



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

4:30 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

I. Call To Order

This City Council Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:30 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 Abuzuaiter, Mike Barber, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Justin Outling, Goldie Wells, and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Councilmember Sharon Hightower.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and City Clerk Betsey Richardson.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 17-0634](#) Comprehensive Plan Update - Planning Director Sue Schwartz

City Manager Jim Westmoreland introduced Planning Director Sue Schwartz for an update on the Comprehensive Plan (CP).

Ms. Schwartz informed Council that the previous CP had been done in 2003; stated the new proposal would be called PlanIT GSO; voiced the importance of community involvement in the process; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided an overview of the changes that had occurred in Greensboro since 2003; and spoke to jobs, unemployment rates, and how residents earned their livings.

Mayor Vaughan asked if there was a way to track the completion of buildings with the number of permits that had been issued, to which Ms. Schwartz responded staff would provide that information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested an updated map showing where the clusters and distribution of growth had occurred.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced concern with, and asked the number of times, Council had been requested to make amendments to the CP.

Ms. Schwartz explained the process for amending the types of growth areas and topography for the CP; confirmed that the amendments did not alter the terms of the CP; and stated she would provide an updated map to Council. Ms. Schwartz continued the PPP by outlining the terms of the City's population growth; stated that the City was a majority non-white City that included over 120 languages; and provided highlights of the population and land growth since 2005.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about the population growth since the Legislature removed the forced annexation allowance.

City Clerk Betsey Richardson was requested to provide Council with a paper copy of the PPP.

Ms. Schwartz highlighted what projects had been completed and accomplished; provided an overview of the PlanIT

GSO process that would include community engagement and education; spoke to leveraging opportunities; and explained what stage the City was at in the process. Ms. Schwartz announced upcoming speakers and workshops that would take place on October 19th and November 28th; outlined the initial public conversations that had taken place; explained the innovative approaches staff would take to involve the entire community; and highlighted responses staff had received from persons attending the National Folk Festival.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired if Ms. Schwartz felt the proposed PlanIT GSO would need to be amended as much as the CP.

Ms. Schwartz responded that she hoped it would not; informed Council that staff wished to keep the majority of the work in-house; stated other cities spent as much as \$350,000 for similar work; and added that the City would utilize students from area colleges to do a portion of the work.

Councilmember Outling asked when Council could expect to vote on the plan.

Ms. Schwartz stated that staff would provide an update after the first of the year; and outlined the timeline and next steps for completion of the plan.

City Manager Westmoreland referenced plans being developed by Downtown Greensboro, Inc. (DGI) and the Chamber of Commerce; and encouraged Council to start talking with people about opportunities to ensure strong community connections.

Ms. Schwartz requested that Council reach out to her with their suggestions or questions.

Councilmember Barber thanked staff for their work; voiced concern with City regulations currently in place; and asked if the construction industry would be involved once a framework had been developed, to which Ms. Schwartz responded in the affirmative once Council had reviewed and approved the plan.

(A copy of the PPP is filed in Exhibit Drawer Z, Exhibit No. 28, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

2. [ID 17-0635](#) Recess to Closed Session

Councilmember Wilkins asked if David Wray was considered a City employee for personnel matters; and confirmed that outside counsel would be providing advice during the closed session.

City Attorney Tom Carruthers responded that the case was ongoing litigation; and that Council would receive advice from outside counsel today.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City Attorney and Council; to consult with the City Attorney and the attorney retained by the City concerning pending litigation in the matter of David Wray vs. City of Greensboro, et al, and to give instructions to legal counsel concerning the handling of settlement or a claim pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). The motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Vaughan stated that Council would return to open session in the Council Chamber.

Council recessed to closed session at 4:53 p.m. Council reconvened in the Council Chamber at 5:33 p.m. with all members in attendance except Councilmember Hightower.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to return to open session. The motion carried by voice vote.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Barber, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:34 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR