



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

5:30 PM

Council Chamber

Call to Order

This City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 8 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. Wells

Absent: 1 - Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, Interim City Attorney Jim Hoffman, and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

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

Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Vaughan recognized Boy Scout Troop 216 from Irving Park Elementary to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Kym Smith of the Transportation 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.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 18-0732](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Beatrice Webber Barrow

Councilmember Wells read the resolution into the record; presented the resolution to the family; and recognized people in attendance for the item.

Ms. Barrow's daughter thanked the Council for the resolution.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 8 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

Absent, 1 - Yvonne J. Johnson

303-18 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE BEATRICE WEBBER BARROW

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2018, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Beatrice Webber Barrow;

WHEREAS, Barrow, a native of Gaston County, North Carolina was a 1955 graduate of John Chavis High School in Cherryville, NC; continued her education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A & T) earning a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing; and went on to receive a Master of Science in Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

WHEREAS, Barrow was employed by the Guilford County Health Department for thirty-two (32) years as a Community Health Nurse and Nurse Supervisor; occasionally worked as a part-time nurse at the former L. Richardson Hospital; and completed her career by returning to her alma mater as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Nursing;

WHEREAS, Barrow was a dedicated member in the United Church of Christ at the local, Conference, and National levels where she served in positions of leadership for lay women, youth and young adults; served in Circle #4, the Chancel and Mass Choirs, Women's Fellowship, as a Trustee, on the Pastorial Search Committee, and the Pastors Aide Club;

WHEREAS, she was honored for her Church service with a Life Membership in Church Women of the Southern Conference;

WHEREAS, her community involvement included the Boy Scouts of America Cub Pack leader and trainer for over thirty (30) years, Mobile Meals volunteer, Hayes-Taylor YMCA annual campaigner, Guilford County Democratic Representative, and coordinator for the Rotherwood Community's Annual National Night Out;

WHEREAS, Barrow was an active member of the Tender Loving Care (TELOCA) graduates of the NC A & T School of Nursing; and a Charter member of the Lady Sertoma Club receiving the highest recognition of the Service to Mankind Award in 1996;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by Beatrice Webber Barrow, the outstanding contributions she has made to the community, and the legacy she leaves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for her many years of dedicated public service. Her legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions she has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Beatrice Webber Barrow as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

2. [ID 18-0696](#) Recognition of 2018 City Academy Graduates

City Manager Parrish recognized Community Relations Manager Donna Gray to present the item.

Ms. Gray showed a video highlighting the City Academy (Academy); spoke to the requirements of the program; class participation; a 92% perfect attendance record; stated graduates had visited various locations around the City; and invited Mayor Vaughan, City Manager Parrish, and Community Relations Specialists Dawn Grosvenor and Isabel Gil to assist in the presentation of certificates and awards. Ms. Gray stated students voted on their favorite learning experience, instructors, the most interactive, interesting and the most organized sessions; and spoke to the departmental competitions for the recognitions.

Ms. Grosvenor spoke to the process for selection of the Most Interactive and Most Interesting presenters; stated there was a tie for three departments; and recognized the Greensboro Fire Department, Greensboro Police Department, and Guilford Metro 911. Ms. Grosvenor announced the three winners for the award for Well Organized and recognized the following City departments: Police, Water Resources and Libraries.

Ms. Gil spoke to and presented the award for the Favorite Learning Experience to the Transportation and Fire Departments; presented the Favorite Instructors award to Paige Cumming with Guilford Metro 911; and recognized class participant Tara Jenkins Medley to speak on behalf of the class.

Mr. Jenkins Medley voiced appreciation for the opportunity; spoke to a commitment of this year's participants; recognized the Community Relations staff for the challenging experience; thanked City Council for supporting the Academy; encouraged others to participate; and voiced appreciation to those involved for making it a successful experience.

Ms. Gray thanked those involved with the Academy; recognized City staff for their ongoing support; spoke to working with the participants; challenged the participants to take and share what they had learned.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to comments made by the participants; to the education provided during the Academy; stated she knew several of the participants; and expressed how the participants could use what they had learned on a daily basis.

Mayor Vaughan stated that the Greensboro Transportation Authority (GTA) update would take place on December 18th; and invited persons outside the chamber to take the seats vacated by the Academy participants.

3. [ID 18-0735](#) Resolution Recognizing Saturday, December 1, 2018 as World AIDS Day

Councilmember Kennedy read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to representatives from the Triad Health Project.

A representative voiced the importance of recognizing World Aids Day; outlined the impact of Aids; voiced the need to change the culture; and referenced that this was a civil rights issue.

**Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Thurm,
to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:**

Ayes, 8 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann,
Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

Absent, 1 - Yvonne J. Johnson

304-18 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018 AS WORLD AIDS DAY

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for persons living with the virus, and to commemorate those who have passed from AIDS-related illness;

WHEREAS, founded in 1998, World AIDS Day takes place on the first day of December each year; and was the first ever global health day;

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 36.7 million people living with the virus; and over 35 million people have perished

from HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history;

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides a reminder to the public that HIV still exists; and reminds them that there is a vital need to increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education;

WHEREAS, the City Council, on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro wishes to support recognition of World AIDS Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That it hereby recognizes Saturday, December 1, 2018 as World AIDS Day.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

4. [ID 18-0736](#) Resolution Naming December 21, 2018 National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Councilmember Kennedy read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to representatives of AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness.

Lakania Connor and Julie Silverman with AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness voiced appreciation for the resolution; invited the public to attend the walk on December 21st; and thanked the Interactive Resource Center and the Homeless Union of Greensboro for their work.

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Abuzaiter, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes, 8 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

Absent, 1 - Yvonne J. Johnson

305-18 RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2018 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

WHEREAS, December 21st marks the first day of winter and is the longest night of the year; the City of Greensboro recognizes that winter poses extreme hardship to everyone especially people experiencing homelessness;

WHEREAS, recognized by cities nationwide, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council;

WHEREAS, in the season of generosity and sharing, citizens of Greensboro are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all, especially those who are in need;

WHEREAS, hunger and homelessness continues to be a serious challenge for many Greensboro citizens; every citizen has the right to adequate food, housing, clothing, safety and health care;

WHEREAS, homelessness raises one's risk of illness, injury and death within every age group, and homeless citizens are three times more likely to die than the general population;

WHEREAS, by remembering our neighbors, we can honor their lives by working in unison to provide solutions to end homelessness within Greensboro.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That December 21, 2018 is hereby named National Homeless Person's Memorial Day in the City of Greensboro to

remember those who have died experiencing homelessness and to encourage all citizens to come together to celebrate their lives by working to resolve the factors that lead to homelessness within the City.

(Sharon Hightower)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vaughan stated speakers would be grouped together according to topic; and that the miscellaneous topics would be heard first.

Kiya Gordon and Tammy Harter, 321 E. Harden Street provided handouts and the history for the Give a Child a Smile" program; stated they wished to raise awareness of child abuse; were selling plush animals to raise funds; spoke to where said funds were distributed; stated the goal was set above \$2,000; and asked for Council's support.

Executive Director and Headmaster of the Ken Wheat Career Academy (KWCA) Calvin Shorter, 3504 Alton Street provided the history and business proposal for KWCA for young men; spoke to the importance of KWCA; impact of the program on young men; outlined the revised program at KWCA; and requested Council support for the program.

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street, referenced the incident that occurred on Monday at Ben L. Smith High School; voiced the need to stop school shootings; commended the school staff, resource officer, and Police Department for handling the situation; spoke to the importance in keeping the City safe; and requested discussions on security in nightclubs.

Mayor Vaughan stated the next group of speakers would speak on behalf of the Greensboro Business League (GBL).

Bradley Hunt, 2112 Pebble Drive voiced concerns with persistent disparity in contracting in Greensboro; requested that Council listen to peoples' concerns; do the right thing; spoke to the low percentage of contracts awarded to African American businesses; reminded Council of GBL's previous requests that the Minority Women and Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Office be fully funded; have the M/WBE Director report directly to Council; and that Griffin and Strong be hired to assist the City with the M/WBE Program implementation.

Reverend Cardis Brown, 6106 Longbranch Court spoke to serving as a pastor for 43 years; referenced the times he had come before Council; voiced concern with disparity studies that had been done; reiterated the three requests of the GBL; reminded Council of the percentage of the tax base that received City contracts; and emphasized the need for Council to support the GBL's requests.

Ali Millicent Lee, 1101 N. Elm Street voiced the need for equity and parity when awarding contracts to black and brown people; spoke to the percentage of taxes paid by black and brown people compared with the number of City contracts awarded to them; voiced support of the requests stated this evening; and provided a quote from the late James Brown.

Gayland Oliver, 4214 Lord Jeff Drive provided his history of growing up in the community; voiced concern with the impact of discrimination with regard to contracts against his wife; referenced staff being paid under the table; actions of the City Manager's office; emphasized the need to hire Griffin and Strong to assist the City with the M/WBE program; and stated the injustice needed to stop.

Hurley Derrickson, 1614 Summit Avenue stated she had previously been before Council; read language from the current City of Greensboro M/WBE Plan; and voiced the need to support the recommendations of the GBL.

Andrew Gitthens, 1103 Amity Drive spoke to the recommendations from the GBL; reiterated the recommendations; referenced challenges for African American men in securing contracts; and requested Council support of the recommendations.

Arelpita (Pete) Ogirri, 117 Valentine Court reiterated and voiced support for GBL's recommendations; and spoke to

why the recommendations should be implemented.

Earl Jones, 21 Loney Circle voiced agreement with what had been said; stated he would like to request that the City provide the amount of contract funding awarded to African American businesses between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018; voiced concern that Council did not follow up on GBL's earlier requests; spoke to the amount of money African American businesses received compared to their tax base; and thanked Council for letting them speak.

At the request of Mayor Vaughan, Mr. Jones reiterated his request regarding the receipt of information on contract funding to African American businesses for the past six months.

Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris stated staff would provide that no later than February.

Councilmember Hightower requested the status of the three previous requests.

Assistant City Manager Harris spoke to the original timeframe for an update on the M/WBE program; stated the M/WBE Coordinating Committee (Committee) had requested additional time to review the proposal; and stated that an update would be provided at a work session on January 15, 2019.

Discussion took place regarding the history of the reporting process for Greensboro Coliseum Director; and changing the reporting process for the M/WBE Director.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting at 6:47 p.m. and returned at 6:51 p.m.

Councilmember Hightower requested the scope of the contract awarded to Griffin and Strong through February, 2019 be provided to Council; and asked that the GBL be allowed to review the proposed program once the Committee had completed their work.

Assistant City Manager Harris responded she would provide that information; and spoke to the contract.

Mayor Vaughan stated the remaining speakers had signed up to speak on the Marcus Deon Smith incident; and read a statement into the record.

(A copy of the statement is filed in Exhibit Drawer A, Exhibit No. 25, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

The following speakers voiced concerns with the handling of the Marcus Deon Smith incident; with personnel involved in the incident returning to work; the need for changes in policy and procedure in the Greensboro Police Department (GPD); requested the termination of specific GPD officers; spoke to white supremacy; oppression of persons of color; police accountability and brutality; the need for mental health consultants; content of the body worn camera video; and justice for Marcus Deon Smith:

Anna Fesmire, 1400 W. Cornwallis Drive; Eddie Brewer, 407 E. Washington Street; Edward Whitfield, 709 Park Avenue; Ryan Tardiff, 830 W. Market Street; Prasafany Outlaw, 1300 Lanada Road; Kyloh Guion, 818 Province Circle; Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street; Nikolaus Knight, 5 Boxelder Court; Delaney Vandergrift, 101 Barbee Hall; Stephanie McDonald, 612 S. Elam Avenue; Pierce Burch, 612 S. Elam Avenue; Lewis Pitts, 824 Rankin Place; Bobbie Bingham, 360 S. Elm Street; Marcia Foutch, 416A McAdoo Avenue; Sara Jado, 4304 Penton Place; Tom Neas, 2205 New Garden Road; Marcus Hyde, 305 Tate Street; Billy Belcher, 5939 W. Friendly Avenue; Brian Watkins, 1903 Taylor Street; Lindy Perry-Garnette, 605 Montrose Drive; Destiny Blackwell, no address provided; Sidney Branch, 3208 Martin Avenue; Greg Drumwright, 4 Clubview Court; Nelson Johnson, 2115 Murrayhill Road; Lewis Medina, 105 Kensington, Brandon Wrencher, 1601 Vance Street; Cherizar Crippen, 4224 B. Edith Lane; Robert Foxworth, 2506 Pinecroft Road; Signe Waller Foxworth, 2506 Pinecroft Road; Wesley Morris, 1513 Guinness Drive; Harmony Lee, 808 E. Bragg Street; Lindsey Gulya, 7105 Prentiss Road; Alan Hedrick, 3718 Manor Drive; and Irving Allen, 1209 Haverhill Drive.

Councilmember Thurm left the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m.

Councilmember Hightower stated she had some of the same questions that the community had; asked about the process once the Special Bureau of Investigation (SBI) report was completed; offered her condolences to the family; apologized for the lack of an appropriate response to the letter; emphasized that she had asked to see the body worn camera video but was dismissed; voiced concern with the statement members of the Police Citizens Review Board were requested to sign; and emphasized the need for licensed clinical social workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Councilmember Hightower stated there would be a critical need for social workers on the weekend; voiced appreciation for the statement read by Mayor Vaughan; emphasized that the Ripp Hobbles process needed to be taken away, not just modified; compared the rope used during the process to oppression; stated she would like to see an independent investigation of the incident; voiced action that would be taken if the incident had occurred in another part of the City; stated tensions were high; that people deserved answers; and spoke to democracy.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter requested the same respect she had provided while listening to the public comments; voiced that she wanted to make her comments, some of which the public may not wish to hear; referenced when persons were on a cocktail of different substances; stated it was not her intention to judge Mr. Smith nor his actions; spoke to what she had seen on the body worn camera video; referenced actions taken by officers to assist Mr. Smith; and to Mr. Smith's safety while in traffic.

Councilmember Hightower left the meeting at 8:52 p.m. and returned at 8:56 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan requested the audience remain quiet during Council comments.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter continued her comments regarding support of the police officers by the media; spoke to judgment of their actions; and offered that the public could contact her with their concerns and comments.

Councilmember Thurm voiced concern with the questions that had been raised; and reminded Council that they needed to review the incident to figure out next steps.

Councilmember Outling voiced agreement with Councilmember Thurm; referenced advice provided to him when he joined the City Council; voiced the importance of Council knowing what actions could or could not happen; referenced the engagement of social workers; the reality of the situation; and the importance for Council to deliberate and be analytical in their response. Councilmember Outling also requested that Council be mindful when making statements regarding action by Council; advised he had some questions; and requested additional discussion.

City Manager Parrish provided the history of discussions around the engagement of social workers; and stated he would provide information to Council.

Councilmember Outling requested that Council be kept advised; and that an overview of the costs for such a program be provided.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the discussions involving several Council members that had taken place; and stated some of Council had identified a need.

Discussion took place regarding the value of a life.

Councilmember Hoffmann stated she had spoken with City Manager Parrish and Police Chief Scott; spoke to observations with public safety when dealing with drug issues; voiced concern that there be a better way of handling the situation; spoke to the few police departments in the country on the cutting edge of the mental health training; stated this might be something the City would want to look at after viewing the video; spoke to difficulty in fixing something; voiced that democracy could be messy and slow at times; reminded the public that Council represented them; and asked for time for Council to work through the issue.

Councilmember Kennedy emphasized the importance of the issue; referenced votes and the process of Council; provided the history of the conversations regarding the engagement of social workers; stated she did not know where the funding would come from; spoke to other cities that employed social workers when dealing with 911 calls; outlined what the medical examiner had determined; referenced knowing Mr. Smith through her work at the Interactive Resource Center; spoke to the need to talk about the issue with the Guilford County Commissioners and the Legislative Delegation; reminded the public that the City was not trying to cover up the issue; asked the public walk with Council in figuring out a response to the issue; and stated that the action could not be undone.

Councilmember Wells voiced enough had been said. Moved by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to remove Jo Jo Garner from the Parks and Recreation Commission; and to appoint Vanessa Heart to the Parks and Recreation Commission in his place. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to reappoint April Parker to the Library Board of Trustees. The motion carried by voice vote. Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to appoint Quentin Brown to the Police Citizens Review Committee. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Hightower placed the names of Veda Howell and Brenda Lanier into the databank for future service on the Commission on the Status of Women and the Community Sustainability Council.

Councilmember Thurm placed the name of Leah Necas into the data bank for future service on a board or commission.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to reappoint Fawn Finley to the Community Sustainability Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 9:16 P.M.

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR