



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

5:30 PM

Council Chamber

Call to Order

This City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:40 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 9 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. Wells

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Vaughan recognized Councilmember Outling to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Torie Howell of the Legislative Department who served as Courier for the meeting.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Mayor Vaughan explained the Council procedure for conduct of the meeting.

Mayor Vaughan stated that although votes were not typically taken at the community forum meetings, Council was being asked to amend the 2018 meeting schedule to reflect a change for the second meeting in September.

Moved by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to approve the amended 2018 Meeting Schedule of Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

There were no ceremonial and/or presentation items for this agenda.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ivan Cutler, 1817 Tennyson Court provided an overview of the architectural similarities between the State Capitol and Blandwood Mansion; stated he served on the State Capitol Foundation Board (Foundation); provided a book of photos of the State Capitol; referenced the history of the structure; explained the ways the Foundation raised money; added that the old capitol building was not funded by the State; and invited Council to a fund raising Oyster

Roast on October 12th in Raleigh.

Pam Strader, 711 Westminster Drive thanked Council for holding landlords accountable; stated that several families residing in the Summit Avenue Apartments attended West Market United Methodist Church where she was a pastor; voiced the challenges in relocating said families who depended on public transportation; with finding affordable housing for said families; spoke to poor housing conditions; lack of three and four bedroom units; fees associated with relocating the families; emphasized the families were losing hope; and asked that the City extend the deadline for them to move out.

Reverend Cardis Brown, 1606 Longbranch Court made reference to disparities with traffic stops in the City in 2015; to temporary measures that were put in place at that time; voiced concern that said measures were no longer in place; spoke to disparity study findings; asked for the demographics and number of traffic stops since 2016 which he had not yet received; spoke to the work and mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); stated he had been working with the Greensboro Business League; and voiced concern with the small percentage of contracts awarded to minority contractors.

Councilmember Hightower requested that staff provide the demographics and number of traffic stops made since 2016.

Malique Hough, 5306 Ventura Drive, spoke to being bullied; his passion in working with kids to stop bullying; stated he wished to give back to the City; requested assistance to organize an event as a advocate for the City against bullying; and stated he would like to host a Women's Day event at the Interactive Resource Center.

Mayor Vaughan stated Council had Mr. Hough's contact information; and requested staff reach out to him this week.

Marcus Hyde, 305 Tate Street asked Council to listen to concerns regarding housing and transportation issues; voiced concern with the arrest of a homeless black man after the solicitation ordinance had been adopted; with the man's name and history being provided on social media by a councilmember; emphasized the need to hear the other side of the story; the need for adequate mental health care; referenced deaths that had taken place under the Guilford County Sheriff's watch; requested that a police protocol be put in place; and that the solicitation ordinance be repealed.

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street voiced concerns with the lack of a police report regarding an incident that had taken place at a nightclub with his husband; provided an overview of said incident; referenced previous Council discussions regarding security at nightclubs; stated that all citizens should be protected from assault; and asked that an ordinance be put in place for club security.

Drew Wafford, 2901 Spring Garden Street representing Chemistry Night Club (Club) provided clarification of the incident referred to by Mr. Boykin; stated he had not been asked for camera footage; and defended the actions of the Club manager.

Justin Mitchell, 310 C South Holden Road, Manager of the Club provided additional clarification for the altercation referenced by Mr. Boykin; voiced concern with accounts of the incident posted on social media being misconstrued; stated the Club did not have a violence issue; and confirmed he wanted to provide clarification.

Rosalyn Arsoin, 212 Wind Road, Apartment C spoke to security at the Club; added the Club did not have a history of incidents; referenced the number of persons who visited the Club; and asked that Council disregard the report by Mr. Boykin.

Erica Payton, 4905 Heritage Woods Drive voiced concern with the lack of intervention for the chronic public health issue; spoke to the Guilford County suicide and homicide rates; violence disparities; community risk factors; the impact on a persons' mental and physical health as a result of violence; voiced support for the Cure Violence program; the need to address all issues of violence; and requested City Council support for the Cure Violence

program.

Christina Yongue, 1103 Ross Avenue spoke in support of the Cure Violence program; voiced concern for child safety; highlighted the implementation of the Cure Violence program in Durham County; and emphasized the importance in addressing the violence issue.

Councilmember Hightower requested that Ms. Yongue and other community members be involved in the Cure Violence discussions.

Regina Griffith, 4009 Wexford Drive provided information on her experiences with Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) and SCAT ParaTransit services (SCAT); spoke to problems getting recertified for SCAT ridership; unfair treatment; and voiced the need to have compassion for people.

Councilmember Hightower referenced conversations with Public Transportation Manager Bruce Adams; the ridership rules for GTA and SCAT; and invited Ms. Griffith to attend the GTA meetings to voice her concerns.

Ms. Griffith emphasized her reason for coming this evening; and asked that the emergency policy be revised.

Stephanie McDonald, 612 South Elam Avenue stated she was with Working America; voiced concern with bus routes; referenced documentation she had provided to Council; and provided a video of interviews with GTA riders.

Carolyn Smith, 441 McAdoo Avenue voiced the need for better bus routes and hours throughout the City to provide access for workers who needed access to public transportation; referenced the lack of bus shelters; lighting for shelters; and requested that Council utilize the bond funds to address the concerns of the ridership.

Councilmember Hightower requested that Transportation Director Adam Fischer provide an update at the conclusion of the speakers.

Channing G. Gallimore, 4604 Beechcroft Drive spoke to the challenges of shift workers to access public transportation late at night and on the weekends; asked that the routes be extended; referenced the low minimum wages of riders; requested that shelters and lighting be provided at stops; voiced concerns for persons traveling with small children; and requested Council address the problems.

Jimmy Mills, 2703 Holmes Road stated he was a member of the GTA Rider Advisory Board; voiced concern with the lack of persons bringing concerns to transportation meetings; emphasized that he attended and spoke to issues at the meetings; stated that the next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday at the Depot; spoke to the things that GTA was doing right; changes GTA was working on with regard to connectors and routes; voiced concern with drivers shutting off the bus announcements that provided information to riders; and encouraged persons to attend the meetings and be part of the change.

Councilmember Hightower stated that Mr. Mills had addressed many things that GTA was working on; voiced concerns with issues brought forth this evening; the need to look at fare increases; increased routes; explained the challenges with shelters going on private property; requested additional funding for GTA; and emphasized that GTA took the riders' concerns seriously.

Mayor Vaughan recognized Mr. Fischer to provide an update.

Mr. Fisher stated he had provided information to Council; provided the history of the GTA system; spoke to when the City assumed the responsibility from Duke Energy; outlined the long range transit plan and proposed changes; highlighted things that had been implemented since 2005; provided the figures for ridership and routes between 2005 and today; added that nationally ridership had decreased due to alternative means of transportation; confirmed that increased services had added costs; addressed the fixed route concerns; use of property taxes to expand the system; and provided estimated costs for additional routes.

Councilmember Kennedy stated that a transit system was not a moneymaker; spoke to the purpose of transit services; and inquired what the evening hours were.

Mr. Fischer confirmed that the last bus left the Depot at 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced concern for the lack of transportation for second and third shift workers; emphasized the need to view public transportation as a jobs connector and economic issue; spoke to the responsibility of Council; inquired about the creation of a shuttle service; utilizing lower density vehicles; and asked what last mile provisions were being considered.

Mr. Fischer confirmed that staff continued to explore provisions; outlined the sidewalk prioritization list; spoke to the availability of Lime Bikes; and explained the costs for operating all types of vehicles.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced the need for Council to look at transit as a critical component of economic justice; emphasized the need for Council to be involved; and to look at alternative pieces and investment for transit service.

Councilmember Wells referenced District 2 lobbying for public transportation years ago; voiced the need to get the hours extended as some residents did not own cars; the need for buses to be rider friendly; emphasized the need for additional routes, hours and connectors; reminded Council of an article regarding the overhaul of Houston's mass transit system; and requested Council look into improving the system.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter stated the City was in the process of purchasing electric buses; highlighted the federal and state grant funds available to cover the costs of said buses; referenced the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approving certain purchases; commended the staff for securing millions of dollars in grant funding; outlined the process for constructing bus shelters; and thanked people for bringing their concerns.

Mr. Fischer provided an update on the purchase of 13 electric buses; spoke to the reduced operating costs as a result of said buses; and outlined funding allocations for specific needs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced that electric buses were better for the environment.

Councilmember Hightower thanked Mr. Fischer for the update; emphasized the need for Council commitment to transportation; the need to invest in transportation; provide transportation to City residents; and referenced the importance of conversations, collaboration and partnerships with various entities including businesses coming to the area. Councilmember Hightower requested that City Manager Parrish research the extension of evening operating hours for buses.

Mayor Vaughan left the meeting at 7:14 p.m. and returned at 7:17 p.m.

Councilmember Thurm made reference to the expansion of Federal Express; and voiced the need to look outside of the box to provide transportation to areas near the airport.

C.J. Brinson, 504 Gorrell Street stated he attended the work session; supported the Cure Violence program; requested the City explore a partnership with Guilford County; requested the community be brought to the table during discussions as the process had been community driven; provided an overview of the research the community performed; voiced that Durham's process would differ from the City's; and requested Council support the process for a Citywide initiative.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced agreement with community involvement in the discussions.

III. ITEMS CALLING PUBLIC HEARINGS (One Vote)

There were no items calling public hearings for this agenda.

Matters to be discussed by the Mayor and Members of the Council

Councilmember Hoffmann invited everyone to a meeting on Wednesday, September 12 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Union Square Campus auditorium to report the initial findings for the Cultural Arts Master Plan; and commended the participation in the project.

Councilmember Kennedy announced the upcoming North Carolina Folk Festival; expressed that the community concerns and Council priorities were connected; spoke to the framework necessary for moving forward; and voiced the need to move away from the silo based approaches.

Councilmember Wells voiced agreement with comments made by Councilmember Kennedy.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated she attended a celebration for Dr. Doris Henderson's 90th birthday; thanked Dr. Henderson for her work as an educator; spoke to her volunteerism at Friendly Avenue Baptist Church; and provided a shout out for the Aggies.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter recognized the Wyndham Championship that took place several weeks ago, highlighted the volunteerism at the event by Mayor Vaughan and herself; spoke to the upcoming Folk Festival; commended the Commission on the Status of Women for the Women's Equality Breakfast on August 25th; and welcomed Publix to the City.

Councilmember Outling voiced congratulations in securing Publix; announced that the City's Comprehensive Plan kickoff would take place the first week of October; spoke to the process for the creation of the Comprehensive Plan; highlighted the stakeholders involved; and emphasized that the upcoming North Carolina Folk Festival would be a tremendous community event.

Councilmember Thurm provided a shoutout for Publix; for the Women's Equality Breakfast; to the many volunteers and coordinators involved in the Folk Festival; and requested that a discussion regarding Participatory Budgeting be placed on an upcoming Work Session.

Councilmember Hightower placed the names of Roslynn Chou Chan and Regina Griffith into the databank for future service on a board or commission. Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to appoint Ashly Shepherd to the Participatory Budgeting Committee. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Hightower commended the Women's Equality Breakfast; congratulated Publix; voiced the need to work with Publix on job training and transportation; invited people to attend the grand opening of Mr. Foster's building in Gateway University Research Park on October 5th from 10:00 a.m. to noon; announced that Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week would take place the week of September 24th through the 28th; and stated she had attended an Minority and Women Enterprise Fair in Winston-Salem over the weekend.

Councilmember Hoffmann extended an invitation to the dedication of the Jim Galuchi 911 Sculpture at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and South Elm Street on Tuesday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m.; and stated the sculpture was coming back home after traveling around the country.

Matters to be presented by the City Manager

City Manager Parrish provided an overview of the Toastmasters Program; spoke to the diversity of the program; congratulated Greensboro Department of Transportation employee Kevin Johnson who was one of the top ten finalists out of 32,000 worldwide on winning the Region 7 competition in Chicago; and spoke to the benefits of the program.

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 Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion

carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:36 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR