



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

3:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on the above date in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzaiter, Mike Barber, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Zack Matheny and Tony Wilkins.

Also present were Assistant City Manager Mary Vigue, City Attorney Tom Carruthers and Deputy City Clerk Angela R. Lord.

2. Presentations

1. [ID 15-0423](#) Update on Council Committees

Mayor Vaughan recognized Winston Salem Councilmember Denise Adams and Assistant to the City Manager Evan Raleigh.

Assistant City Manager Vigue spoke to Council's request to have Councilmember Adams and Mr. Raleigh at the work session; stated they were here to answer questions in regard to the Council Committee structure; and spoke to a 20 year process for Winston Salem.

Councilmember Fox explained the reasoning behind inviting the Winston Salem representatives; spoke to Greensboro being more effective; giving the community an added voice; stated the Committee structure would be like a mini Council meeting; recognized some had questions regarding the structure; outlined the proposed structure; and stated all the meetings would be televised.

Council discussed interest in the structure; the elimination of work sessions; and the cost impact for staffing, televising the committee meetings, and security.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concerns for longer meetings; for additional investment of staff time; spoke to being involved in multiple committees; asked who served on the committees; and inquired as to who made the appointments.

Winston Salem Councilmember Adams voiced appreciation to assist with the proposed structure change; outlined the committees and Council meeting structure; spoke to the length of meetings; to positive feedback; stated meetings were televised; items were voted on during committee meetings; that Winston Salem found the structure to be a useful system; spoke to requesting additional input; provided a timeline for getting agendas; examples of who would speak at committee meetings; and spoke to a strategic plan. Councilmember Adams continued by stating the Mayor made the appointments; Council voted on recommendations; spoke to attending all meetings; citizens knowledge of when the committees met and what would be discussed; financial items; stated every Councilmember served on two committees; and spoke to the procedure for voting.

Councilmember Matheny voiced appreciation for Councilmember Adams and Mr. Raleigh's knowledge; spoke to the trust required to make a committee structure work; focus of the Council and City; public safety; jobs; growing businesses; voiced concerns regarding accomplishments; spoke to using Winston Salem as a model; and to items Council agreed on.

Councilmember Wilkins asked about addressing issues in committee meetings; Council overturning committee

recommendations; and for clarification on items moving forward without a committee recommendation.

Councilmember Adams responded the Council could overturn committee decisions; spoke to being passionate and respectful; reaching an agreement; including the Mayor on controversial items; tie votes; and sending items back to committee.

Councilmember Hoffmann voiced concern for nonproductive work sessions; spoke to the passions of Councilmembers; to committee responsibilities; and to the opportunities of the proposed structure.

Mayor Vaughan asked about zoning items; the annual budget; items that would not be addressed in committee meetings; and about the length of Council meetings.

Councilmember Adams responded that the budget was handled by the Finance Committee; outlined the process for the budget; spoke to the average length of Council meetings; and to comments and debates.

Discussion took place regarding the availability of agendas prior to meetings; non-committee Councilmembers speaking at meetings; briefing's from staff; the public's interest in Council comments; a demanding meeting schedule; Board and Commissions recommendations; and the depth of presentations at various meetings.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern for the number of meetings citizens would have to attend; the lack of citizen representation; Council overturning a Committees recommendation; and the equal benefit of everyone seeing complete presentations.

Councilmember Adams spoke to PowerPoint Presentations being included in agenda packets; representatives coming to Council meetings; and the ability of Council to skype into meetings they are unable to attend.

Councilmember Fox thanked Councilmember Adams and Mr. Raleigh for coming; requested the item be included on the June 2nd Council agenda; Councilmembers to submit committee preferences to the Mayor; and spoke to being a better Greensboro.

Councilmember Barber requested City Attorney Carruthers to prepare a resolution for Tuesday, June 2nd.

Mayor Vaughan thanked Councilmember Adams and Mr. Raleigh for coming.

Discussion continued regarding the item being on Tuesday's meeting agenda; assuring fairness to the Councilmembers; and all members having the ability to vote on items.

2. [ID 15-0420](#) Council Discussion on Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget

Assistant City Manager Vigue spoke to recent updates; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); spoke to outside agencies; the updated Fiscal Year 2015-16 recommended budget; budget increases; East Market Street Development; and the Greensboro Partnership.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced concern with compression pay.

Assistant City Manager Vigue spoke to reviewing request; compensation; limited funding in budget; addressing general structure of employees; and to merit increases based on evaluations.

Discussion took place regarding City employees; holiday pay; exempt employees; funding for the Children's Museum and the Arts community; and the economic development impact of the arts.

Councilmember Fox left the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and returned at 4:05 p.m.

Discussion continued about strong economic development; funding for the Triad Stage; accepting the proposed budget; a timeline for budget requests; initiatives; the Economic Development fund; Blandwood Mansion; outside agency funding; and historic and cultural assets.

Assistant City Manager Vigue asked for clarification of Council directives for the Carolina Theater, the Children's

Museum, and Triad Stage funding; and for confirmation from a majority of Council to move forward.

Mayor Vaughan confirmed the three items to revisit; and the consent of Council.

Discussion took place regarding East Market Street Development (EMSD) funding; clarification on funds already allocated to EMSD; the Performing Arts Center and the Carolina Theater; ticket surcharges; where funding adjustments needed to be made; City grant funds; and the proposed Community Resource Board.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced concern with ticket surcharges at the Arts Center; and referenced a request regarding ticket surcharges at the Coliseum that had not been addressed.

Assistant City Manager Vigue responded that the City Manager's Office would research Coliseum ticket surcharges; and review the budget for adjustment opportunities.

Discussion continued regarding funding for Downtown Greensboro, Inc. (DGI). Councilmember Matheny did not participate in these discussions.

Assistant City Manager Vigue continued with the PPP; spoke to a 1% reduction across the board; provided history to funding changes; spoke to fund types; total expenditures; growth; referenced a handout that had been distributed to Council; spoke to the debt service fund; enterprise funds; internal service funds; outlined areas for increases; spoke to maintenance and operations (M & O) reductions; public safety; outlined categories with specific rules; and spoke to paying on the debt.

Councilmember Matheny asked for clarification on the M & O; and inquired about refinancing all debt for the lowest rates.

Finance Director, Rick Lusk spoke to refinancing each year; and stated the savings would take place over a period of time.

Assistant City Manager Vigue spoke to a possible reduction of \$3 million; special revenue funds; highway reallocations; state funding; outlined other areas of reduction; and spoke to the 1% reduction of the recommended budget.

Council discussed combining efforts with Guilford County; the need to create better efficiency for the City; concerns with the proposed budget cuts; strategic goals for the community; tax rate reductions; the level of services across the City; the Council directive to cut 1% total; the proposed Committee Structure; generating revenue; the Participatory Budget; the reduction of City staff; and increasing moral.

Discussion took place regarding the June 11th work session; and the July 7th meeting of Council.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation and Handout is filed in Exhibit Drawer X, Exhibit No. 26 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

3. Adjournment

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

THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:56 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR