



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Thursday, January 15, 2015

12:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzaiter, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Zack Matheny and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Councilmember Mike Barber.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers and City Clerk, Elizabeth H. Richardson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated Mayor Vaughan would be late; and that Councilmember Barber would be absent from the meeting.

2. Presentations

[ID 15-0075](#) Town of Jamestown - Street Name Request - David Parrish

Assistant City Manager David Parrish made a PowerPoint Presentation which outlined the area from Guilford College Road to Vickery Chapel Road which Jamestown was requesting to rename Jamestown Parkway; stated the road currently stopped at Vickery Chapel Road; that the area was unincorporated; and verified that the City did not have any jurisdiction.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced concern with confusion once the by-pass was put in place in approximately five years; stated this proposal was putting the cart before the horse; and asked if the change would impact Metro 911.

Assistant City Manager Parrish spoke to the timeframe for the by-pass of five years or better; stated Guilford County was requesting Council's opinion so they could go to their Planning Board in February; spoke to the renaming and extension of Gate City Boulevard; and clarified that the County was looking for an indication from Council regarding the renaming.

Interim Metro 911 Director Melanie Neal outlined the impact to and process that Metro 911 would need to do should the name change take place; spoke to the different responder agencies in the area that would be impacted; addressed the need for extreme signage in the area; and verified it would be a lot of work for the support services in the area.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced objection to the proposal as it was too early and confusing; and suggested Council wait until the by-pass was complete.

Councilmember Matheny voiced agreement with Councilmember Wilkins.

It was the consensus of Council to wait to vote on the street name request.

Councilmember Wilkins stated he would reach out to the Guilford County Planning Department; and asked that the groundbreaking ceremonies for the High Point Road Streetscape project be scheduled.

[ID 15-0083](#) Presentation on the Highway Historical Marker for the Greensboro Massacre

City Manager Jim Westmoreland introduced Michael Fields of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

Mr. Fields voiced appreciation to talk to Council; provided a PowerPoint Presentation which highlighted the type of and wording for the marker; spoke to markers that had been developed; provided the background of how markers were determined and would read; provided the history of the request by Louis Brandon; stated letters of support had been provided by several Councilmembers; emphasized that the Department of Transportation route was along Lee Street but that the marker would be at McConnell and Willow Roads; and stated that the marker had the unanimous vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired as to which Councilmembers had provided letters of support; and asked if Council would vote on the item as a body.

Mr. Fields responded that letters of support had been provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson and Councilmember Hightower; stated that this was an informational session; and spoke to the 25 year waiting rule prior to a marker being erected.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to why she supported the placement of the marker; and voiced that the request had come from a member of the community who was impacted by the event.

Councilmember Matheny asked if the decision by the Committee was based on Mr. Brandon's letter; spoke to the communist social workers at the White Oak Plant; voiced the need to look at history prior to the November 3, 1979 event; stated he did not agree with the placement of a marker based on the history that led up to the event; and voiced concern that this was an attempt to rewrite history.

Councilmember Hightower asked who developed the wording for the marker; stated that the Klu Klux Klan had shot and killed five communist members that day; emphasized that the signage was based on factual events that took place at the site; and referenced facts that would come up under a Google search regarding the event.

Mr. Fields stated there was background for the proposed sign on their website.

Councilmember Wilkins emphasized that three lines could not tell the story; voiced agreement with Councilmember Matheny's comments; and disappointment that Council would not have a say in the decision.

Mr. Fields verified that the marker would not be erected if there was an objection by Council; and that NCDOT would not pursue the issue.

City Manager Westmoreland interjected that he would place the item on the February 3rd meeting of Council for Council's consideration.

Councilmember Hightower stated that the marker contained a true statement; that she did not agree with Councilmember Wilkins; voiced that, although the statement was not positive, the fact of the matter was that negative things had occurred and that Council could not turn a blind eye on the event which impacted the community; voiced that this would heal some of the wounds; stated this would acknowledge events that had taken place; that she respectfully disagreed; that she would support the item; and voiced concern with walking away from things that had happened.

Councilmember Matheny voiced concern that the facts that led up to the event should be associated with the marker; spoke to the need for substance behind the marker; to healing as a result of people treating one another with respect; and voiced that some things were an attempt to foster and garner hatred.

Councilmember Fox asked that Council be respectful of one another; emphasized that Council could not replace history; voiced the need for Greensboro to move forward; stated that history was a part of Greensboro's story; and spoke to the importance and need for the City to do things that would heal itself and continue to conduct the

business of the City.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter voiced agreement with Councilmember Fox; referenced her memories of the event; voiced that the marker did acknowledge the facts of the event; and referenced the loss of freedom of speech should Council say that facts could not be placed on a historical marker.

Councilmember Hoffmann voiced the need to put things in perspective; referenced that this would be a highway marker that was factual; and spoke to the need to maintain a level of respect and decorum during Council discussions.

Councilmember Wilkins voiced respect for his fellow Councilmembers; stated he would respect the decision of Council when a vote was taken; and that he was glad Council was moving in that direction.

[ID 15-0048](#) Presentation on Faith Action ID Program

City Manager Westmoreland provided the history of the program and recognized Deputy Chief Wayne Scott for an update.

Deputy Chief Scott outlined the history of the program implementation; stated that the Police Department had partnered with faith leaders that ministered to Hispanic residents who did not have full legal status; referenced other cities with similar programs; spoke to events that had been held which were positive and family oriented; stated the program had been tailored after Winston-Salem's; added that the IDs did not take the place of a driver's license; that the program had been well received in the community; and stated as of December, 4000 IDs had been issued. Deputy Chief Scott continued that the Department had secondary contact with less than 50 of the 4000 persons that had IDs issued; spoke to the positive relationships between the community and the Department as a result of the program; to the support of Faith Action in the program; and to the need for community looking out for the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated she applauded the Department on many levels; and spoke to reaching out to a particular segment of the community that mattered.

Councilmember Fox asked if the IDs expired.

Deputy Chief Scott responded that the IDs did expire after a year; stated the cost was \$10; that Faith Action had bought the equipment; clarified that the program reached many nationalities; stated Reverend David Fraccaro could provide the global effect of the program; and emphasized the importance of Faith Action in partnering with area churches.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter asked about documentation that persons needed to provide.

Deputy Chief Scott explained that the Department worked with Faith Action in acquiring a person's country of origin documentation; and stated that the second piece was documentation such as a phone or electric bill for three months which connected persons to the area.

[ID 15-0069](#) Presentation on Council Committee Structure and Alternatives - Mary Vigue

City Manager Westmoreland recognized Assistant to the City Manager in Winston-Salem Evan Raleigh; spoke to the update of the boards and commission; and reminded Council that Councilmembers Fox and Barber had expressed interest in finding out how councils in other cities used committees.

Assistant City Manager Mary Vigue made a PowerPoint Presentation which provided an overview of processes used by other cities around the state; explained that these were Committees of Council which were different from boards and commissions; provided an overview of what Raleigh did which was four standing committees that met twice monthly; the items were referred to but did not originate in the committee; the meetings were televised with formal minutes; and verified that the meetings were not consistent. Assistant City Manager Vigue further explained that some cities had items originate in committee; others had a process where an item was sent to Council before vetting to committee; and confirmed that Winston-Salem's process had items go to committees

first.

Discussion took place regarding items being pulled from the agenda prior to going to committee similar to Raleigh's process; citing the public safety ordinance as an example of an item that would have gone to a Public Safety Committee; if this would increase the number of Council meetings to eight per month; if committee meetings would meet only when an item needed to be discussed; and what the makeup of the committees were.

Assistant City Manager Vigue explained that the committees were made up of Councilmembers and staff; that the Mayor would appoint the Councilmembers; outlined the process used by Charlotte for using focus committees which were open to the public but did not allow public comment; were not televised; and did not have formal minutes. Assistant City Manager Vigue explained that the City of Winston-Salem had done a very formal process which was set out in their Code; stated they held two monthly Council meetings, the first for public hearing items and the second for items that had been vetted through committees; stated the Mayor served on all committees which met once a month the week between the meetings; explained that all items without a negative vote went on the consent agenda regardless of the amount; and added that in this model, any item that got full committee approval was placed on Consent Agenda of the regular Council meetings. Assistant City Manager Vigue continued that Winston's committee meetings were televised; had formal minutes; were like mini council meetings; and referenced Winston's standing committees.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of times Greensboro Council met a month; who would oversee the committee structure; timeframe for items to be placed on agendas; Council term limits in Winston-Salem; if Council felt comfortable handling City business in a committee; letting items be handled in committee and not doing things twice; the ability for all Councilmembers to attend committee meetings should they wish to do so; and if the process would work should Council be reduced from nine members to seven.

Mr. Raleigh outlined the process utilized by Winston-Salem; confirmed that Council meetings generally lasted about one and a half hours; explained the process for speakers from the floor at their Council meetings; spoke to the days and times for their committee meetings; and limitations in the process.

Assistant City Manager Vigue outlined an alternative meeting schedule for Greensboro should Council decide to utilize a committee process which would comprise of two regular Council meetings a month, one for public hearing items, one for committee items; the discontinuation of Work Sessions; and the creation of four standing committees based on MAP Result Areas with three or four members each including the chairperson.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern with the need for the public to know the City's business; and voiced that sometimes an item needed to be vetted through Council as a whole.

Councilmember Fox emphasized this would not eliminate the public's involvement in meetings; stated the public could attend the meetings even if speakers were not permitted; that the proposed structure would make Council more efficient; would align with the MAP Result Areas of the City; and would allow Council an opportunity to present their vision.

Assistant City Manager Vigue provided a scenario where an item would need to go before two committees; confirmed the process would enable result areas to work directly with Council; spoke to what could go before a committee; stated Council could decide whether to televise the meetings; spoke to the impact the proposed process would have on staff; and outlined the next steps in the process.

Councilmember Fox asked Council to support the structure; have the City Manager come back to Council with proposed revisions to the Code of Ordinances; and to clear up any questions Council may have between now and the second meeting in February.

City Manager Westmoreland suggested that staff come back with specific details of the proposed process prior to this going to a Council meeting.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter added that it was important for Council to understand this would create more work for staff.

Assistant City Manager Vigue confirmed there would be changes in the agenda process; and that the Clerk's office would take on additional work.

[ID 15-0046](#) Presentation of the 2015 City of Greensboro Legislative Agenda - Tom Carruthers

City Attorney Tom Carruthers explained he would review the City's Legislative Agenda which would be presented at the January 20th meeting of Council; get Council consensus on the items after discussion; made a PowerPoint Presentation; and stated he would reach out to the Guilford Delegation for a meeting with Council.

Mayor Vaughan entered the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

City Attorney Carruthers continued that the long session of the Legislature opened yesterday; explained that there were no restrictions on bills that could be introduced; and reviewed the Privilege License Revenue.

Brief discussion took place regarding the estimated shortfall of \$2 million; why the City was going after the item; friction between Council and the Delegation; the need for the City to know where businesses were located; partisan politics in Raleigh; and getting guidance from the City's lobbyist on how it presented the agenda.

City Attorney Carruthers explained that Assistant City Manager Mary Vigue was working with the School of Government to devise a process for tracking business locations and owners once the privilege license expired.

City Manager Westmoreland confirmed an update would be forthcoming at an upcoming Work Session.

City Attorney Carruthers continued the presentation by outlining Medicaid expansion, block DMV Registration for unpaid parking tickets; and presumptive disability for firemen items.

Councilmember Wilkins referenced conversations with Senator Trudy Wade regarding software issues for the unpaid parking tickets which was causing delays; and verified the item was being discussed.

Council discussed the items briefly; and status and interest in the Delegation moving the firemen bill forward.

Fire Chief Greg Grayson noted that the bill was stuck in committee; and that North Carolina did not have presumptive disability for firemen.

Councilmember Matheny suggested the City ask if the State discussed presumptive disability for firemen; asked that Council try to get information on the status of the bill as well the intention of the Delegation in moving the bill forward; and suggested that the City possibly lobby themselves.

Attorney Carruthers covered the regulate after hours clubs item; elaborated on the goals of the bill; spoke to the reconfiguration of Council which would change terms from two to four years; spoke to discussions that the number of Council members would be reduced from nine to seven; and stated this would be a time to respond and have the opinion of Council heard on the issue.

Mayor Vaughan stated that she asked for a resolution to that effect for the January 20th meeting.

City Attorney Carruthers requested clarification on the content of the issue.

Councilmember Wilkins referenced an article in the News & Record with regards to comments made by Senator Phil Berger.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced that she was opposed to the reduction in number but not to the four year term limits.

Councilmember Hightower voiced agreement with Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson; and spoke to the rationale that more business people would run if the terms were changed to four years.

Councilmember Matheny emphasized that changing the makeup and terms would not cause people to run; spoke

to his concerns with a four year commitment; stated that the bill would probably pass; asked if the terms would be staggered; voiced concern for not knowing what the Delegation was thinking regarding the change; and stated the change would be tough.

Mayor Vaughan voiced that the Council needed to make a preemptive statement that it opposed the reduction of seats; and emphasized that Council should not remain silent.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter emphasized it was crucial for Council to voice how they felt; referenced the number of Councilmembers other cities had; stated it did not look like other cities were being targeted; and spoke to business owners being on Council.

City Attorney Carruthers verified that Council was opposed to the reduction but supported the increase in terms.

City Attorney Carruthers reviewed the police review board local legislative changes; suspension or revocation of alcoholic beverage permits; covered the police body worn cameras item in which the City would take a leadership role; spoke to technology getting ahead of the law; personnel records being subject to disclosure laws; where the footage was currently being shown; and the proposal for the manager or his designee to have the authority to disclose the footage to anyone involved in the interaction with the officer for viewing purposes only but not to possess the actual video. City Attorney Carruthers elaborated the five changes the City was seeking to N.C.G.S. Section 160A-168, "Privacy of Employee Personnel Records"; and emphasized Greensboro was ahead of Charlotte on the legislation. City Attorney Carruthers provided an overview of the request for City-issued mobile telephone numbers for law enforcement and other emergency personnel from public disclosure.

Councilmember Hoffmann inquired about the support for the historic tax credit. City Attorney Carruthers stated he would add that.

Councilmember Matheny asked that the expansion for insurance coverage for the treatment of autism be included as it seemed to have support. It was the consensus of Council to add the item.

Discussion took place regarding a possible meeting with the Delegation. Attorney Carruthers and City Manager Westmoreland confirmed that they would work to schedule a meeting between Council and the Delegation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Ms. Pearl Burris-Floyd of the Greensboro Partnership reviewed the Partnership's priority items which included mega site development funding, airport development funding, maintain funding schedule for Urban Loop and an additional \$2 million Union Square Campus simulation equipment funding as well as the five support items included in the presentation. Ms. Burris-Floyd recognized Lee Lloyd in the audience; stated the Partnership had met last week with the Delegation; that the Delegation was in agreement with some of the items on the agenda; touched base on each of the five support items on the agenda; addressed the education focus on the items; and spoke to the employment desert between Raleigh and Charlotte.

Councilmember Hightower asked how successful the Partnership was last year with its Legislative agenda; and how the Partnership planned to frame the Medicaid expansion piece.

Ms. Burris-Floyd responded that they had received one hundred percent of their primary goals; referenced working with Cone Health as well as Terry Aiken regarding the Medicaid expansion; spoke to a grant from Katie Reynolds through the Cone Health Foundation regarding the economic impact of Medicaid expansion over North Carolina; and spoke to the economic impact and number of persons who would not receive Medicaid in 2016 in Guilford County should it not be expanded.

Mr. Lloyd provided comments regarding the meeting with the Delegation last week; stated the main focus was on the mega site investment; spoke to bi-partisan support for leading the charge to helping the Legislature understand the impact of investment and returns to the middle part of the state; and the educational opportunity of the meeting.

City Attorney Carruthers reviewed nine items on the North Carolina League of Municipalities (League) Legislative

Agenda.

Mayor Vaughan stated Councilmember Wilkins had asked how successful the League was last year; if he had listed the items as they were passed at the meeting last week; and added that sales tax distribution should be on the list.

Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Schnieir explained that the items were not ranked; and that the League's top nine were on the list.

City Attorney Carruthers added that the League was about 35% successful with their Legislative Agenda in 2014.

Councilmember Wilkins interjected with his understanding of the impact to the City of Greensboro that the sales tax distribution change would have.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the City's sales tax revenue being funneled to poorer communities; and the process used for generated sales tax distribution.

Discussion ensued regarding tension between rural and urban communities; the push to redistribute the sales tax in order to send more to less wealthy communities; this being a valid concern of Council; where Charlotte stood on the bill; the polarized Legislature; impact on the County regarding distribution; and the City not being able to afford to have its sales tax sent elsewhere.

City Attorney Carruthers verified that it was Council's consensus to appeal changes to sales tax distribution; reviewed the involuntary annexation law item; spoke to legalization of sweepstakes operations; stated the moratorium was still in effect; spoke to the Court of Appeals ruling; stated that the City would begin enforcing the law on March 1st; that the City would ask venues to shutdown voluntarily; and verified the sweepstakes item would not be before Council in the near future.

Discussion took place regarding the number and elimination of "doughnut holes" on the perimeter of the City; electronic public notices in lieu of newspaper publication; the state historic tax credit; film incentive programs across the State; and municipalities being additionally charged for services which were already funded through the payment of property taxes similar to animal control.

City Attorney Carruthers advised Council he would distribute the League's list in its entirety which would include the League's ranking for its Legislative agenda to Council via e-mail.

Council discussed developing several minutes for an uninterrupted structured Council comment period in work sessions; and requested City Manager Westmoreland look at possible dates and times for a Council Retreat.

(Copies of the PowerPoint Presentations are filed in Exhibit Drawer X, Exhibit No. 1 which are hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

3. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to adjourn the work session. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 2:30 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR