



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

3:00 PM

VIRTUAL

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I. Call To Order

This virtual City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on the above date. Mayor Vaughan took a roll call to confirm the following members were present:

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

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts and Assistant City Clerk, Victoria L. Howell.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 20-0723](#) Economic Development Update (City Staff)

City Manager David Parrish spoke to providing Council with an Economic Development (ED) update; and recognized Planning Director, Sue Schwartz.

Ms. Schwartz made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); highlighted assessment reviews, grants, and loans; purpose of funds; upcoming programs; partner insights; GSO2040 plan; provided an overview of business incentive project valuation; spoke to policy recommendations; to software; to job creation; to the Urban Development Investment Grants (UDIG) Program; to an incentive cap; to a streamlining process; and to team recommendations.

Discussion took place regarding staff appreciation; a formal plan; modeling software; private sector wage comparison; standard minimum wages; incentives; and achievement of Council goals.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to review criteria for Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) participation on ED incentives.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No. 25, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

2. [ID 20-0746](#) Economic Development Update (Greensboro Chamber/LaunchLab/East GSO NOW)

City Manager Parrish recognized Brent Christensen, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) President.

Mr. Christensen made a PPP; highlighted project promoter software; announced a five year ED plan; spoke to campaign investment; to recruitment activity; to business retention, to expansion and product development; outlined new job opportunities and ED accomplishments; recognized Chamber Executive Vice President Marvin J. Price; spoke to Guilford County apprenticeship partners; to connecting students with job opportunities; and to a minority business accelerator.

Mr. Christensen recognized Executive Vice President of LaunchLab, Lou Anne Flanders-Stec.

Ms. Flanders-Stec introduced the LaunchLab initiative; outlined educational accelerator programming for supporting entrepreneurs; spoke to local interns, mentors, advisors, and experts; to community impact; and to the 2016 LaunchLab Alumni goals.

Discussion ensued regarding quarterly ED updates; five year goals; job creation; COVID-19 impacts; peer municipalities; virtual programs; inventory of new sites; and predicted trends.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to provide routine ED updates.

City Manager Parrish recognized Phil Barnhill, Executive Vice President of EastGSO Now.

Mr. Barnhill made a PPP; spoke to partnerships; to enhancing opportunities; to quality of life; highlighted commercial/business property aesthetics; investment returns; the Pyramid Village site plan; property values; outlined EastGSO Now goals; reviewed #InvestEast; minority entrepreneurship and consultants; the Revolution Mill area; competitive markets; spoke to a business fair; provided an overview of contract opportunities; community development; and affordable housing.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No. 25, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

3. [ID 20-0469](#) Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Update

This item was postponed to the November 2, 2020 Work Session.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege to consult with the attorneys regarding litigation involving: Mary and George Smith, Justin Payne, Robert Duncan, Michael Montalvo, Alfred Lewis, Christopher Bradshaw, Lee Andrews, Douglas Strader, Jordan Bailey, Ashley Abbott and Dylan Alling; Ascent (a'sent) Construction Solutions, LLC, D.H. Griffin Infrastructure; True Homes, LLC, D.R. Horton, Inc.; and the City of Greensboro. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffman, Justin Outling, Michelle Kennedy, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

Council recessed to closed session at 4:53 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 5:35 p.m. with all members in attendance.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wells, to return to open session. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffman, Justin Outling, Michelle Kennedy, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Councilmember Michelle Kennedy requested to be excused from the Regular City Council meeting. Moved by

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

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:36 P.M.

VICTORIA L. HOWELL
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR