



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

3:30 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

1. Call To Order

This Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:35 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzaiter, Jamal Fox, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, and Tony Wilkins.

Absent: Councilmember Mike Barber.

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

2. Presentations

1. [ID 16-0637](#) Review of Draft Agenda Items for the September 20 and October 4 Meetings of Council

Councilmember Wilkins asked about the process for reviewing the draft Council agendas; if items could be added after review today; and stated that by reviewing the draft agenda in the work session, it should add balance to the Council meetings.

Assistant City Manager David Parrish acknowledged the length of the agendas; spoke to the conclusion of the Council Committees; and confirmed that items could potentially be added.

Mayor Vaughan asked if anyone had any questions regarding items on the September 20th or October 4th draft agendas.

There being no questions from Council, Assistant City Manager Parrish requested that should any questions arise that they be directed to the City Managers Office.

2. [ID 16-0747](#) Annual Professional Standards Report Update - Chief Wayne Scott

Greensboro Police Chief, Wayne Scott, referenced a handout that had been distributed; provided a brief history for the annual report for Professional Standards; spoke to internal and external complaints regarding police misconduct; the status of courtesy violations; outlined data percentages; spoke to legislation for taser guns; stated reports would be available online tomorrow; regular updates would be provided in the future; spoke to a violent crime taskforce; an influx of weapons in the evidence department; and highlighted the addition of a street crimes unit.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired as to the number of fire arms that had been retrieved by the department; and asked if the department would sell the fire arms.

Police Chief Scott stated approximately 5000 guns had been retrieved; that the guns could not be destroyed due to a change in legislation; spoke to the number of guns in circulation; clarified the police would not be a part of the cycle; spoke to community engagement; addressing gang activity; recent fatalities associated to heroine use; the potential use of a counteracting drug; and conversations with Cone Foundations to provide kits by year end.

Councilmember Abuzaiter asked for clarification about the Building Bridges program; and mediation services.

Police Chief Scott stated the program had been in effect for two years; referenced positive outcomes from mediation cases; spoke to taking proactive steps; and stated Greensboro had been the first in North Carolina to create a mediation program.

Councilmember Hightower asked for confirmation on the handling of courtesy complaints through the mediation program.

Police Chief Scott spoke to legal requirements; investigation processes; providing the environment to have conversations; and to miscommunications.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson inquired about diversity of mediators.

Police Chief Scott spoke to a current contract; requesting assistance for diversity; and voiced concerns with the diversity issue.

Discussion took place on the method and shelf life of medication that would be used; and the use of CPR.

3. [ID 16-0748](#) Biased Base Policing Committee Update - Chief Wayne Scott

Councilmember Hightower stated at 3:53 p.m. that Councilmember Fox was on speaker phone; and would be participating by phone until he could arrive.

Police Chief Scott provided a brief history of the Biased Base Policing Committee (BBPC); spoke to a proposed model resolution; civil liberties; and the need for community involvement.

Councilmember Wilkins referenced a list of committee members that had been provided by Chief Scott; and stated the list would be forward to Council.

Councilmember Hightower asked about the process for participation in the BBPC.

Deputy Chief James Hinson clarified the history and the goals of the committee; spoke to in-service training; increased public awareness; referenced a pamphlet that was created for the community; recognized committee members in attendance; spoke to public engagements; stated there had been no requests for additional citizens to join the committee; spoke to transparency; to educating the community; and to positive feedback.

Discussion ensued regarding confidentiality; improvements to the committee; an article in the New York Times; racial profiling; reprimanding violators of the policy; valid vehicular stops; legal justification for stops; and knowledge of race prior to stops.

Police Chief Scott confirmed the definition of biased based policing; spoke to the elimination of profiling; clarified Greensboro had been the first Police Department in the state to address the issue; spoke to challenges to prove profiling; proactive treatment of complaints; referenced state and federal laws; and general conduct requirements.

Councilmember Outling voiced the need for a statement regarding conduct that would not be allowed; spoke to enforcement of the resolution; and to alerting the community about conduct that would be prohibited.

Councilmember Wilkins spoke to the weeding out of unprofessional officers; officers holding each other accountable; referenced difficulties in knowing the race of a citizen prior to a vehicular stop; and to inaccurate statistics.

Police Chief Scott spoke to the Veil of Darkness study; and confirmed limitations of identifying the race of a driver at night.

Councilmember Hightower asked if the study had been conducted in the dark; stated studies needed to be performed during daylight hours; inquired about the ability to identify a driver's race when running a license plate; and spoke to the need to have conversations with officers regarding race playing a part in vehicular stops.

Police Chief Scott stated the report showed how the study was conducted; and confirmed inquiries on car tags did not provide the race of a driver.

Discussion continued regarding the likelihood of prior knowledge of a drivers race; the goal of the committee; acceptable conduct; the need to prohibit profiling; positive interactions; and legal requirements.

City Attorney Tom Carruthers spoke to voluntary encounters; approved methods; and communication with the community.

Councilmember Fox entered the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Councilmember Outling spoke to prohibiting biased based policing; and requested staff to do something of substance to state whether the City would or, would not, allow biased based policing.

Police Chief Scott clarified the purpose of the proposed resolution; and the communities knowledge of their legal rights.

Discussion took place regarding a unanimous decision by the committee; obtaining the views of stakeholders; the scope of the resolution presented; the work produced by the committee; current policies; and the definition of biased based policing as referred to in the resolution.

Councilmember Outling requested staff include language on page three of the resolution to state that the "Greensboro Police Department will not engage in arbitrary profiling".

City Attorney Carruthers stated writing policies for law enforcement was vital and beyond the scope of the presented resolution; spoke to understanding police department operations; and to the need to draft an ordinance at a later date.

Discussion continued regarding requests that were made a year ago; addressing the issue; suggestions offered by the committee; the next steps; Council being the policy makers of the City; just cause for vehicular stops; setting boundaries; and additional language.

Police Chief Scott stated, for the record, it was not the desire of the Greensboro Police Department to have people that promoted biased based policing; spoke to legal reasons for stops; his understanding of Councilmember Outing's request; and to current policy.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to hearing from committee members; and supporting the resolution by the community.

Dr Goldie Wells, 4203 Bellfield Drive stated the resolution was a protection of civil liberties; outlined provisions of the resolution; spoke to equal protection of all people in Greensboro; the case history of the committee; to the need to have records of complaints; for diversity training; stated Police Chief Scott had worked with the community to bring about change; voiced agreement with Councilmember Outling; spoke to the need to be realistic; societal views on different races; the purpose of the resolution; requested Council to support the proposed resolution; and spoke to future Council action.

Councilmember Outling amended his request for staff to provide an ordinance that prohibited biased based policing at the next City Council meeting; spoke to respecting the work of the committee; and to previous discussions regarding the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding tweaking the resolution; and a separate ordinance to address the issue to be provided at the September 20th Council meeting.

Mayor Vaughan asked if Council supported Councilmember Outings request. It was the consensus of Council to have staff draft an ordinance reflecting the change in policy for the next Council meeting.

Reverend Odell Cleveland spoke to the difficult job of the Council; stated the committee had a hard job as well;

spoke to a controversial issue; community trust of police; the committee members serving as a bridge; being a part of the solution; the difficult task of community leaders; to challenges and opportunities; voiced appreciation to Chief Scott for his contributions; spoke to the communities knowledge of the law; being careful to not violate laws; and thanked the Council for support of the committee.

Council thanked Reverend Cleveland and the committee for doing good work.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter asked if the resolution could be placed on the Council agenda this evening.

Mayor Vaughan voiced the need for the item to be advertised.

Assistant City Manager Parrish confirmed the consensus of Council for the resolution to be placed on the next Council agenda in its entirety; and for staff to draft a separate ordinance.

(A copy of the Handouts are filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 32 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

**4. [ID 16-0749](#) Update on Summit Executive Center Inspections and Next Steps -
Acting Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris**

Interim Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris spoke to the media attention of the Summit Executive Center; the number of units in the complex; a request for inspections; stated inspections were completed on August 29th; hearings would be held on September 22nd; outlined process of the hearing; stated after the hearing the City would issue a 30 day Order to Repair; spoke to follow up inspections in October; to a potential condemnation; notification of the inspections; and to addressing the displacement of citizens.

Discussion ensued regarding the property owner attending the meeting; concerned citizens that were expected at the meeting tonight; the City following state regulations; the elimination of the RUCO board; state laws being restrictive against municipalities; and the policies of the City.

Councilmember Outling left the meeting at 4:45 p.m. and returned at 4:47 p.m.

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to restrictions on pre-rental inspections; authority of the Neighborhood and Development Department to make repairs; and the implementation of a tax lien.

Discussion took place regarding rental fees for the units; estimated costs for repairs; comparisons to the Heritage House; the involvement of the Greensboro Housing Coalition; interior and exterior violations; defining an Order to Repair; relocation of citizens; and various possible scenarios.

Councilmember Fox requested Interim Assistant City Manager Harris prepare a short statement to address anticipated questions from citizens at the Council meeting tonight.

3. Adjournment

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

THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:50 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR