



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Special Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021

9:00 AM

VIRTUAL

I. Call To Order

This virtual City Council Special Meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Mayor Vaughan took a roll call to confirm the following members were present:

Present 9 - Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Sharon Hightower, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Tammi Thurm, and Councilmember Goldie Wells

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts, City Clerk Angela R. Lord, Deputy City Clerk Tebony Rosa, and Assistant City Clerk Victoria Howell.

1. [ID 21-0091](#) 9:00 - 9:30 Intro/Review of Council Strategic Planning

City Manager David Parrish provided a recap of last year's retreat; highlighted the pandemic's global impact to society; spoke to financial and program updates; and recognized Business Management Consultant, Meredith Powell.

Ms. Powell emphasized the importance of being flexible during external changes; provided an overview of ground rules; spoke to the viability of the strategic plan; to shifts in the marketplace; highlighted the work done on the mission, vision, strategic framework, and outcomes; and recognized Assistant City Manager Larry Davis to review the October session updates.

2. [ID 21-0094](#) 9:30 - 10:00 October Review Session Updates

Assistant City Manager Davis made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); highlighted median household income as compared to degree achievement; spoke to peer city comparisons; to construction permits; to violent crime reductions; and to transportation alternatives.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to share educational attainment compared to household income data with the Guilford County School System.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer D, Exhibit No. 4, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

3. [ID 21-0096](#) 10:15 - 11:00 Financial Updates

FY 19-20 and CY Projections

Assistant City Manager Davis recognized Budget and Evaluation Director Jon Decker and Interim Finance Director Marlene Druga.

Mr. Decker continued the PPP; spoke to departmental discipline and restraint during the pandemic; to general fund revenues and expenditures; to impacts on events, travel, property taxes, and personnel; and to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to provide budget impacts outside of the general funds.

Discussion took place regarding CARES Act accounting; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning services; tax revenue; operational expenses; and using a conservative budgeting model.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to research additional CARES Act funding from Guilford County.

Councilmember Thurm requested staff to research budgetary cost for the Coliseum's air filtration system.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer D, Exhibit No. 4, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

Break

Mayor Vaughan declared a recess at 10:13 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:25 a.m. with all members in attendance.

4. [ID 21-0098](#) 11:15 - 12:00 Financial Update

Bond Referendum and Projects

Ms. Druga continued the PPP; provided an overview of operating expenses; highlighted recommendations from the Local Government Commission (LGC); spoke to strategies to reduce reliance on the fund balance; to peer city debt comparison data; and explained various bond types.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to provide comparison data with the City of Durham's 2/3 and revenue bond payment structure; and interest rates.

Discussion took place regarding layering debt to minimize impact on tax rates; 2020 Census affects on current data; categorizing future bonds to create greater flexibility in reallocating funds; current infrastructure projects; and the bond tracker portal.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to research the long-range pandemic impact to the reserve funds.

Assistant City Manager Davis provided an overview of bond approvals and authorization; the tax rate impacts of a bond referendum; interest rate fluctuations; and re-accessing property values.

Mr. Decker highlighted the priority program needs; implementation of the Housing GSO Plan; the Parks and Recreation (P&R) comprehensive plan; public safety updates; general capital infrastructure improvements; and transit services.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to research a take-home car program for the Greensboro Police Department (GPD).

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer D, Exhibit No. 4, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM - Independent Lunch Break

Council recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. Council reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all members in attendance, except for Mayor Vaughan and Councilmember Kennedy.

5. [ID 21-0089](#) 1:30 - 2:30 Program Highlights

Housing, M/WBE, Race GSO

City Manager Parrish requested Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to preside in the Mayor's absence.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson reconvened the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Neighborhood Development Director Stan Wilson made a PPP; provided updates to the 2016 housing bonds and Housing GSO plan; spoke to affordable housing; to creating a Housing Preservation Fund; to extension of the HR&A Advisors, Inc. consultant contract; to down payment and rental assistance; to CARES Act funding; to bond allocation and code compliance; to the good repair ordinance; and to collaborative efforts with other city departments.

Discussion took place regarding minority developers; emergency housing; winter sheltering; rapid re-housing; the Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (M/WBE) reporting process; and the coordinating committee.

City Manager Parrish spoke to a future Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Coordinating Committee update.

Councilmember Kennedy returned to the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to research re-categorizing the M/WBE program as a city department

Councilmember Kennedy requested staff to research metrics on the M/WBE included under the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested staff to compare peer city M/WBE participation increases.

Assistant City Manager Kim Sowell recognized Human Rights Director Love Jones and Diversity and Inclusion Officer Maria Hicks-Few.

Ms. Jones provided an overview for the presentation.

Ms. Hicks-Few made a PPP; explained the GSO4Ward brand; collaborative efforts throughout North Carolina; elimination of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) terminology; COVID-19 impacts on the training schedule; and implementation of the action plan.

Discussion ensued regarding training participation; upcoming cultural competency training; the equity and heritage calendars; and an Affirmative Action Plan.

Mayor Vaughan returned to the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to provide GSO4Ward training to the Greensboro Fire Department.

Ms. Jones continued the PPP; highlighted racial disparity integration; department restructuring; implementation of Language Access Program (LAP) incentive pay for bilingual employees; outlined fair housing case investigative protocols; and spoke to the development and vetting process for the Ad-hoc Committee for African American Disparity.

Discussion took place regarding the fair housing concerns process; evidence review; determination of findings; and the appeal process.

Ms. Hicks-Few Maria continued the PPP; spoke to GSO4Ward developing efforts; and to upcoming modules.

Break

Mayor Vaughan declared a recess at 3:02 p.m. Council reconvened at 3:17 p.m. with all members in attendance.

6. [ID 21-0087](#) 2:45 -3:30 Program Highlights Continued

Workforce Development

City Manager Parrish recognized Workforce Development Director Chris Rivera.

Mr. Rivera made a PPP; highlighted COVID-19 impacts on employment opportunities; spoke to third-party service providers; provided an overview of programming; identified issues related to the unemployment rate; spoke to citywide resources and scholarships; to job skill training; and to the Mobile Career Center.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to provide a job opportunities scale.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to research unemployment rate data as compared to the expiration of benefits.

City Manager Parrish acknowledged staff; and expressed appreciation for partnership development.

7. [ID 21-0092](#) 3:45 - 4:15 Legislative Updates

City Manager Parrish recognized City Attorney Chuck Watts and McGuireWoods Consulting LLC Senior Vice President of State Government Relations, Johnny Tillet.

City Attorney Watts provided an update of the proposed legislation.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to provide additional information on the Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) program.

Mr. Tillet spoke to upcoming meetings with the Guilford County delegation members to determine bill sponsorships.

II. Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wells, to adjourn the City Council Special meeting. The motion carried by affirmation.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 4:05 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR