



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

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: 9 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaite, 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, Interim City Attorney Jim Hoffman, and City Clerk Angela Lord.

### Moment of Silence

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

### Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

### Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Kiran Purswani of the Information Technology 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 19-0267](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Gwen Sellars

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read a portion of the resolution into the record with Councilmember Hightower completing the reading; and presented the resolution to the family of Gwen Sellars.

A family representative expressed gratitude for the recognition.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to the character of Ms. Sellars.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to the history of her relationship with Ms. Sellars; and to the involvement and impact of Ms. Sellars in the church and community.

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

**Ayes,** 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaite, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

## 124-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE GWENDOLYN MCKEE SELLARS

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2019, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Gwendolyn McKee Sellars;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sellars, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina graduated from James B. Dudley High School;

WHEREAS, she continued her education at Bennett College earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education; and also attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where she earned a Master of Science degree in Reading;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sellars retired after thirty years from the Guilford County School system as an Elementary School Teacher; and then embarked on a second career at Drew & Drew Accounting Services as Office Manager;

WHEREAS, for over forty years she was faithful member of New Light Missionary Baptist Church; an active member of the Mass Choir; Sisters in Service; Widows/Widowers Support Ministry; served as Director of the Senior Choir; Senior Ministry Coordinator; Ambassadors of Hope and Goodwill; Sunday School Discussion Leader; and Coordinator of the Mothers Guild;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sellars was instrumental in creating the Baptist Training Union, whose purpose is to train members to Christian living, Baptist doctrine, and missionary service to strengthen the believers;

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 Gwendolyn McKee Sellars, 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 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 Gwendolyn McKee Sellars as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

2. [ID 19-0265](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Officer Jared Franks

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to Captain Jon Franks.

Captain Franks voiced appreciation for the recognition of his son, Officer Jared Franks; and spoke to the dedication of Officer Franks.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested that the record reflect an affirmative vote for Councilmember Wells as she had not yet arrived nor had she been excused from the meeting.

Mayor Vaughan confirmed that the record would reflect an affirmative vote; and asked for a motion to excuse Councilmember Wells until her arrival.

Moved by Councilmember Outling, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to excuse Councilmember Wells from the meeting until her arrival. The motion carried by voice vote.

**Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:**

**Ayes,** 9 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

125-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE OFFICER JARED WILLIAM FRANKS

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2018, the City of Greensboro and the Greensboro Police Department lost one of its outstanding members with the passing of Officer Jared William Franks, at age 24, while in the line of duty, who was involved in a vehicular accident in the pursuit of a suspect;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks was born on June 19, 1994 in Alamance County, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, he attended Burlington Christian Academy for elementary, middle and high school, graduating on June 2, 2012 at age 17;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks participated in the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) which supports academically talented students by supporting year-round programs to supplement high school studies;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks, while attending Western Alamance High School, accompanied freshman class representative and Homecoming Queen a friend with Downs Syndrome, to the Homecoming Ceremony, exemplifying friendship and compassion;

WHEREAS, he received the Alamance County Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service while attending high school;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks was a lifelong member of Christian Bible Fellowship in Gibsonville, NC; participated in the Awana Ministry; youth mission trips to West Virginia; and the Evangelical Explosion Ministry as the only youth member;

WHEREAS, he loved the outdoors, whether it be hiking, farming, camping, fishing, playing baseball or football;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks attended Western Carolina University, Cullowhee NC, to study Criminal Justice; was a member of the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success; and awarded a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice on May 7, 2016 at age 22;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, a Christian fraternity designed to inspire and equip men to lead an ethical life of growth, service, and leadership;

WHEREAS, his dream, from the age of four, was to follow in the footsteps of his family to become a police officer;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks began a career with the Greensboro Police Department (GPD) as part of the 101st recruiting class in 2016 at age 22; and served over two and one-half years in the District Two Patrol Division;

WHEREAS, he was recognized and awarded the Lifesaving Medal from the GPD for rendering first aid to a severely wounded victim on July 9, 2017;

WHEREAS, Officer Franks possessed a humble spirit; was loyal, and kind; loved helping people; and will be remembered as a man who put others first;

WHEREAS, Michael Brown, M.A., M.Ed., Head of School for Burlington Christian Academy stated "we ... have a large sense of thanksgiving because we had the good fortune of having Jared as part of our lives. ... Jared touched us with his grace, warmth, humor, and his endearing and charming ways. We are thankful because our lives have been made better for knowing Jared as a friend, a son, and a brother. ... As Moses said ... The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."

WHEREAS, his memory was honored by North Carolina House Resolution 1116 sponsored by Representatives Jon Hardister, John Faircloth, John Blust and Pricey Harrison with an overwhelming majority of 110 affirmative votes on December 5, 2018;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the years of dedicated public service rendered by Officer Jared William Franks, the outstanding contributions he made to the community and the legacy he leaves us all.

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 his years of devoted service to the community and dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he made to the community, friends, colleagues, and family.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Officer Jared William Franks as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

3. [ID 19-0347](#) Resolution Recognizing May 12 - 18, 2019 as National Law Enforcement Week

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to Greensboro Police Chief Wayne Scott.

Police Chief Scott referenced the resolution for Officer Franks; spoke to difficult times for law enforcement nationwide; recognized those in attendance supporting the police department; and voiced appreciation for the recognition.

Councilmember Kennedy expressed appreciation for the police department and officers that supported her during a difficult situation.

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

**Ayes,** 8 - Nancy Vaughan, Yvonne J. Johnson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling and Tammi Thurm

**Absent,** 1 - Goldie F. Wells

126-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 12 – 18, 2019 AS NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officer's Memorial Day and the week in which it fell as National Law Enforcement Week, to pay special attention to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the 674 dedicated members of the Greensboro Police Department;

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1791, more than 20,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, since 1921 a total of eleven City of Greensboro Police Officers have been killed in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro and the Greensboro Police Department recognize May 12th through May 18th as Peace Officers' Memorial week in conjunction with National Law Enforcement Week;

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of officers killed in the line of duty were honored as the Greensboro Police Department hosted the annual North Carolina Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 2, 2019; and will be remembered on May 16th at the Annual Guilford County Memorial Service and the Annual Police & Citizens' Awards Banquet;

WHEREAS, citizens of Greensboro recognize the men and women who serve and protect them, and remember there are law enforcement officers working in the City every hour of every day to ensure the safety of our community.

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 the nobility and sacrifices of the fallen law enforcement officers of the City of Greensboro;
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Greensboro Police Department as a symbol of the gratitude for the law enforcement contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

4. [ID 19-0287](#) Recognition of Lillian Plummer's service by the Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Mayor Vaughan recognized former Workforce Development employee, Lillian Plummer; spoke to the impact Ms. Plummer had made on the community; and presented the Governors Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award to Ms. Plummer.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jonnson emphasized the award was the most prestigious recognition presented to a citizen; and read the certificate into the record.

Ms. Plummer voiced appreciation for the award and recognition; recognized family in attendance; spoke to the opportunity to assist people during her tenure with the City of Greensboro; commended the Workforce Development staff for their work; and voiced appreciation for the recognition.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carlie Spencer, 2501 Sanderson Drive, Raleigh representing as Miss Greensboro 2019 stated she was a second year law student; spoke to community involvement; provided the history of the pageant as a scholarship program; and voiced an interest in serving the Greensboro community.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting 5:59 p.m. and returned at 6:08 p.m.

Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident.

Stephanie McDonald, 612 South Elam Avenue representing Working America voiced concerns with the bus system; spoke to the disbandment of the Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA); and asked for Council's plan for the board.

Councilmember Hightower confirmed that the Greensboro Transit Advisory Commission had been established following the disbandment of GTA; spoke to the transition of the board; and to the confirmation of appointments to take place at tonight's meeting.

Ben James, 926 Woodbrook Drive reiterated concerns expressed by Ms. McDonald; spoke to the need for transit in low income areas; and to poverty.

Wesley Morris, 417 Arlington Street echoed concerns with the bus system; voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident; and referenced a letter that had been presented to Council by local clergy.

Paula Sieber, 2226 Oak Hill Drive spoke to and commended the city for funding allocated for transportation; stated she represented the Community Resource Center; spoke to the partnership with the city; to healthy food options; and invited Council to a ribbon cutting for the Tiny Home Development on June 1 at 11 a.m.

Latoya Alston, 2301 Beville Place spoke to the 131st anniversary of Goshen United Methodist Church; and extended an invitation to the RAES of Suns event on June 16th.

The next speaker spoke to the importance of the Greensboro Police Department; and to the need for community resources.

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street spoke to a March for Trump rally on June 15th; spoke to equal rights and justice; and to government responsibilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 6:31 p.m. and returned at 6:33 p.m.

Matthew Credmore, 1323 Windsor Place voiced concerns with noise at an event held at Kickback Jacks; requested additional police presence at events; and spoke to neighborhood complaints.

Bulent Bediz, 808 Lexington Avenue spoke to code violations; referenced a meeting with Interim City Attorney Jim Hoffman; and spoke to the need for additional conversations to resolve issues.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested Interim City Attorney Hoffman to schedule a meeting with Mr. Bediz.

Eddie Brewer, 407 East Washington Street voiced concerns with a homeless camp site; and spoke to a safe place for persons experiencing homelessness.

Brian Watkins, 1903 Taylor Street voiced concerns with the Greensboro Police Department (GPD) and the Rhino Times.

Ryan Tardiff, 830 West Market Street voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident; and reference a petition previously presented to Council.

Zolanda Woods, 2708 McConnell Road, representing the Homeless Union spoke to a family member that served as a police officer; to the history of officers assisting citizens; voiced concerns with the GPD; and spoke to Council representing the citizens.

Councilmember Hoffmann left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. and returned at 6:58 p.m.

Marcus Hyde, 31 Tate Street voiced concerns with the City of Greensboro staff and City Council; and with the Marcus Smith incident.

Luis Medona voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident.

Mayor Vaughn announced the conclusion of the speakers from the floor.

### **III. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

There were no items calling for public hearings on this agenda.

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

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to reappoint Mary Skenes to the Board of Adjustment. The motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the disbandment of the GTA; to the establishment of the Greensboro Transit Advisory

Commission (Transit Advisory Commission); to the transition of the GTA appointments to the Transit Advisory Commission to fulfill terms as they had been appointed. Moved by Mayor Vaughn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint GTA board members to the Transit Advisory Commission to fulfill terms as appointed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to making an appointment at an upcoming meeting to replace Bob Kollar that had declined an appointment.

Discussion took place regarding appointing James Rosa to a board or commission at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Gary Baldwin to the Brian Park Advisory Commission. The motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the renovations to Pomona ball field.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded Councilmember Kennedy to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to establish the amount of compensation and other material terms of a proposed employment contract and to discuss and consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, and conditions of initial employment of a prospective public officer or employee; and to prevent disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-168. The motion carried by voice vote.

Council recessed to closed session at 7:12 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:11 p.m. with all members in attendance.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Thurm to return to open session. 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 Interim City Attorney.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Thurm, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:11 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD  
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN  
MAYOR