



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

5:30 PM

Council Chamber

Call to Order

This City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 9 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. Wells

Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Vaughan recognized the Warnersville Recreation Center Wolverwines, Triad Turkey Bowl Champions to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Kym Smith of the Transportation Department who served as Courier for the meeting.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Mayor Vaughan explained the Council procedure for conduct of the meeting.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 18-0792](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Annie Frances Johnson Richmond

Councilmember Hightower read the resolution into the record; spoke to Ms. Richmond's character; recognized family and friends in the audience; spoke to her work at New Hope Baptist Church; stated she would be missed; and presented the resolution to the family.

Pat Richmond expressed appreciation to Council for the recognition of her mother; voiced she would be missed; and spoke to her working tirelessly on efforts for the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson informed the public that Jean Swann, the wife of Mel Swann had passed earlier in the day; and expressed condolences to the family.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

001-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE ANNIE FRANCES JOHNSON RICHMOND

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2018, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Annie Frances Johnson Richmond;

WHEREAS, Ms. Richmond, a native of Orange County, North Carolina attended elementary school and Hillsborough High School in Hillsborough, NC; and made Greensboro her home in 1946;

WHEREAS, she continued her education at Guilford Technical Institute now known as Guilford Technical Community College earning her high school diploma and certification in Child Nutrition;

WHEREAS, Ms. Richmond was employed by the Marriot Restaurant from 1951-1967; and completed her career with the Guilford County School System where she worked from 1967-1991 until retirement as a Cafeteria Manager for several schools;

WHEREAS, she joined Morning Star Chapter #591 OES, PHA in January, 1968; and was the Founding First Lady of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in August, 1968;

WHEREAS Ms. Richmond was a member of the Deaconess Ministry (Emeritus); a member of the General State Usher and Guilford Missionary Association; served as Worthy Matron from 1975-1977; and was a member the Morning Star Chapter for 50 years;

WHEREAS, she served as President of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Usher Board for 18 years; as the Auditor for the Women's Auxiliary; and organized the set-up of the Usher's Ministry for Fair Grove Baptist Church in Summerfield, NC and St. Mark Holiness Church in Greensboro, NC;

WHEREAS, Ms. Richmond established the "People's Vacation Club" which allowed many to enjoy vacation experiences;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by Annie Frances Johnson Richmond, the outstanding contributions she has made to the community, and the legacy she leaves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for her many years of dedicated public service. Her legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions she has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Annie Frances Johnson Richmond as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

2. [ID 18-0800](#) Resolution Recognizing the 2018 Triad Turkey Bowl Champions, the Warnersville Recreation Center Wolverines

Councilmember Hightower recognized the team to come forward for a photograph; stated this was an exciting time for young people; wished them many successes in the future; congratulated the team on winning the championship; and read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked the coaches who volunteered their services; and spoke to the difference the coaches made in the lives of young men.

A coach spoke to the work of the team members; thanked the parents for trusting the coaching staff to teach their

children life long values; stated it was an honor to volunteer; and thanked Council for the recognition.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

002-19 RESOLUTION HONORING TEAM GREENSBORO THE 2018 TRIAD TURKEY BOWL CHAMPIONS

WHEREAS, Greensboro Parks and Recreation exists, in part, to offer quality recreational opportunities that rejuvenate health and wellness and enhance the quality of life for all residents;

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department provides youth sports leagues that teach leadership, fundamentals, sportsmanship, and teamwork in a fun and safe environment, emphasizing each individual's right to participate and enjoy the game above all else;

WHEREAS, in the 2018 Fall Youth Football Season, over 320 children aged 7 to 12 participated on our Youth Football and Cheerleading teams, improving their skills, making new friends, and playing hard;

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2018, the Warnersville Recreation Center Wolverines became Team Greensboro and represented the entire City in the Triad Turkey Bowl against teams from Thomasville, High Point, and Davidson County in 7-9-year-old and 10-12-year-old divisions. This was Greensboro first time participating in this Triad-wide competition;

WHEREAS, both teams from Greensboro advanced to the championship games in each age division. While the 7-9 year-old team fell short, the 10-12-year-olds held High Point minus 71 yards in total offense for a 27-0 victory;

WHEREAS, this win represents Team Greensboro's athletic prowess and dedication, as well as the hard work and encouragement of their volunteer coaches and parents throughout the season.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its sincere appreciation and congratulations to Team Greensboro, their families, and the Parks and Recreation Athletics Section, for their outstanding achievement.
2. That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Parks and Recreation Department to serve as a symbol of gratitude of the people of Greensboro for the Youth Football League's commitment to providing better lives and a better community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

3. [ID 19-0004](#) Recognition of the 2018 Government Improvement Award Winners and Tom James and T. Cooper James & Associates, Program Benefactors

Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson recognized T. Cooper James and Associates, Inc. (TCJA) for their sponsorship of the government improvement award, spoke to the difficulty in choosing the finalists; stated he was proud that employees participated in the program; provided a history of the program; and introduced Tom James.

TCJA Vice President Tom James stated that it was an honor to recognize and reward people in government; spoke to the recipients of the awards this evening; and to the benefit of the awards.

Assistant City Manager Wilson commended TCJA for their continued investment in the City; asked Mayor Vaughan, City Manager Parrish and Mr. James to come forward to present the awards; announced that each employee would receive a check in the amount of \$2,500; and outlined the two award categories, Impact and Innovation.

Assistant City Manager Wilson announced Keith Watkins, Specialist GIS Applications for the Department of Transportation as the winner of the Innovation Award; highlighted Mr. Watkins' project which saved the City approximately \$30,000; and presented the award.

Assistant City Manager Wilson announced that the winner of the Impact Award was John Gribble, Support Services Analyst with the Information Technology Department; outlined Mr. Gribble's project which saved the City approximately \$645,000 while improving communications; and presented the award.

Assistant City Manager Wilson reiterated appreciation for TCJA's support of the City along with their promotion of good government.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the recognition of employees through the awards.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ron Tuck, 1500 West Vandalia Road thanked Council for their service; suggested the City establish a police athletic league to involve officers with coaching opportunities; voiced the importance the impact of sports had on young people; referenced the handout he provided to Council; outlined the program for the second annual Gospel Fest on Saturday, January 26th; stated he had known Mr. and Mrs. Swann; spoke to African American artists; and asked that the Midnight Basketball program be brought back for teens.

Luther Falls, Jr. 1603 Lansdown Avenue wished Council Happy New Year; referenced a previous police athletics program; expressed condolences to the Swann family; made a plea for financial support for Bennett College; voiced concern with the Marcus Smith issue; the need to address mental health issues; stated this was the 25th Anniversary of Watchful Network Incorporated; and congratulated the Wolverines on their championship.

Sallie Hayes-Williams, 1101 North Elm Street voiced the need to eradicate homelessness; concern with persons being outside in the inclement cold weather; referenced being homeless; expressed kudos to the agencies that assisted with homelessness; encouraged the public to provide financial support to Bennett College; stated a service would take place on Saturday at Dana Auditorium on Guilford College Campus at 9:00 a.m. to celebrate the life of LoRenZo "Logie" Meachum who passed on December 29, 2018; and asked that a resolution be prepared in his honor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested a resolution be prepared for Mr. Meachum for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street spoke to the diversity of his neighborhood; voiced concern and disagreement with illegal immigration; support for a wall to be built; read the names of victims as a result of illegal immigration violence; and asked for a moment of silence.

Mayor Vaughan requested respect by the audience in the Chamber for all speakers.

The following speakers voiced concerns with the handling of the Marcus Deon Smith incident; with personnel involved in the incident returning to work; the need for changes in policy and procedure in the Greensboro Police Department (GPD); requested the termination of specific GPD officers; spoke to white supremacy; oppression of persons of color; police accountability and brutality; the need for mental health consultants; content of the body worn camera video; justice for Marcus Deon Smith; comments by and creditability of Councilmembers; harassment by police officers; the role of police officers to protect and serve; and inconsistencies in the report. Additional comments were provided regarding the character of Marcus Smith; an example of an actual Ripp-Hobble device; involvement of an additional officer who was not placed on administrative leave; quotes from Police Chief Wayne Scott and Councilmembers; unfair decisions and actions of Council; presence of the Smith family in the audience to talk about the loss of a brother and a son; concern with a lack of response from Council; and the importance of Council taking immediate action.

Cletus Brinson, 3607 Calvert Street; Eddie Brewer, Washington Street, Maurice M. Warren, 1845 Murray Lane; Ryan Tardiff, 830 West Market Street, Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street, Marcus Hyde, 305 Tate Street, William Belcher, 5939 West Friendly Avenue, Cherizar Crippen, Rachel Wieselquist, 910 Wharton Street, Catherine Holcombe, 1911 Rosecrest Drive, Luis Medura, 105 Kensington Road, Harmony Lee, Bragg Street, Amanda Skiscim, 5304 Grace Williams Road, Brandon Wrencher, 1601 Vance Street, Mary K. Wakeman, 2710 Azalea Drive, Nikolaus Knight, 5 Boxelder Court, Kimberly Suber, 511 Crossgate Way, and Mary Smith.

In response to comments and questions from the speakers, Council responded as follows:

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to why she supported local businesses that had been boycotted by a group; stated that although she stood as a progressive member of Council, it took five votes of Council to drive change; spoke to her twenty year career working with homelessness; stated she was working to make changes from the inside; added that she would provide answers to the public; and expressed that she would not apologize for doing what she felt was right.

Councilmember Hightower explained why she was silent; emphasized that she wanted answers and had called for an independent investigation of the incident; that she was very concerned; voiced the need to ensure that everything was done to the best of the City's ability; her concern that she had not gotten answers at this time; that the public did not trust the process; added that Council could not inform the public until they were informed; and apologized for the silence.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced concern for the incident; stated she considered all lives precious; added that she watched the video yesterday; confirmed she had listened to peoples' concerns this evening; asked those present to not take her silence in a negative way; and confirmed she would respond once questions had been answered.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to when Council would provide comments; expressed she had not been silenced; and that Council was responding to the speakers.

Discussion and dialogue took place between Council and Mrs. Smith regarding justice for the death of her son; improving and making changes to procedures as a result of the incident; an invitation for Mrs. Smith to have a meeting with Mayor Vaughan; whether or not there were any cover ups regarding the incident; the need for action to be taken now; whether Marcus was combative or threatening at the time of the incident; and the need for further investigation.

Councilmember Wells voiced condolences for the loss of Marcus Smith; stated that perception was reality; voiced concern with people placing spins on comments made; spoke to the hurt and anger the family was feeling; stated she had viewed the video; spoke to fighting for justice; standing for what was right and fair; reminded the audience of the definition of homicide; of changes being made; and spoke to what she stood for.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the press release.

Councilmember Hightower expressed condolences to the family; emphasized that she was very concerned; voiced the need to ban the Ripp-Hobble procedure; and requested an update.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced support for Councilmember Hightower's remarks.

City Manager Parrish provided an update on modifications that had already been made to the procedure; stated a task force had been created; and informed Council that training would be updated.

Councilmember Hightower emphasized that the Sheriff's Department did not use the Ripp Hobble method; and expressed concern that the City find alternative ways for restraints.

Mayor Vaughan explained that restraint was now done by only restraining the ankles.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wells pursuant to N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City's attorneys and the City Council, and to consider and give instructions to the City's attorneys concerning the handling of judicial actions, specifically in the case of William Thomas Fox and Scott Everett Sanders v. The City of Greensboro, et al., as well as its effect on other pending litigation.

City Council recessed to closed session at 8:01 p.m. City Council returned to open session at 8:28 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Vaughan, Councilmembers Abuzuaiter, Hoffmann, Kennedy and Wells.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Wells to return to open session. The motion carried by voice vote.

III. ITEMS CALLING PUBLIC HEARINGS (ONE VOTE)

There were no items calling public hearings for this agenda.

Matters to be discussed by the Mayor and Members of the Council

There were no items for discussion by the City Council.

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 Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:29 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR