



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

3:30 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This Special City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:34 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 Abuzuaite, Mike Barber, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson

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

Staff members present: Budget and Evaluation Manager Larry Davis, and Field Operations Director Dale Wyrick.

2. Presentations

[ID 16-0439](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Discussion

City Manager Jim Westmoreland stated this was part two of the budget discussion meetings; there would a public hearing held at the City Council meeting tonight; spoke to the increase in the budget from last year's budget; the vehicle fee increase; outlined the four areas that would be addressed; spoke to economic impacts as a result of House Bill (HB) 2; a special meeting scheduled for May 23; and to the proposed 2016 bond referendum.

Budget and Evaluation Director Larry Davis made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); outlined Fiscal Year (FY) 16-17 All Funds and General Fund Budget expense increases; spoke to an estimated \$520,000,000 budget; referenced the Hotel/Motel occupancy tax fund for the Development League team (D League); and the field house at the Coliseum.

Discussion took place regarding a larger contribution in a single year; funds transferred to the Capital Project fund from the Hotel/Motel tax fund; and the use of reserved fund balances.

Mr. Davis spoke to risk retention funds; insurance liabilities; anticipated increases; highlighted the Powell Bill Fund; motor vehicle license increase; and proposed street resurfacing.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced concerns with the number of citizen complaints regarding the vehicle license fee increase; and stated he would not support the proposal.

Discussion continued regarding the potential move of the Charlotte Hornets; an increase in expenses due to performers cancelling events; the City's investment in the D League; a previously authorized contract to be completed by October; additional improvements made to the facility; tracking the status of HB2; rental, concession and parking revenue; and a seven year commitment.

Councilmember Barber requested staff place the item on a future agenda for discussion; spoke to a potential resolution regarding the financial impact of HB2; and to consideration of a minor league hockey team should the City lose the Hornets.

Mr. Davis continued with the PPP; highlighted the debt service fund; payments for funds borrowed; spoke to the

revised budget; and the recommended increase of half of one percent.

Councilmember Outling voiced concerns regarding misconceptions with the disbursement of the potential upcoming bond; and construction of projects being extended into the future.

Finance Director Rick Lusk responded that it depended on the type of bonds approved; spoke to the issuance of bonds; a seven year authorization period; the City's discretion to start projects immediately or to spread them out; and to receiving direction from Council.

City Manager Westmoreland added that a debt service schedule would be provided.

Discussion took place regarding an anticipated property tax increase.

Mr. Davis outlined increases in the general fund budget; departmental health insurance costs and increase percentages; stated the City was self insured; addressed service enhancements for body worn camera (BWC) replacements; and street light enhancements.

Field Operations Director Dale Wyrick addressed the deterioration of street conditions; spoke to evaluating streets bi-annually; highlighted the continual decline in grade ratings; funding availability for street resurfacing; outlined maintenance needs; cost per lane mile; and spoke to the need for approximately 225 lane miles to be resurfaced.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to a submittal for a Federal grant to assist with the BWC's; and stated street maintenance would be funded through the vehicle fee increase if approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the percentage of lane miles that would be addressed; the City being behind on street maintenance; and the use of Powell Bill funds.

City Manager Westmoreland reviewed information provided at the May 3rd meeting; continued the PPP by addressing the vehicle fee increases being based on the General Assembly; spoke to the need for street resurfacing; referenced a modified law; and legal perimeters.

Discussion continued regarding the allocation of funds for street resurfacing; the need for Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) funding; Legislative limitations; equal provision of GTA services for the upcoming year; challenges for a balanced budget for GTA; additional long term options; staff working with the Federal Transit Authority (FTA); the challenges of getting on track with street maintenance; the approximate investment required to cover mileage of maintenance needed; state issued authority; and to problematic funding.

Councilmember Outling spoke to being in compliance with FTA regulations; and asked if there were any issues the City should be concerned about.

Transportation Director Adam Fischer spoke to the potential of losing funding; referenced a meeting scheduled for next week to balance the books; and stated GTA would not cut any services based on the proposed budget.

Council expressed concern regarding allocating funding to avoid having to review the same process for GTA in future years; discussed road comparisons to other municipalities; the authority to increase the vehicle fees; and cities that had increased fees.

Councilmember Barber and Mayor Vaughan requested departments research reduction in each department; and for departments to avoid mission critical areas.

City Manager Westmoreland responded that staff would report the FTA review to Council; referenced future Legislative Agenda funding requests; spoke to defined constraints; programming reductions; stated staff accepted the challenge; and that it would be difficult to find \$5 million in the budget.

Discussion continued regarding mission critical areas losing the most when cuts were made; the importance of the various departments; the total number of center line miles in the City; staff evaluating areas to support street

resurfacing and transit; a business fee bill that failed; and the need for a business operation data base.

Councilmember Barber requested staff research utilizing the Chamber of Commerce to compile and maintain a listing of businesses within the City.

City Manager Westmoreland clarified staff would provide an update at the May 23rd special meeting; continued the presentation by reviewing Outside Agency funding; provided the history of the Community Partners Board; recognized members in attendance; highlighted agencies recommended for funding; explained agencies not recommended for funding by the Manager; spoke to agencies already receiving City support; and clarified the agencies could be supported by other City means.

Councilmember Wilkins left the meeting at 4:40 p.m. and returned at 4:42 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding funding options for the agencies; the application process; appointments made by Council; weekly board meetings; notifications sent to applicants; funding to be made at the pleasure of Council; the Queens Foundation program specifics; services provided by the Family Justice Center and the Kellin Foundation; police supported programs; news articles and allocation of funding to Blandwood Mansion; smaller organizations struggling to cover costs associated with audit requirements; and review of the audit policy.

Councilmember Wilkins requested Blandwood Mansion to be pulled from the Outside Agency Funding recommendations.

Councilmember Barber requested staff allocate funding for outside agencies without presentation of the item to Council.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter requested staff research financial assistance with audit fees.

City Manager Westmoreland continued with introducing the Downtown parking item.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about the presentation for City revenues; and requested to see the revenue information.

Mr. Davis confirmed staff would provide revenue information on May 23rd.

Discussion continued regarding the City maintaining parking fees; using a portion of the revenue for street resurfacing; parking revenues being programmed into the parking fund; the Police Chief Wayne Scott addressing the need for an increase in police presence in Greensboro; and alternatives being used in Nashville, North Carolina.

Police Chief Scott spoke to looking at alternatives; and stated arrest rates were down for the third year in row.

Councilmember Wilkins commended the work down by staff on the security contracts; spoke to the savings to the City by de-bundling the contracts; and moved that the City reduced the property taxes by one penny.

Mayor Vaughan stated the motion died for the lack of a second.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the scheduled Work Session on May 24th to discuss BWC.

Mayor Vaughan suggested Council waited for 60 to 90 days to get reaction to the policy.

Moved by Councilmember Outling, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to cancel the scheduled May 24th Special Meeting of Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Vaughan, seconded by Councilmember Fox, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:10 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR