



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

3:45 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

I. Call To Order

This City Council Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:51 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, 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 Deputy City Clerk Angela R. Lord.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 17-0684](#) Sister City Relationship Proposal with Suqian, China

City Manager Westmoreland outlined the agenda items for the work session; spoke to a proposed Sister City relationship with China; provided a brief history of the item; referenced previous Sister City relationships; stated representatives from Suqian were in attendance; and recognized Human Relations Director, Dr. Love Crossling to present the item.

Dr. Crossling recognized Richard Yang, Chris Yang, and Xie ShanShan from the Carolina Chinese Chamber of Commerce; spoke to local correspondents; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); spoke to a letter of interest received in 2016; provided an overview of the Sister City Initiative (SCI); reviewed the Suqian municipal structure and attractions; spoke to the areas for which the cities could learn from each other; and to the SCI partnership focus areas.

City Manager Westmoreland identified members of the delegation in the photo as Senator Rick Gunn, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Richard Yang; and the Secretary General of the community.

Dr. Crossling highlighted the four areas in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); outlined engagement options; the next steps; and spoke to the establishment of objectives.

City Manager Westmoreland clarified that staff would provide the proposed MOU to Council for review; stated there would be no budgetary commitment; spoke to accomplishments that could take place via teleconference; and added that a staff recommendation for Council adoption would be on the November 14th Council agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding membership fees of \$1000 for involvement in the SCI; and meeting venues for delegations.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired if a program existed for partnerships within the United States, in which City Manager Westmoreland confirmed there was not any such program.

2. [ID 17-0685](#) Forge Ahead Capital Campaign Request

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the Forge Ahead Capital campaign; to the membership details; and

recognized Executive Director, Joe Rotondi to present the request.

Mr. Rotondi stated they were requesting \$50,000 matching grant funds; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); spoke to the need for Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Router and Laser equipment; to the campaign goals; to the support of membership growth; to the impact of the equipment to Forge members; outlined the second campaign goal as expansion of educational workshops and equipment offerings; spoke to the capability of small businesses expanding staff and venues; stated the third goal would enhance community engagement programs; reiterated the need for the equipment; and stated the machines would impact economic and workforce development.

Discussion took place regarding the financial investment needs of businesses; and members sharing personal equipment with other members.

Councilmember Barber commended Mr. Rotondi for his work at the Forge; and spoke to job creation and tax growth in the community.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to taking a tour of the facility; and referenced conversations with Early College students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro regarding support of small business.

Councilmember Wells commended the tour of the Forge; and recommended Council tour the facility.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced appreciation for the training in various fields; asked about plans to increase training efforts; and inquired if the Forge would focus on high unemployment areas of the City.

Mr. Rotondi explained that part of the funding campaign would pilot more training programs to impact the communities with high unemployment.

Councilmember Wilkins asked about the allocation of funding if Council approved the item; and spoke to a previous request for funding support.

City Manager Westmoreland explained funds would be allocated from the Economic Development fund balance; spoke to the Forge raising \$50,000; and referenced the use of such equipment in the libraries.

Councilmember Outling voiced support for the program; concerns for the need of a framework or policy when receiving funding requests; and the need to consider requests that align with the City's vision.

Discussion ensued regarding the process to handle capital requests; the Community Partners Board; opportunities for involvement in the Greensboro Apprenticeship Program; expanding the Forge; and other investors in the campaign.

Councilmember Barber spoke to the critical time for manufacturing contracts; and requested an agenda item be placed on the November 14th City Council meeting.

3. [ID 17-0686](#) Proposed Process to Rename Aycock Street to Josephine Boyd Bradley Street

City Manager Westmoreland referenced a speaker from the floor request to rename a portion of Aycock Street; and recognized Planning Manager Sue Schwartz to present the item.

Ms. Schwartz made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); outlined the procedures for changing the name of streets; spoke to reflecting changes that were needed; explained the prefix and suffix of road names; outlined option one to include North Aycock Street and a portion of Westover Terrace; option two to include South Aycock Street, North Aycock Street and a portion of Westover Terrace; option three to include Campus Drive; and stated option one had been the original request.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose for renaming the street; clarification of the name that would be placed on

the street signs; and concerns of the name fitting on the signs.

Ms. Schwartz spoke to one property owner involved with option three; outlined the process to include a public hearing; recommended informational sessions for the public; spoke to a potential timeline for the project; working with the neighborhoods; and placing the item on the January 2018 Council meeting agenda.

It was the consensus of Council to reject option three.

Lewis Brandon spoke to honoring Josephine Boyd; and stated the name change had nothing to do with Aycock.

Ms. Schwartz spoke to option one honoring Ms. Boyd in the location in front of Grimsley High School; reiterated the option would have a January 2018 timeframe; spoke to a longer timeframe for option two; and bypassing the Planning board to present the project directly to Council.

Discussion ensued regarding approaching the project in phases; the importance of the community listening sessions; various options to reduce the impact on the neighborhoods and medical emergency responders; and required criteria for changing street names.

Councilmember Wells spoke to the need to communicate the purpose behind the change; the significance of the project; referenced the concerns that stemmed from the renaming of Gate City Boulevard; and voiced concern with creating phases.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to entertaining option two; but clarified Council could make a final decision to move forward with option one.

Ms. Schwartz explained the variation in timing for the different options; and suggested a six month effective date and implementation period for property owners to make notifications of the address change.

Councilmember Outling requested Council reserve making a decision until feedback had been received by the citizens; voiced the importance of public understanding; spoke to the intent of the proposal; and emphasized the need for residents to know the available options.

Ms. Schwartz acknowledged the possibility of a fourth option of implementing a honorary naming.

Councilmember Barber spoke to the affected locations; including Grimsley to honor Ms. Boyd; ending the renaming at Campus Drive; accomplishing the request of the petitioner; reducing the impact to about 9000 people; and requested staff to consider the option.

City Manager Westmoreland outlined the process to inform the public with option two; spoke to receiving feedback; providing a report to Council; and placing an agenda item on the November 14th Council meeting.

Ms. Schwartz provided the requirements of a resolution; explained the direction not included in the ordinance; asked for a consensus of Council; and stated staff could move forward with notification to the affected areas.

Mayor Vaughan confirmed the consensus of Council to move forward with option two.

Councilmember Outling reiterated the need for the residents to understand that Council had not made a final decision.

Discussion took place concerning a potential work session on November 14th.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about the cost associated with the project.

Ms. Schwartz stated staff would provide the cost involved with the item.

Discussion continued regarding providing direction to staff; effective communication to the public; reviewing the options on November 14th; concerns of delaying the project; staff providing a report to Council prior to holding a public hearing; holding informational sessions; and staff providing the budgetary impact of the project.

(Copies of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer Z, Exhibit No. 30 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

4. [ID 17-0680](#) Recess to Closed Session

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 and to consult with the City Attorney pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3), to discuss matters relating to the relocation or expansion of industries or other businesses, including potential economic development incentives that may be offered in negotiations, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4), and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character and fitness of public officer or an employee pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sections 143-318.11(a)(6). The motion carried by voice vote.

Council recessed to closed session at 4:46 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Outling, seconded by Councilmember Wells to return to open session. The motion carried by voice vote. Council reconvened into open session at 5:33 p.m. with all members in attendance except for Councilmember Hightower.

III. Adjournment

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

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

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR