



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

4:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:13 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 Abuzuaite, Mike Barber, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Justin Outling, and Tony Wilkins.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers and Deputy City Clerk Angela R. Lord.

2. Presentations

ID 15-0633 Presentation from HAECO/Olaeris Officials Regarding the Proposed Development of an AVEA (Aerial Electric Visual Assistant) Unmanned Aerial System in Greensboro

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to the history of the item; referenced meetings with Olaeris Chief Executive Officer, Ted Lindsley in 2013; spoke to a concept with emergency capabilities; Olaeris investing locally and regionally; potential for technology based jobs; building and manufacturing the system; Olaeris advancement since the initial presentation; provided local employment numbers for Olaeris; referenced North Carolina laws; the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) advancements; emergency response usage of the aerial system; spoke to the need for Federal Aviation Association (FAA) permitting approval; training; associated benefits; additional public safety; and stated this would be an initial presentation to introduce the item to Council. City Manager Westmoreland recognized team members in the audience, Haeco Vice President of Government and Industry Relations, Kip Blakely, North Carolina State University Director of NextGen Air Transportation (NGAT) Director, Kyle Snyder and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Outreach and Economic Development, Wayne Szafranski from North Carolina A & T State University (A & T).

Councilmember Wilkins referenced an email regarding Haeco; inquired about their participation; and to the City's participation in identifying a property.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to Haeco's participation; the identified property for the item; and referenced discussions with the Greensboro Partnership, Guilford County and High Point.

Mr. Blakely thanked Council for the opportunity to present; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided a brief history for Haeco; spoke to moving into the facility in High Point with a Greensboro address; the potential of approximately 147 jobs; increasing capacity and capabilities; new hanger designs; stated they were working on permitting; spoke to the employment base; employing minorities; referenced job shadowing and internships; stated A & T had introduced Haeco to Olaeris; spoke to a video on Aerial Electric Visual Assistant (AEVA) drones; and recognized Mr. Lindsley to continue the presentation.

Mr. Lindsley spoke to the drones appearance; stated AEVA was not a drone; AEVA was designed to fly like a helicopter; provided information on the dimensions and weight; stated AEVA was autonomous; spoke to a robotic intelligence; speed and flight time; advanced scene visuals for public safety personnel; provided a brief history of a two and a half year relationship in North Carolina; spoke to training engineering students; North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signing Unmanned Aircraft System laws; strategic locations and partners; capital investment; a citywide fleet; training 911 personnel; and stated the City would not be billed until goals had been

attained and proven.

Discussion took place regarding monthly fees; personnel; length of the contract; training for effectiveness and safety; the selection of the three hubs; and the hiring of new employees.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Mr. Lindsley spoke to a turnkey operation; and stated that schools and the potential for industry had drawn them to Greensboro.

Councilmember Fox stated the employment benefits needed to be broken out.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter asked about proven technology; FAA exemptions; flight regulations; for clarification in AEVA being an aircraft or drone; inquired about permission to fly within three miles of the airport; how it was tied into 911; for clarification on the monthly cost; and stated the drone language was misleading.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concerns with privacy; asked if the Police and Fire Departments had been involved in the project; about training; and the unmanned system.

Mr. Lindsley spoke to FAA approval; stated they were not seeking exemptions; spoke to using language everyone could understand; AEVA publishing in real time; and referenced a timeline.

Assistant City Manager Wesley Reid spoke to the Police and Fire Department's involvement in the project; how AEVA would be launched; addressed training of personnel; FAA approval; and to multiple things coming together over the next two years.

Discussion took place regarding delay of implementation after other locations were launched; integration of all three hubs; involvement of stake holders; equipment size; loaning the equipment for a fee; interference with public safety officials; not replacing current personnel; and protecting the public safety personnel.

Councilmember's Outling and Hightower requested staff to research the economic benefits; the net gain for Greensboro; expected savings; and additional information on the investment.

Discussion continued on AEVA being electric; the noise level of the equipment; and where the equipment would be housed.

Mr. Snyder continued the PPP; spoke to getting connected; referenced the eco system; spoke to survey missions; toy drones; the FAA Center of Excellence for UAS Research; Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE); a leadership role; having data policies and software in place; North Carolina laws; permitting; collaboration with North Carolina Department of Transportation and A & T; including Guilford Technical Community College; and to the integration level.

Councilmember Wilkins requested staff to research the use of Drug Forfeiture funding.

Greensboro Police Officer Brian James spoke to shared funds with the County and other municipalities.

City Manager Westmoreland spoke to how the item could be applied to Greensboro; working with team representatives to answer questions; asked Council to send additional questions to Assistant City Manager Reid; and asked for a consensus of Council to proceed with drafting a MOU.

Council discussed City Manager Westmoreland drafting a MOU; and answering Council questions simultaneously.

City Manager Westmoreland stated staff would schedule a follow up for the item at a future Work Session; spoke to the next steps; and a formal action by Council.

Councilmember Hightower requested the Workforce Development department to be included on the

implementation of the item.

Councilmember Fox spoke to the inclusion of all local colleges and universities.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer X, Exhibit No. 20 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

3. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 5:17 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR