



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

5:30 PM

Public Safety Training Facility

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 at the Public Safety Training Facility, at 1510 North Church Street 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

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts, 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 Outling to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Rachel McCook of the Planning 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

City Manager David Parrish extended greetings to the District Three meeting attendees; highlighted the Downtown and Latham Park Greenway extension; provided an overview of facilities and infrastructure; and spoke to future community events.

ID 19-0510 LEED Update

Water Resources Director Steve Drew made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); recognized members of the Community Sustainability team; outlined steps for certification; the key elements of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities; reviewed the four-certification levels; provided information for both phases of the project; and spoke to the convergence of stakeholders.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer B, Exhibit No.18, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jamey Gaddy voiced concerns regarding Specialized Community Area Transportation (SCAT); with Keolis; Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting attendance; and shared personal experiences with SCAT.

Larsina Johnson voiced concerns with SCAT; fare increases; spoke to riding public transportation for 20 years; requested Council work with SCAT riders; and spoke to the need for dialogue.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to the RAC meetings; to the need for Council consideration of citizen needs; and to the consensus of the SCAT riders on fare increase for premium services.

Mayor Vaughan stated Council had rejected proposed increases presented by the Greensboro Transit Advisory Commission; and clarified Council's commitment to maintain fare rates.

Dr. Anjail Ahmad echoed concerns voiced by Ms. Johnson; spoke to the need for engagement and innovation; voiced concerns with SCAT; to opportunities for persons with disabilities; and suggested businesses support services.

Discussion took place regarding the City obtaining services from Duke Power.

Brian Crean, Action Greensboro Planning Committee member, highlighted the Run for the Greenway event on September 14th; extended an invitation; spoke to planned activities; and distributed t-shirts to City Council.

Laura Lorenz, Race Director for the Greensboro Run for the Greenway spoke to the 10th annual event; voiced appreciation on the staff update on the Greenway; and for a project along Murrow Blvd.

John Roberts voiced concerns with an Airbnb in his neighborhood; conversations with the Zoning Department; violations on rentals; spoke to requirements for owners to reside on site; referenced other municipality ordinances; and reiterated concerns with the usage of the home.

Phillip Smith echoed the concerns of Mr. Roberts; voiced the main concern was for neighborhood safety; spoke to proof of residency; referenced the actions by the Zoning Department; spoke to neighborhood investments of renters; and requested Council and the Zoning Department to address the concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested staff to research the Airbnb.

Councilmember Hoffmann referenced an Airbnb link for complaints; spoke to the response of the Zoning Department; to a Legislature study; and to a possible moratorium.

Mr. Smith referenced funds spent on attorney fees; the definition of a Bed and Breakfast; and spoke to applying the law properly.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to scheduling a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Nicole Lindahl voiced concerns with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) street designs; distributed a handout proposal to create a safe systems policy; spoke to the need for communication in regards to street design; to review of state documentation; to accountability; to project cost; and to project implementation.

Janet Mazzurco referenced her term on the Zoning Commission; spoke to the Airbnb issue; to forming a committee; voiced appreciation to the Greensboro Police Department (GPD); voiced concerns with recent crimes; and spoke to the need for change. Ms. Mazzurco provided details of the crimes that occurred over the weekend; and to the impact of Economic Development.

Mayor Pro-Tem requested a special meeting for dialogue on the issue.

Mayor Vaughan referenced the work session on crime statistics; voiced concern with the recent criminal activities; referenced the two student deaths from Page High School; the effects on economic development; and to public safety.

Lewis Pitts spoke to attending the work session; voiced concerns with the GPD; spoke to an appeal of a gag order by the courts; to the review of Body Worn Camera footage; to an email from Attorney Graham Holt; to the need for transparency; to actions by Judge Susan Bray; and requested Council take action to have the proceedings dismissed.

City Attorney Chuck Watts spoke to the powers of the City; and referenced State Statute.

Mothers Standing Against Violence representatives voiced concerns with violence in neighborhoods; unsolved murders; a recent home invasion; spoke to family members lost due to violence; to the need for more communication with mothers; voiced concerns for personal safety; and to bi-weekly meetings of the group.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to support for Cure Violence; extended condolences; spoke to the need to working with families impacted by the violence; and to criminal activity within the crescent area.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson reiterated the need for a town hall meeting; and spoke to the need for public education.

Discussion ensued regarding recruitment into gangs in the school system.

Eddie Brewer spoke to moving into an apartment; voiced appreciation for Council assistance; outlined furnishings needed; spoke to lighting in the area; and referenced time on the streets.

George Longworth voiced concerns with the Zared Jones case; spoke to the character of Mr. Zones; and to the statute of limitations to pursue a lawsuit.

Zared Jones referenced an incident with GPD; requested Council assistance; spoke to restrictions that had been imposed; and to the rights of citizens.

Councilmember Kennedy requested staff schedule a review of the footage; and spoke to the gag order restricting Council from making comments.

Council discussed previous requests to view the video; and restrictions by the court.

City Attorney Watts spoke to the availability to review the footage.

Brian Watkins voiced concerns with the Jones incident; with the GPD; and spoke to justice.

Janet Nagel provided a handout to Council; voiced concerns with fluorination; referenced studies on fluorinated water; and spoke to the impact on various people.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting at 7:11 p.m. and returned at 7:13 p.m.

Marcus Hyde spoke to the release of the Attorney Holt letter; to subpoena power; voiced concern with the GPD; and requested intervention regarding actions against Attorney Holt.

City Attorney Watts explained a hearing to determine a violation on the gag order; the city's responsibilities; spoke to legal ethics; to public records requests; and to the process of reviewing Body Worn Camera footage.

Ryan Tariff voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident; spoke to the retirement of Police Chief Wayne Scott; and to community involvement and trust.

III. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

There were no items calling for a public hearing on this agenda.

Matters to be discussed by the Mayor and Members of the Council and Boards and Commissions appointments

Councilmember Hoffmann spoke to the North Carolina Folk Festival (Festival) kickoff.

Councilmember Kennedy explained an oversight on the appointment of Jeff Smith from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Outling to reappointment Mr. Smith to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Kennedy spoke to the newest member of her family; and commended the Fire Department on the deployment of the Water Rescue teams.

Councilmember Wells highlighted events attended; spoke to the Renaissance shops committee; and suggested the community town hall meeting for District 2 as a forum to discuss public safety concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to the consideration of September 11th at 6 p.m. for the town hall meeting at the Windsor Community Center for the public safety discussions; and to the need to work together to problem solve.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Michael Cooke to the Planning Board. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to the 9-11 Stair Climb; congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson on the Humanitarian Award; and requested clarification on emails received on the open portal.

City Attorney Watts explained the process for emails received on the city open portal versus personal email addresses; and to the legal basis of confidentiality.

Due to disruptions from the audience, Mayor Vaughan requested the removal of Mr. Pitts.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff research the removal of her name from the automatic responses to emails from the open portal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to email responses; and voiced concerns with her i-Pad.

Councilmember Outling spoke to the Festival; and to an informal coffee hour with citizens.

Councilmember Thurm highlighted Participatory Budgeting videos; voting sites; and inquired about the transitions for the Community Sustainability after the retirement of Water Resources Director Steve Drew.

City Manager Parrish explained Mr. Drew would not retire until next January.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to the rebuilding of the Harris family home; to storm recovery; recognized the contributions of an audience member; spoke to a ribbon cutting; to upcoming community events; and to Cure Violence.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the release of an album for Vanessa Ferguson.

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:43 P.M.

ANGELA LORD
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN

MAYOR