



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, March 5, 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:

Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaite, Councilmember Sharon Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm, and Councilmember Goldie Wells.

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, Interim City Attorney Jim Hoffman, and City Clerk Angela Lord.

### **Moment of Silence**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

### **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Mayor Vaughan recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Recognition of Courier**

City Manager David Parrish recognized Shannon Myers of the Water Resources 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.

\*\*\*Due to technical difficulties during the meeting, all recorded votes were taken by voice vote.

## **I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS**

### **1. [ID 19-0037](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late LoRenZo "Logie" Meachum**

Councilmember Hightower and Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson recognized the family and friends of Lorenzo Meachum in attendance. Councilmember Hightower, Councilmember Abuzuaite, and Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read the resolution into the record; shared memories about Mr. Meachum; and presented the resolution to the family.

Theresa Meachum voiced appreciation for the resolution; and spoke to Mr. Meachum's love of Greensboro.

**Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Wells to  
adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.**

#### **053-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE LORENZO "LOGIE" MEACHUM**

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2018, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of Storyteller and Blues Musician Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum;

WHEREAS, Meachum, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina attended an all-black Catholic School, "Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal School"; and later became one of the early integrator's in the Guilford County Public School System;

WHEREAS, he graduated with honors from the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (A & T) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Theater with a concentration in Lighting and Design; continued his education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Theater from Virginia Polytechnic and State University in the spring of 1994; and in continuing his education, he needed one class to complete the PhD program for a Doctorate degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG);

WHEREAS, Meachum growing up in a musical environment listening to Sam Cooke and the Platters, he had the honor to work with icons such as Sammy Davis Jr., Tony Bennett, Roberta Flack, The McGuire Sisters, and Bill Cosby at Harrah's Broadway By the Bay Casino;

WHEREAS, he provided the musical component to an A & T play with William "Bubba" Klinefelter in 1998 earning an invite to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, Meachum and Klinefelter later produced the "Bump and Logie After Hours" album;

WHEREAS, Meachum along with Klinefelter won the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society competition in 2007 which qualified the two to represent the Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee;

WHEREAS, he represented the country by serving in the United States Marine Corps; worked at Fire Station #52 in Greensboro as a firefighter; and held positions at UNCG Department of African American and African Studies and Winston Salem State University as an instructor;

WHEREAS, Meachum served on the Friends of the UNCG Library Board of Directors; published a literary essay, "Sweet Magnolia" in 2015 in the "27 Views of Greensboro"; and authored the "Great Googley Moogley" children's book in 2016;

WHEREAS, realizing the value to have an impact on the life of a child, during Meachum's 30 year commitment to children as an educator and consultant, he traveled the country for six years performing various children's art programs including the "Poetry Alive!" and "Blues in the Schools" initiatives;

WHEREAS, Meachum also performed on stages across the country and overseas as a blues performer where he always invited the audience to recognize the goodness of God and to participate in what he called The Second Greater Recreationalist Congregation;

WHEREAS, he won the Triangle Blues Society's Blues Challenge in 2017 which lead to a second performance at the International Blues Challenge;

WHEREAS, Meachum was best known for his arts and cultural contributions; and was instrumental in establishing the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society of Greensboro;

WHEREAS, Meachum was rewarded for his contributions in the arts earning accolades such as the O'Henry Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award in 1999; and the Greensboro Public Library's Literary Laurel Award in 2000;

WHEREAS, Meachum performed and played a key role in recruiting the National Folk Festival to Greensboro from 2015-2017;

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 Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum, the outstanding contributions he has made to the community, and the legacy he leaves.

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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 his many years of dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

**2. [ID 19-0113](#) Resolution in Support of Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution**

Councilmember Kennedy read the resolution into the record; spoke to the importance of equal constitutional protection; to political parity; and recognized Anna Fesmire to receive the resolution.

Vice President of the League of Women Voters, Ms. Fesmire spoke to an amendment for women's equality; outlined the history of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) ratification; spoke to social and cultural changes; and voiced appreciation for Council support.

**Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.**

**054-19 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes;

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and State constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin;

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced;

WHEREAS, the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape, and domestic violence assaults;

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex";

WHEREAS, the Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections;

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 37 states, the most recent being Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018;

WHEREAS, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble;

WHEREAS, Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro enforces principles of fair treatment of its employment applicants and employees without discrimination on the basis of sex, and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greensboro City Council supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greensboro City Council urges the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 Legislative session.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

3. [ID 19-0171](#) Piedmont Triad Partnership (PTP) Carolina Core Presentation

Mayor Vaughan stated the item would be postponed to a future meeting.

4. [ID 19-0176](#) Motion to Adopt the Amended 2019 City Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Vaughan reviewed the request to change the April 2, 2019 City Council meeting to April 1, 2019; and asked for a motion to adopt the Amended 2019 City Council meeting Schedule.

**Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to adopt the amended 2019 City Council meeting schedule. The motion carried by voice vote.**

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street spoke to constitutional amendments regarding voter identification requirements; voiced concerns with voter fraud; and spoke to gerrymandering.

Luis Medina, voiced concern with the Marcus Smith incident; and spoke to justice.

Hester Petty, 340 Canterbury Street voiced concern with the Marcus Smith incident; referenced the Smith family; spoke to press releases; and to justice.

Brian Watkins, 1903 Taylor Street voiced concern with the Marcus Smith incident; police actions; and spoke to justice.

Ryan Tardiff, 830 West Market Street voiced concern with the Marcus Smith incident; referenced the Smith family; spoke to press releases; and referenced a quote.

## **III. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

There were no items calling for public hearings on this agenda.

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

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to place the name of and appoint Sondra Wright to the Redevelopment Commission replacing Angela Harris. The motion carried by voice vote. Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to appoint Roslynn ChouChan to the Commission on the Status of Women replacing Fanta Dorley. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Hightower requested an update on the Greensboro Economic Development Alliance to which Mayor Vaughan confirmed that she and Councilmember Outling would provide an update. Councilmember Hightower requested staff research the combining and revitalization of the Economic Development and East Greensboro Study Committees; requested the elimination of the use of the Ripp Hobble method; and spoke to Womens History Month.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to place the name of and appoint Joanne Black to the Human Relations Commission replacing Hillary Goldberg. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Thurm extended congratulations to Laura Way as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of

ArtsGreensboro.

Councilmember Outling highlighted upcoming events that he would attend.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to the International Advisory Commission elections; to a ribbon cutting for the electric busses; recognized the retirement of Lillian Plummer; spoke to the Greensboro Police Department graduation; and to the 2019 ACC Womens Basketball Tournament at the Coliseum.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson referenced speaking engagements for Black History Monday; recognized Diversity and Inclusion Officer Maria Hicks-Few; and echoed sentiments for Ms. Plummer's retirement.

Councilmember Wells highlighted upcoming speaking events; and referenced meeting with the Guilford County Delegation.

Councilmember Hightower interjected that Waldo Faulkner had served as a council member; and stated Mr. Faulkner had been the first African American to serve on the Mayor's Committee.

Councilmember Kennedy referenced the Welcome HOME initiative; spoke to an update on tornado recovery efforts; requested staff provide an update on the implementation of mental health staff; and outlined a schedule for Community Conversations to take place in different districts.

Councilmember Hoffmann spoke to a sustainability forum; to electric buses; and congratulated Ms. Way.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the eBay program for small businesses; to summertime employment for youth; highlighted the Ruth Wicker facility in Barbara Park as an event center; and referenced other event locations at local colleges and universities.

#### Matters to be presented by the City Manager

City Manager Parrish extended a welcome to newly appointed Assistant City Manager Kimberly Sowell; voiced appreciation to Water Resources Director Steve Drew for his work over the past few months; highlighted the opening of Station #63; spoke to organizational successes; and to being a university city.

#### Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

There were no items for discussion by the Interim City Attorney.

#### **Adjournment**

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:48 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD  
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN  
MAYOR