



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Monday, April 1, 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 Abuzuaite, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. 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 Councilmember Abuzuaite to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Recognition of Courier**

City Manager David Parrish recognized Brad Tolbert of the Neighborhood and Development 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; spoke to the number of speakers signed up; and to adjusting the time limit to three minutes per speaker.

Moved by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Councilmember Hoffmann to adjust speakers from the floor time from five to three minutes each. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

1. [ID 19-0193](#) Resolution in Support of the North Carolina General Assembly House Bill #144 Entitled "An Act Making it Unlawful to Use a Wireless Communication Device while Operating a Motor Vehicle on a Public Street, Highway, or Public Vehicular Area"

Councilmember Abuzuaite read the resolution into the record; spoke to the Vision Zero initiative; and presented the resolution to the Transportation Department representative, Lydia McIntyre.

Ms. McIntyre voiced appreciation for the resolution; spoke to presenting a draft plan to Council at a future City Council meeting; and to the need for support at the State level.

**Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Thurm, 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

084-19 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE BILL 144 ENTITLED "AN ACT MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO USE A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC STREET, HIGHWAY, OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREA"

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly is considering passage of "Hands Free NC" which will set limits on the use of a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle on a public street, highway, or public vehicular area;

WHEREAS, House Bill 144 is still making its way through committee meetings;

WHEREAS, House Bill 144 would become effective January 1, 2020 if adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly;

WHEREAS, House Bill 144 provides for a six month deferral period immediately following the effective date in which law enforcement shall only issue warning tickets for any offenses committed;

WHEREAS, the Greensboro City Council believes that House Bill 144 exemplifies Greensboro's VisionZero initiative to reduce and eliminate fatalities which are most often caused by distracted driving;

WHEREAS, the Greensboro City Council acknowledges that approximately seventy percent (70%) of adult drivers admit to using a wireless communication device while driving;

WHEREAS, the Greensboro City Council also notes that more than fifty percent (50%) of teen drivers use a wireless communication device while driving and at least twenty-five percent (25%) reported typing or sending a text message; and

WHEREAS, the Greensboro City Council agrees that distracted driving includes texting, instant messaging, Web commands, and pressing more than a single button or any other form of electronic text retrieval or entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greensboro City Council supports the North Carolina General Assembly House Bill 144.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greensboro City Council urges the State of North Carolina General Assembly to consider the passage of "Hands Free NC" to set limits for the use of wireless communication devices.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

**2. [ID 19-0222](#) Resolution Recognizing the Month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to Kellin Foundation representative, Kelly Graves.

Ms. Graves voiced appreciation for the ongoing support of children and families; spoke to Wear Blue Day on Friday; and to an upcoming event on April 13 at LeBauer Park.

**Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Wells, 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

## 085-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, children are vital to the City's future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being valuable assets;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have safe, stable and nurturing healthy homes and communities that foster well-being;

WHEREAS, parents need support and resources to cope with stress and nurture their children to grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, the Kellin Foundation and all of the Guilford County Trauma Provider Network Partners work to build resiliency in children and families impacted by violence through a coordinated community response team of victim advocates, law enforcement, medical professionals, local trauma treatment providers and human service agencies to address the needs of children exposed to violence and trauma; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community.

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

That the Greensboro City Council recognizes the Month of April as 'Child Abuse Prevention Month' to raise the awareness of all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to support families, prevent child abuse and strengthen the community.

(Signed) Michelle Kennedy

3. [ID 19-0252](#) Recognition of the 2018-2019 Spirit of Excellence AmeriCorps Team at the Black Child Development Institute of Greensboro

Mayor Vaughan stated Council had been requested to postpone the item.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to postpone the item to a future meeting of Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Jada Monica Drew, 2 Bluestone Lane, spoke to Arts Greensboro, referenced a 2015 resolution; spoke to a thriving arts community; to Council support of the arts; and requested a resolution declaring April as "I Heart Art" month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested staff to research of a resolution for "I Heart Art" month.

Sondra Wright, P O Box 36355 representing the Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Committee voiced concerns with M/WBE participation; with low bid contracts; spoke to local preference policy; and voiced concern with use of non-local and non-mbe contractors.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to a revised plan; voiced concerns with utilizing policies; and requested City Manager Parrish to meet with Ms. Wright.

Richard Oliver, 716 Walker Avenue representing the Industries of the Blind spoke to proposed public transportation fare increases; and voiced concern with people on limited incomes.

Mayor Vaughan referenced a Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) meeting; discussions regarding the need for fare increases; confirmed the item had not been before Council; spoke to a review at a future work session; reiterated

the increases were a recommendation; spoke to a future public hearing; and to the removal of state funding.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to misinformation; stated she had recommended a Steering Committee to include stakeholders; spoke to the need to provide services; acknowledged financial concerns; spoke to community engagement; to the need to look at alternatives; to enhanced services; and to serving as a liaison for the GTA.

AJ Engleby, 406 Hargett Street voiced concerns with the contracting with a new company; with re-occurring issues; spoke to the Rider Advisory Committee (RAC); to fixed bus routes; to the loss of monthly passes; to premium fares; and to the need to be inclusive.

Jamey Gaddy, 4900 D Tower Road spoke to the RAC; to increases; referenced rider concerns; persons with disabilities challenges; and voiced concern with long bus rides.

Paul Washington, 3202 A Yanceyville Street voiced concerns with potential fee changes; spoke to a tier program; to the city tax base; and requested Council to consider ideas to address the fees.

Larsina Johnson, 5653 Hornaday Road voiced appreciation to Mayor Vaughan for explaining the process; referenced meetings held at the Library; requested to be included in the conversations; voiced concerns with fare increases; the need for Greensboro Transit Authority to be restructured; the need for city-wide services; and the need for a monthly pass.

Vicky Burk, 9 D River Oaks Drive voiced concerns with healthcare and education; with long waits for rides; with disrespectful drivers; and expressed displeasure with the system.

Cynthia Veya, 6 Portside Court spoke to employment with the Industry with the Blind; to being an 18 year Specialized Community Area Transportation (SCAT) rider; to an impact on premium services; and voiced concerns with fare increases.

Latoya Alston, 2301 Beville Road spoke to utilizing SCAT; and to the need for weekend services.

Alexandra Vujnovic, 3104 Cabarrus Drive, extended an invitation to Council to attend a free Kids Day America on May 18th; spoke to health and safety awareness; to support of local charities; and outlined planned activities.

Terry VunCannon, 2702 West Market Street spoke to the benefits of music in the city; referenced items distributed to Council; spoke to free parking for musicians; to challenges in loading and unloading equipment; and requested Council consider setting loading zones for musicians.

Council requested staff to research musician loading zones; and to schedule a work session to discuss options.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting at 6:26 p.m. and returned at 6:29 p.m.

Latasha McCorkle, 1418 Asher Down Drive voiced concerns with pull-over rates in North Carolina, with targeting; and to the need for a consent to search.

The following speakers voiced concerns with policing issues; the reducing of speaker time limits; with the Marcus Smith case; spoke to public health; to justice; and challenges of City Council.

Reverend Doctor Daran Mitchell, Trinity AME Zion Church, 631 East Florida Street; Reverend Steven Allen, Shiloh Baptist Church, 1210 South Eugene Street; Reverend David Kennedy, 87 Africa Lane, Laurens, SC; Edward Whitfield, 709 Park Avenue; Reverend Wesley Morris, Faith Community Church, 417 Arlington Street; Zalonda Woods; Reverend Nelson Johnson, 2115 Murrayhill Road; Reverend Bradley Hunt, II, 2112 Pebble Drive; Russell Smith, 87 Foggie Estate, Laurens, SC; Christiana Yongue; Lindsay Caesar, 2332 Hiawatha Drive; Eddie Brewer; Billy Belcher, 5939 West Friendly; Marcus Hyde, 305 Tate Street; Ryan Tardiff, 830 West Market Street; Susan Burkholder, 1511 Oak Street; Luis Medina, 105 Kensington Road; Robert Foxworth, 2506 Pinecroft Road; Hester

Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street; Tevin Henderson, 300 Gar Place; Alan Hedrick, 3718 Manor Drive; and Kimberly Smith.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to call for an independent investigation into the death of Marcus Smith. A vote was not taken, as Council policy is to vote on business items at the second monthly meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to the need for a resolution; to the District Attorney's actions; and to finding an acceptable outcome for the parties involved.

Councilmember Hightower referenced a previous request for an independent investigation; spoke to the need to resolve the issue; to race and economic concerns; to quality of life; to a lack of trust; referenced a previous request for an update on Neighborhood Oriented Policing; and voiced support for the motion.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to conversations with City Manager Parrish in reference to the incident; to finding an acceptable body to conduct an investigation; to watching the videos; to reading reports; to the proper protocol for voting at Council meetings; to the Medical Examiners report; to the State Bureau of Investigation report; and requested staff include an item for discussion on the next City Council meeting agenda.

Council requested attendees to show respect during the meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann to adjourn the meeting. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Councilmember Outling left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Council discussed the process for City Council meetings; the item being placed on the next agenda; release of other body worn camera videos; the history of the Ripp Hobble device; and finding a trustworthy entity to conduct an investigation.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting at 7:27 p.m. and returned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the need to correct misstatements in a handout provided to Council.

Councilmember Hightower referenced the need to see which investigative body conducted the investigation in Charlottesville; and requested staff move forward without haste.

### **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**

Mayor Vaughan highlighted recent homicides in Greensboro; spoke to conversations with Guilford County (the County) for actions to address violence; explained the County's stance on the CureViolence initiative; the involvement of One Step Further; and requested Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson speak to the program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson provided the history of the item; stated she had attended CureViolence events; spoke to public health; outlined the process of the program; reviewed recommendations for targeted areas; explained One Step Further's involvement of the program; the need to operate under a different program name; spoke to a letter of approval from the City of Greensboro and One Step Further; emphasized One Step Further would not benefit financially; the need for drug assessments; for a salary for the Executive Director; spoke to a budget need of \$500,000 to implement the program; and commended the work of CJ Brinson on the project.

Mayor Vaughan explained Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson would need to abstain from voting on items coming before Council for the program; spoke to potential partners; reiterated concerns with the recent violent acts; and requested

staff to schedule a partnership meeting for a CureViolence-type program.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to a commitment by the County.

Moved by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Wesley McQuire to the Greensboro Transit Authority. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Wells spoke to a town hall meeting for District 2 on April 18th.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Bob Kollar to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Kennedy highlighted upcoming community conversations to be held in May.

Councilmember Hightower placed the name of Franklin Matthews Jr. into the databank; spoke to the Minority/Women Business Enterprise program; voiced concerns with racism; spoke to working with the Human Relations Commissions; expressed empathy for the Smith family; spoke to addressing issues at an upcoming meeting; and requested to be involved in discussions.

Councilmember Thurm placed the name of Bryon Robinson into the databank; recognized and expressed condolences to the Kilimanjaro family; spoke to attending local events; to meeting the Moldova Ambassador; to partnerships; to an upcoming Moldova event in October; to Participatory Budgeting idea collections; outlined next steps; and highlighted a submission from former Councilmember Tony Wilkins.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to the City Sister program.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to the Cadence of the Drums events; to the legacy of Dr. Kilimanjaro; expressed condolences for the Kurry and Davis families; spoke to schools impacted by recent shootings; to the Housing Summit; the Housing Coalition; to the International Advisory elections; and voiced appreciation to staff for work on the event.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated the Mayor's office had sent a letter to the Prime Minister of New Zealand on behalf of all Council.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sections 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 BNT Ad Agency, LLC v. City of Greensboro.

Council recessed to closed session at 8:31 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:57 p.m. with all members in attendance.

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

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

There were no items for discussion by the City Manager.

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

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

### **Adjournment**

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:58 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD  
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN  
MAYOR