



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Work Session

Monday, December 7, 2020

2:00 PM

VIRTUAL

I. Call To Order

This virtual City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on the above date.

Mayor Vaughan took a roll call to confirm the following Councilmembers were in attendance:

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 Deputy City Clerk Tebony Rosa.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 20-0855](#) Violent Crime Discussions

City Manager David Parrish spoke to the current homicide rate; and recognized Greensboro Police Department (GPD) Chief Brian James.

Chief James made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided an overview of homicide violent crime statistics; domestic incidents; aggravated assaults; assaults with firearms; highlighted peer city year-to-date (YTD) comparison data; outlined strategies focusing on reallocating GPD resources; departmental reorganization; spoke to community initiatives; influences on violent criminal activity; to staffing needs; to immediate and long-term enhancements; to stakeholder partnerships; to expected outcomes; and to other perspectives in solving crimes.

Councilmember Kennedy entered the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan voiced concern regarding staffing allocations in correlation to city population; staff certifications; recruitment impediments; and requested staff to research domestic and homicide events reduction prospective from the Family Justice Center (FJC).

Chief James spoke to a reduction in applicants; to peer city incentive packages, to military service; to foreign language proficiency; to a take-home vehicle program; and to a FJC liaison in the Family Victims Unit.

Councilmember Outling voiced concern regarding a recent shooting; spoke to peer city safety mechanisms; requested staff to provide staffing need information; and to comparison peer city data on shooting incidents.

Chief James spoke to public safety; to the unemployment rate; and to mental health.

City Manager Parrish outlined the next steps; highlighted the costs associated with a staffing study; officer overtime; and provided an implementation timeline.

Councilmember Thurm requested staff to provide vacancy data; a ratio of city residents to police officers; spoke to the city nightlife; and to the GPD budget allocations.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to a previous series of stakeholder meetings with nightclub and entertainment venue owners; to legislative action; and to a Shot Spotter device.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter voiced concerns regarding a reduction in the workforce.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to a community task force; to youth impact; to collaborating on strategic and integrated solutions; to including university student populations in data; requested staff to provide a holistic community approach to combating violent crime; and to research funding efforts for internet (Wi-Fi) in impact zones.

Mayor Vaughan echoed Councilmember Hightower's comments; referenced a mentorship program; added collaboration with Guilford County Commissioners, Guilford County School Board, and the Office of Workforce Development; and recognized the Director of Workforce Development Chris Riveria.

Mr. Riveria explained the correlation between unemployment and crime trends; spoke to a mobile career center to aid in training and job assistance; to virtual youth employment opportunities; and to internet connectivity gaps in east Greensboro.

City Manager Parrish highlighted a University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) and North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T SU) partnership with the Technology and Data Institute (TDI); and spoke to establishment of internet connectivity.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the Cure Violence initiative; to community based efforts; and to providing tools to service providers.

Robert Pompey, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at NC A&T SU, spoke to increasing apartment complex ownership throughout the campus geography; to perimeter safety zones in District 1 and 2; to the challenges of unemployment, health care, and food insecurity; and to an increase in gun ownership.

Dr. Jack Moorman, NC A&T SU Chief of Police, addressed the relationship between police departments; spoke to a shared responsibility of student safety; to increasing officer visibility; to a community engagement substation; to counseling services; and to mental health crisis intervention methods.

Nikki Baker, Director of Federal Relations and External Affairs in the UNCG Chancellor's Office, spoke to the TDI opportunities; to student housing ownership; and to revisiting the College Commission concept as a method to target and engage young people.

Councilmember Wells requested staff to provide information on youth-focused engagement programs.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No. 29, which are hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City's attorneys and the City Council in connection with a certain litigation matter. The parties to the litigation matters to be discussed include, in addition to the City of Greensboro, the parties to the suit by the Estate of Marcus Deon Smith, deceased, including Mary Smith, and George Smith, Officers Justin Payne, Robert Duncan, Michael Montalvo, Alfred Lewis, Christopher Bradshaw, Lee Andrews, Douglas Strader, and Jordan Bailey, as well as Guilford EMS Paramedics Ashley Abbott, and Dylan Alling, and the parties to the code enforcement action against Basil Agapion, Basil N.T. Agapion and Sophia Agapion. 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.

Council recessed to closed session at 3:36 p.m.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hoffmann, to return to open session. The motion

carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Council reconvened into open session at 4:32 p.m. with all members in attendance.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaite, 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 Abuzuaite, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 4:33 P.M.

TEBONY C. ROSA
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR