



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

4:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

I. Call To Order

This Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:00 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 Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

Also present were Interim City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and Assistant City Clerk Mary S. Brooks.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 18-0275](#) Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Discussion

Interim City Manager David Parrish gave an overview of the tornado disaster relief efforts; stated Council would receive an update on the housing bonds and an Opioid class action.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson referenced Jon Bon Jovi's donation to the City of Greensboro for the tornado relief.

Director of Neighborhood Development, Stanley Wilson made a Power Point Presentation (PPP) on the tornado relief efforts and housing bonds. Mr. Wilson presented photos with damage assessments; gave a projection of homeowners affected; the three phases of the recovery housing activities; gave the locations of centers for assistance that would be closing; spoke to working with non-profit organizations; and how the United Way and the Community Foundation raised money.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson inquired on a time frame for phases to be completed.

Mr. Wilson gave an estimated time frame to assess homes; and to continued help as needed.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the announcement of when State and Federal aid would come.

Mr. Wilson spoke to outreach and engagement efforts to the community; expanding the contracting pool; working with community leaders, Workforce Development, and the Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) office; Council's approval for modified programs; rehabilitation programs; long term recovery; working to build a better East Greensboro; and to City funding.

Mayor Vaughan inquired about available funding in the next budget to assist with relief efforts.

Mr. Wilson spoke to the approved funding amounts; to working with finance to see how to make those funds available based on recovery efforts needed; and to long term programs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson inquired about homes that were completely destroyed; and requested to be informed of when the long term recovery efforts would begin.

Mr. Wilson spoke to that being a part of the long term recovery program efforts.

Mayor Vaughan inquired about code compliance in neighborhoods to assure repairs were made; spoke to dollar amounts presented on the PPP; and to funding from the State and Federal Government.

Mr. Wilson spoke to the available funding; and to developing a schedule for the needs of the project.

Discussion took place on available funds for immediate relief efforts; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars; Rehab and Federal Home dollars; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements; modifications to programs; loan funds; long-term homeowners starting over; issuing of bonds dates; and to approving the housing bonds.

Councilmember Outling left the meeting at 4:13 p.m. and returned at 4:14 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to the use of money collected through United Way and the Community Foundation.

Mr. Wilson stated the donations went to the Greensboro Housing Coalition and to rehousing; spoke to stepping in after the funding was applied; and to assistance received from churches.

Discussion took place on the housing coalition; cost per household for housing; preparations when funds were exhausted; uninsured homes; providing immediate assistance; State and Federal assistance; code compliance dollars; to homes not having Hazard insurance to cover damages; homeowners not being able to meet insurance deductibles; and to FEMA qualifications.

Interim City Manager Parrish spoke to Mr. Wilson's experience in leadership assisting communities through recovery; response related issues; and to the recovery efforts.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to filling in the gap for assistance when needed; and thanked Assistant City Manager Harris and Mr. Wilson for their assistance and hard work as well as that of the staff.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer A Exhibit No.10 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

2. [ID 18-0225](#) Discuss Joining Class Action Lawsuit against Opioid Manufacturers and Wholesale Distributors

City Attorney Tom Carruthers introduced outside counsel Paul D. Coates and Mike Fox for the next item on the Opioid Crisis; and stated that the City Attorney's office had been looking at possible litigation for a few months.

Mr. Fox referenced a book on "The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis"; and explained that Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina was a part of the Roster of Commissioners chaired by Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey.

Mr. Fox continued and spoke to the problem, cause and solutions for the Opioid crisis; it's effect on communities; the potential damages the City may have; tools to help the City; how the drug was used; referenced reports from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on drug distribution; his law firm's experience and number of counties they represented; deceptive marketing and FDA regulations; spoke to the those with an addiction; regulations of the federal government; systems setting up safeguards; and to the marketing of the product.

Mr. Fox stated that he and Mr. Coates would be the City's local lawyers if the City moved forward; referenced other states and cities who had sued; provided a summary of legal cause of action the City had; and to potential negligence, fraud, and nuisance claims. Mr. Fox continued and spoke to the first responders for this particular crisis; stated counsel wanted Council to consider claiming for damages; gave an example for a nuisance claim; spoke to possible funds to be used for treatment, education, and addiction programs for the City; stated the firm would not get paid unless the City was rewarded; explained the firm would receive 25%; the choice of having an individual claim versus a class action suit; and to the City having control over proceeds received.

Councilmember Outling inquired on the affect of separate lawsuits for the County and City.

Mr. Fox stated the County could not claim the City's damages.

Mr. Coates spoke to the public safety budget for the City; types of programs the City had; community programs; the City's health insurance plans for cost of treatment options; and to the homeless needs.

Councilmember Kennedy inquired on the cost amount and cost share for the community for the crisis; and spoke to Emergency Room (ER) visits for opioid related issues and costs.

Mr. Fox spoke to the general cost of healthcare in the community for those addicted; and to a job well done by the Greensboro Police Department in educating the community.

Mr. Coates spoke to the 25% fee and 10% cap on other expenses; and explained no more than 35% of recovery would be paid out.

Councilmember Outling inquired about fees if no recovery was awarded to the City.

Mr. Coates stated nothing would be owed if the City did not win the case; and explained there were no clawback contracts for expenses.

Mr. Fox stated expenses would be shared with a large number of communities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 4:39 p.m. and returned at 4:43 p.m.

City Attorney Carruthers confirmed it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the issue.

Mr. Fox thanked everyone for their time; and gave a handout on Rebuilding Communities Together.

III. Adjournment

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

THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:51 P.M.

MARY S. BROOKS
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR