



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Public Safety Committee

Monday, May 9, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chamber

Call to Order

This Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 3 - Chairperson Marikay Abuzuaite, Vice Chair Tony Wilkins and Councilmember Yvonne J. Johnson

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Mike Barber

Also present were Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, Interim Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris, Police Chief Wayne Scott and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to excuse Councilmember Barber from attendance at the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Councilmember Abuzuaite explained the Committee procedure for conduct of the meeting; and asked for a consensus of the Committee to allow Officer Bloch to speak. It was the consensus of the Committee to allow Officer Bloch to speak.

I. CONSENT AGENDA (One Vote)

Councilmember Wilkins inquired as to why some of the security contracts were on the Consent Agenda and why some were on the Business Agenda.

Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson responded it was due to the amount of the individual contract.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to refer the consent agenda to Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

1. [ID 16-0405](#) Ordinance in the Amount of \$29,850 Amending the Federal, State, and Other Grants Fund Budget for the FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program
2. [ID 16-0374](#) Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract 2016-10449 to East Coast Protective Services, Inc. for Security Services for the Water Resources Department
3. [ID 16-0376](#) Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract 2016-10451 to East Coast Protective Services, Inc. for Security Services for the Greensboro Police Department
4. [ID 16-0430](#) Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of April 11, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of April 11, 2016 was adopted.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

5. [ID 16-0373](#) Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract 2016-10448 to East Coast Protective Services, Inc. for Security Services for the Greensboro Library and Parks & Recreation Department

Assistant City Manager Wilson provided the history of the item.

Discussion took place regarding the low bidder; criteria of service that the bid was based on; and qualified firms.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to refer the resolution to Council. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 3 - Marikay Abuzuaiter, Tony Wilkins and Yvonne J. Johnson

Absent, 1 - Mike Barber

6. [ID 16-0375](#) Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract 2016-10450 to North State Security Group, LLC for Security Services for the Greensboro Transportation Department

Councilmember Wilkins asked if there was a reason for the different contractors.

Interim City Manager Barbara Harris responded that there were different needs; and confirmed the firm was the lowest qualified bidder.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to refer the resolution to Council. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 3 - Marikay Abuzuaiter, Tony Wilkins and Yvonne J. Johnson

Absent, 1 - Mike Barber

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Councilmember Abuzuaiter recognized Officer Bloch to speak.

Officer Bloch spoke to the number of news articles and broadcasts about the incident; to his actions in the video; emphasized he may need to move out of Greensboro as a result of members of the public harassing his family; referenced the incident being silent for about a year; explained that he had sought counseling; that the item was now in the limelight; referenced conversations between he and Ms. Vo's mother and neighbors after the incident; spoke to what did not reach the media and was not on camera; and emphasized he had followed his training during the incident. Officer Bloch spoke to the reason why Attorney Nguyen had taken the case; verified he wanted his story heard; emphasized Ms. Vo was running straight at him; explained that officers were trained to create distance between themselves and a perpetrator; stated he wanted to stop the public from the ability to view the video; added he would not apologize for his actions; that he had no other options that day; had relived the incident everyday; reiterated that the incident took place in four seconds; spoke to the fear on Ms. Vo's mother's face; voiced that the Vo family deserved compassion and prayer; stated it was important that the public know this information; referenced State law and unchartered waters; verified he did not think it was a good idea to release the video; and thanked the Committee for hearing him out.

Police Chief Wayne Scott informed the Committee he would stay in contact with Officer Bloch as he moved through the process for release of the video.

The Committee wished Officer Bloch and his family well.

7. [ID 16-0432](#) Update on GPD use of Body Worn Camera Technology

Councilmember Abuzuaiter explained why she had asked for the Body Worn Camera policy update; and spoke to what she wanted clarified.

Police Chief Scott confirmed that the presentation was a synopsis of the overall policy; recognized Officer Flynt to go through the policy; and spoke to the legal constraints and misconceptions people had.

Officer Flynt referenced a previous PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided an overview of the body worn camera deployment; verified that approximately 240 were deployed on average; outlined the process for activation of the cameras; spoke to when cameras could be deactivated due to special circumstances; explained restricted uses of body worn cameras; outlined the differences of the footage; retention categories; and emphasized the department was trying to find the newest, most effective technology.

Discussion took place regarding the financial ramifications for review of footage prior to release; Durham's quote of approximately \$85.00 an hour to review footage; the proposed budget impact; best practices; and upcoming legislation.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter stated the update was helpful; asked about the volume of videos; and voiced appreciation that a victim could request the cameras be turned off if they were in a vulnerable position.

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

Matters to be discussed by the Members of the Committee

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced agreement with Councilmember Abuzuaiter's statements; stated the update was informative; and spoke to victim's of sexual assaults.

Mayor Abuzuaiter thanked the public safety personnel in attendance as well as those in the audience.

Matters to be presented by the City Manager

There were no items for discussion by the City Manager.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

There were no items for discussion by the City Attorney.

Adjournment

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

THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 5:43 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

MARIKAY ABUZUAITER
CHAIR