being informed; asked if all residents in District 5 would be informed; and if there would be any legal issues if people did not know about the process.

Dr. Jovanovic explained the methods of outreach that would be used.

City Attorney Carruthers confirmed when the Council adopted the budget it would be pursuant to State law requirements.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the process used for the budget phase; and to a public hearing on the PB.

Discussion took place regarding confirming the identification of voters.

Dr. Jovanovic continued by explaining the evaluation methods; spoke to idea collection events; outlined project ideas by category; spoke to the key findings; the next steps for evaluation; citizens expressing more positive feelings for City Government; a time intensive process; research and evaluation support; and provided dates for the upcoming Community Expo's and Community Vote dates.

Discussion took place regarding additional financial support; matching funds; an engaged community; PB volunteers; residents outlook on the expense and time required for projects; the timeline allotted for the voting process; engaging the community in the budgeting process; and to long term goals.

Mr. Russell invited Council to attend a PB conference in Boston.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 11 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

6. [ID 16-0189](#) Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement to Create the Guilford County Economic Development Alliance (GCEDA) and to Contribute \$100,000 for Shared Costs of the Organization

City Manager Westmoreland stated the item was for informational purposes; spoke to the forming of the Guilford County Economic Development Alliance (the Alliance) between High Point, Guilford County, the City of Greensboro, the Greensboro Partnership (the Partnership), and the High Point Economic Development Corporation; financial commitments; outlined the terms of an interlocal agreement; referenced a handout provided to the Committee; the Leadership and the Business Advisory Groups; recognized Dave Ramsey in attendance from the Partnership; spoke to efforts for appointments on behalf of the Alliance; and stated the item would be on the March 14 City Council agenda for a public hearing.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Barber to recommend the item to the March 14 meeting of Council.

Councilmember Hightower inquired about the demographics of the groups; asked for the total number of members including the Mayors of High Point and Greensboro; who had made the selections of appointees; what market was being targeted; and spoke to diversity representation.

Mr. Ramsey outlined the appointments; provided the total number of board representatives; explained targeted

markets; spoke to one year terms; and feedback on opportunities for diversity.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to areas of Greensboro that needed to be marketed; voiced disappointment in the board make up; commended Workforce Development, Lillian Plummer for her efforts on the item; stated there was no representation in District 1; and voiced she would not support the item due to the lack of district representation.

City Manager Westmoreland acknowledged Councilmember Hightower's concerns; spoke to the Business Advisory Group; to advocating on behalf of all of Greensboro; stated the Leadership group would allocate funds; and spoke to the need to diversify the groups.

Councilmember Barber spoke to the points made by Councilmember Hightower; recommended the item be referred to Council; and suggested she make her points at the March 14 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Barber confirmed the motion on the floor. The motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Wilkins asked for confirmation on the total number of board members.

Mr. Ramsey clarified there were twelve members on the Advisory Council and eight members on the Leadership Board.

(A copy of the Handout is filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 11 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

Matters to be discussed by the Members of the Committee

Councilmember Wilkins requested a report on the Strong Community Program by the end of March; requested information on how the funding was allocated; thanked City Manager Westmoreland for the Council Compensation Report; and asked to be made aware if there was an update on the Greenway.

City Manager Westmoreland confirmed a Greenway update would fall under the Infrastructure Committee; and spoke to bi-weekly staff reports.

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

THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 5:16 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

MIKE BARBER
VICE CHAIR