



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

3:30 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This City Council Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:30 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, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Yvonne J. Johnson, Justin Outling and Tony Wilkins. Absent: Councilmember Mike Barber.

Also present were City Manager Jim Westmoreland, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, Interim Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris, and City Clerk, Betsey Richardson.

Mayor Vaughan opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.; and recognized Executive Director of Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH) Darryl Koziak.

2. Presentations

ID 16-0550 Partners Ending Homelessness Discussion

Mr. Koziak, thanked Council for the opportunity to review the item; provided an overview of the homeless system in Guilford County; spoke to what he would, and would not, discuss today; to the Continuum of Care (CoC); provided the history and outline of the implementation of the Hearth Act; an overview of the various federal agencies who worked towards ending homelessness; and the timeframe for moving persons into housing. Mr. Koziak made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP) that explained the steps and procedures for moving persons from housing shelters to housing; spoke to the Housing First philosophy focus to get and keep people into housing; emphasized that persons with the most acute and highest needs were a priority; addressed the rules and compliances that needed to be met; voiced the need for understanding why programs exist to end homelessness; and outlined the different housing needs for people. Mr. Koziak explained that PEH housed people and provided services for them to remain in housing; that other agencies assisted people with addiction, mental health, financial, and physical issues; added that there were different timeframes for persons to work through those issues; emphasized the need for programs to be connected to assist people with those issues; to provide life skills; physical health education and employment; and spoke to the process for working with unemployed persons in housing. Mr. Koziak added that the goal was to move persons into housing as quickly as possible; outlined the process for providing vouchers to the homeless; spoke to the need for a common language across the agencies to help prioritize needs; provided a scenario for moving a person into housing; stated that there was a need for a common tool to organize the limited resources of all entities; and walked through the flow chart in the PPP. Mr. Koziak stated that the three programs in place were Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing and No Housing Assistance; outlined how each program worked; explained the case management process; spoke to when persons returned to shelters; and recognized Don Vick of the Salvation Army.

Councilmember Hoffmann arrived at the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Mr. Vick stated that the emergency shelter was one of three largest shelters; had 90 beds as well as several family rooms; explained that the Salvation Army had been involved in Rapid Re-Housing for seven years; provided an overview of the current process; emphasized the barriers for moving people out of shelters; spoke to the lack of housing stock; and provided an overview of the dollars and cents to get someone into housing.

Michael Jackson of Mary's House explained the goal and focus of their program for women; and stated they housed women anywhere from 18 to 24 months prior to moving them into housing.

Mr. Koziak provided a list of partnerships in the community who provided assistance for homeless persons.

Jennifer from Psychotherapeutic Services (PSI) provided an overview of the level of care for mental illness; spoke to working with persons in the Housing First Program to identify barriers; and outlined the services they provided.

Mr. Koziak explained the process for persons who had been outside for a while; spoke to the importance in working together as a system; outlined the process for utilizing grant funding provided by the City and other entities; provided a breakdown of the agencies that received funding; an overview of the SOAR project; the Nussbaum funding; outlined funding received by the Interactive Resource Center; and the funding provided by the Phillips Foundation.

Discussion took place regarding utilization of CDBG Funds; a review of the use of the 2014-15 Housing Voucher Utilization Summary; process for funding from Guilford County; community based services provided by Guilford County; monies contributed toward the Greensboro Housing Coalition; and the work done through the Guilford County Department of Social Services.

Councilmember Fox requested the dollar amount of funding provided by Guilford County towards ending homelessness.

Councilmember Outling asked City Attorney Carruthers to provide information about the legal responsibility of Guilford County to assist with homelessness.

Additional discussion took place regarding not discriminating or turning people away; distribution of City funding under the umbrella of PEH; how many people were assisted through the agency; review of the item by the Community Services Committee; and the need for Council to be aware and understand the funding and prioritization process for ending homelessness.

Councilmember Outling confirmed that Council was being asked to consider a contract with PEH this evening; and asked what the Rapid Re-Housing program covered.

Councilmember Wilkins asked if any of the City funding went towards salaries.

Mr. Koziak responded that there were requirements regarding where the funding could be used; stated only a portion went towards salaries; and explained the use of the vouchers.

Interim Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris provided a breakdown of the funding distribution; and the agencies that were provided funding on an annual basis.

Council discussed the approach used by the Family Justice Center; and the diverse population and organizations that it had access to.

Mr. Koziak confirmed that the process was moving towards having a single entry point for persons; stated it would take some time to get there; compared the process with the evolution of a butterfly from a caterpillar; and spoke to performance measures.

Councilmember Hoffmann left the meeting at 4:10 p.m. and returned at 4:23 p.m.

Mr. Koziak reviewed the clients served by the Guilford County Department of Social Services; spoke to the challenges of the program; stated PEH was reaching out to landlords to assist with the program; stated there were many reasons why persons did not go through the process; emphasized the need for enough affordable housing; and the importance of connecting all resources to ensure success.

Councilmember Hightower asked about the zero target for homelessness; and explained that teens coming out of foster care entered the homeless community annually.

Mr. Koziak stated persons would always have a housing crisis; that the agency focused on the housing solution which made economic sense; added that work had been done with targeting Veterans and the chronic homeless

population; provided a comparison of the numbers over the past three years; emphasized that the right investment and resources, executed in the right way, would get results; and explained where Winston-Salem was with regard to functional zero. Mr. Koziak further explained a program where Guilford County was one of four areas who met the goal for the identification and location of homeless Veterans; stated Greensboro would apply for the Mayor's Challenge; and added that folks would continue to relocate to an area where they could get housing assistance.

Councilmember Outling asked for an explanation to the perception that Greensboro was not doing a good job and needed to improve services; and about the goal to reach those in the population whose needs had not been met.

Mr. Koziak reviewed the numbers from the agencies that received funding; voiced that each person was touched and had the opportunity to receive service at some level; emphasized that PEH would not end poverty; that persons housed would continue to struggle with poverty; verified that their goal was to provide housing; reiterated that other agencies focused on a resolution to personal issues; and spoke to the gap between those who got touched and those who saw some level of service.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Councilmember Outling requested that a dollar or unit amount be quantified and provided to Council for those who did not receive service prior to the July 18th meeting regarding bonds.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired why the number of persons served last year was less than those served previously.

Mr. Koziak explained that the economy had picked up; that the agencies were improving on the identification of assistance needed; that they were able to direct people to other resources; stated they were seeing more families; and that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was doubling down on reinforcing resources.

Councilmember Wilkins asked if the City's funding had remained consistent to PEH during the past five years; and asked what the requirements were for the Nussbaum funding.

Mr. Koziak provided an overview of the funding to PEH; spoke to where federal funding went; and explained the utilization of the funding provided by the Phillips Foundation.

City Manager Jim Westmoreland stated he would provide an overview for the Nussbaum funds.

Councilmember Hightower inquired as to the appropriation of the \$2 million received from the Phillips Foundation; asked if any went towards the ACT Team; and stated that she had heard people say they did not have enough support services once they got into housing

Mr. Koziak provided the breakdown of the funding from the Phillips Foundation; spoke to leveraging dollars with other entities; and the decrease in chronic homelessness.

Councilmember Fox left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan thanked Mr. Koziak for his presentation; and reminded Council of the reception for the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities scholarship winners.

Mr. Koziak advised Council that he would be happy to speak with them individually regarding any questions they might have.

Interim Assistant City Manager Harris outlined funding requests from community agencies; and provided an overview of the referral process used by the Greensboro Housing Coalition.

Discussion took place regarding requests received by Council; and where they should be sent.

(Copies of the PowerPoint Presentation and handouts are filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 27, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

3. Adjournment

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

THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:43 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR