



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, February 5, 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 Abuzuaite to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recognition of Courier

City Manager David Parrish recognized Anna Stoddard of the Field Operations 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; and asked for a motion to excuse Councilmember Outling from the meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaite, seconded by Councilmember Wells to excuse Councilmember Outling from the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote 8-0. (Note: Councilmember Outling joined the meeting late.)

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 18-0805](#) Resolution Recognizing the Underground Railroad Bicentennial in Guilford County

Councilmember Abuzuaite read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to Max Carter.

Mr. Carter, 905 King George Drive recognized committee members in attendance; spoke to a previous developmental issue; extended an invitation to Council for an event on Saturday; and voiced appreciation for the recognition.

Majnk Pennix, 206 H Wind Road spoke to the history of the item; to the connection with the Warnersville community; and to historical street signs.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced appreciation for the New Garden Meeting House; and spoke to justice and racial

equality education.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson stated the pamphlet provided to Council would be used for Black History Month.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, 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, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

Absent, 1 - Justin Outling

021-19 RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN GUILFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the first known instance in North Carolina of a "conductor" and a "passenger" took place in 1819 on what would become known as the Underground Railroad;

WHEREAS, Guilford County became known as a sanctuary for fugitives from slavery;

WHEREAS, John Dimery (also spelled Dimrey), a free black living in the New Garden Quaker community was kidnapped by the sons of his former owner with the intent to return Dimery to slavery;

WHEREAS, Vestal Coffin, a New Garden Quaker known for his abolitionist work, had been involved with freeing Benjamin Benson, another free black, and helped form the North Carolina Manumission Society, intercepted the kidnapers allowing Dimery to escape;

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide safety from the slave culture of the South by escaping to free states, Coffin met with Dimery to map out a route that Quakers had utilized to Richmond, Indiana, a town founded by three Randolph County Quakers;

WHEREAS, Coffin remained active in aiding enslaved persons to freedom until his death in 1826;

WHEREAS, the collaboration of Coffin and Dimery was the beginning of what has been called the largest interracial civil disobedience action for human rights in America until the Civil Rights era of the 1950's and 1960's including the 1960 Sit-In at the Woolworths lunch counter in Greensboro;

WHEREAS, in observance of the bicentennial celebration, events will be held throughout 2019 to include lectures by nationally known historians on the Underground Railroad, book readings, historical tours, and a march from John Dimrey Drive to the grave of Vestal Coffin;

WHEREAS, the City Council on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro wishes to support the recognition of the Bicentennial Celebration of the first known activity of the Underground Railroad in Guilford County.

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

That it hereby recognizes 2019 to commemorate the Bicentennial Celebration of the Underground Railroad in Guilford County.

(Signed) Michelle Kennedy

2. [ID 19-0049](#) Resolution Accepting Gift from Councilwoman Hoffmann of the Jim Galluci Sculpture, "Greensboro Is Our Home" for Display in the Greensboro City Council Chamber

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the new sculpture in the Council Chamber; voiced appreciation to Councilmember

Hoffmann and Jim Galluci; read the resolution into the record; spoke to investment of art throughout the City; and presented the resolution to Councilmember Hoffmann and Mr. Galluci.

Mr. Galluci spoke to a community coming together; described the meaning of the art piece; spoke to the heart of the city; highlighted the sunrise that signified the great things coming; and thanked Council for the opportunity.

Councilmember Hoffmann referenced the mounting of the sculpture; stated Greensboro was her adopted home; spoke to a physical and emotional attachment; provided a brief history of Mr. Galluci moving to Greensboro; highlighted other works of art by Mr. Galluci; spoke to the importance of art in the environment; to commissioning a piece of art; to the joint venture; and to being inspired and transformed.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, 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, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

Absent, 1 - Justin Outling

022-19 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFT FROM COUNCILWOMAN HOFFMANN OF THE JIM GALLUCI SCULPTURE, "GREENSBORO IS OUR HOME" FOR DISPLAY IN THE GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

WHEREAS, community distinctiveness is an important component for a city's social and economic success;

WHEREAS, having a "Sense of Place" springs from a unique collection of characteristics and qualities including cultural, social, visual, and environmental that provide meaning to a city;

WHEREAS, character and identity is what differentiates one city from another; and a "Sense of Place" is a driving force that encourages us to care about our surroundings and creates proud citizens who love their city;

WHEREAS, according to author Wallace Stegner, "If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are";

WHEREAS, artists are story tellers who speak to us in universal ways that bring people together through shared humanity;

WHEREAS, renowned Greensboro sculptor Jim Gallucci's iconic, "Greensboro Is Our Home" sculpture, installed behind the dais in the Council Chamber of the City of Greensboro, will be an omnipresent, ubiquitous reminder of precisely where we are and who we are;

WHEREAS, in the words of Councilwoman Nancy Hoffmann who commissioned "Greensboro Is Our Home", and worked with Jim Gallucci on the concept and design, "We are inspired and transformed by the people we love and the places we love".

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

That it hereby accepts the gift by Councilwoman Hoffmann of the Jim Gallucci sculpture, "Greensboro Is Our Home", for permanent display in the Council Chamber of the City of Greensboro.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

3. [ID 19-0040](#) Update on the New Greensboro Transportation Provider Keolis Transit Services, LLC

Mayor Vaughan introduced the item; and recognized speakers to provide an update.

Mike Ake, 959 Highpoint Way spoke to a smooth transition; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); voiced

concern for employees, staff and citizens; outlined the negotiations of the agreement; 401K plan loans; spoke to sick leave that had been honored; to community involvement; to fleet maintenance; to the purchase of parts inventory; and recognized Vice President of Safety and Security, Teresa Cole.

Ms. Cole outlined the on-boarding of employees; spoke to the current and new employee transitions; to safety initiatives; and to a safety Blitz campaign.

Maintenance Manager, Jake Perkins spoke to fleet transition; and to incumbent staff skill assessments.

General Manager Charles Odimgbe recognized team members in attendance.

Mr. Ake outlined the next steps; spoke to improvement to riderships; and to operations and maintenance.

Councilmember Hightower inquired about payroll issues; and asked about retainment of employees.

Mr. Ake explained the payroll process with ADP; spoke to an electronic process; confirmed employee checks had been delayed approximately 24 hours; and spoke to employee background check issues.

Discussion ensued regarding fees and charges; and fixed routes.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer B, Exhibit No. 3 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

4. [ID 19-0111](#) Greensboro Community Development Fund/Piedmont Business Capital Update

Mayor Vaughan introduced the item; and called on City Manager David Parrish.

City Manager Parrish recognized Wilson Lester to provide an update on the Greensboro Community Development Fund.

Mr. Lester voiced appreciation to Council; made a PPP; spoke to growth in the last several years; outlined the mission and vision of the program; available lending programs; spoke to a micro-enterprise loan fund; the Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) loan fund; and the Small Business Expansion Fund (SBEF). Mr. Lester provided a loan analysis; spoke to 2018 deployment; creation of jobs; to the Greensboro tax base; to financial support by the City; outlined community technical assistance outreach; and spoke to serving majority and minority populations. Mr. Lester referenced partner activities; provided images; spoke to a development partnership in Winston Salem; highlighted the name change to the Piedmont Business Capital; and recognized staff in attendance.

Councilmember Kennedy left the meeting at 6:24 p.m. and returned at 6:26 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding program challenges; limited capital; return on investment; micro-financing; disparity; small business loans; and economic development opportunities.

Councilmember Hoffmann spoke to being business friendly; and spoke to the need for increased support of the program.

Mr. Lester spoke to services that could be provided with an appropriations increase of approximately \$500,000.

Councilmember Abuzuiater left the meeting at 6:31 p.m. and returned at 6:34 p.m.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer B, Exhibit No. 3 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the code of conduct for the public comment portion of the meeting.

Ben James, 5800 West Friendly Avenue spoke to community economic development interns; to research on recent tornadoes and storms; and requested a meeting with Council for funding.

Sallie Hayes-Williams, 1101 North Elm Street highlighted Black History Month; spoke to upcoming events; to the Mid-Atlantic Conference; provided the history of her involvement; voiced appreciation for the support to Bennett College; to Mr. Gallucci for the sculpture in the Chamber; and spoke to Valentines Day.

Lewis Pitts, 824 Rankin Place representing Democracy Greensboro spoke to the Marcus Smith incident; to Court orders; quoted North Carolina General Statutes; and requested Council action in the case.

Discussion ensued regarding information provided to Council; action by the police involved in the case; and regulations for a majority vote of Council.

Nicole Lindahl, 1804 Marion Street spoke to the two-way Greene Street conversion; to the need for safety; to plans to accommodate the parking deck traffic; and requested bike lanes to be included in the plans to provide alternate transportation.

Mark Schulz, 2619 West Court Street spoke to the Greene Street conversion; voiced concern with the lack of bike lanes; and spoke to additional safety measures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested staff research the addition of bike lanes; and stated Councilmember Abuzuaiter represented the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

City Manager Parrish explained the public comment period for the project; spoke to Greensboro bike lanes; to the Downtown Streetscape plan; and confirmed staff would provide an update.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter reviewed avenues for public comments; spoke to travel difficulties; and encouraged citizens to complete the online survey.

Cherizar Crippen voiced concern with the removal of herself and Irvin Allen from the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (GCJAC) and the Police Community Review Board (PCRB); provided the history of attendance to the meetings; spoke to Council and media comments; to requirements to sign confidentiality documents; voiced concern with the lack of committee guidelines; the Marcus Smith case; requested Council to reconsider her appointment to the committee; and spoke to police accountability.

Councilmember Hightower apologized for the process; spoke to the need for conversations; clarified her vote on the removal of Ms. Crippen and Mr. Allen; spoke to setting standards; and to the requirements for a reinstatement to the committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson clarified the requirements of reinstatement.

Councilmember Kennedy referenced conversations with Ms. Crippen and Mr. Allen; spoke to the process; to a request to review Board and Commission (B & C) absences; to the need for consistency; for younger voices on B & C; to documentation; and to equality.

Councilmember Wells referenced conversations with Ms. Crippen and Mr. Allen; apologized for the process; voiced the need for B & C guidelines; referenced comments made regarding young black people; and spoke to the need to follow the rules.

Councilmember Outling entered the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 7:36 p.m. and returned at 7:44 p.m.

The following speakers voiced concerns with and spoke to the handling of the Marcus Deon Smith incident; presented a video; referenced Council and police accountability; the Ripp Hobble method; police personnel and violations; racial profiling and injustices; GCJAC procedures; injustices; the value of life; police justification; an inaccurate press release; Council campaigns; the Greensboro Police presence at a Chapel Hill incident; the Greensboro Homeless Union; the Chief Medical Examiner report; public confidence; the Working Class Homeless Alliance; body worn camera footage; the Guilford County School Resources Officers; voter concerns; the 2015 New York Times article; removal of police personnel; letters in the newspaper; a gang squad; the Greensboro Massacre; a socialist organization; Black Lives Matter; and resignations.

Brian Watkins, 1903 Taylor Street; Eddie Brewer; Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street; Abigail Mosley, 900 East Washington Street; Sarah Sills, 4905 Friendly Farms Road; Edward Whitfield, 709 Park Avenue; Nate Rosenberler, 819 Granite; Marcus Hyde, 305 Tate Street; William Belcher, 5939 West Friendly Avenue; Amelia Mattacks, 3111 Masonic Drive; Signe Waller Foxworth, 2506 Pinecroft Road; Robert Foxworth, 2506 Pinecroft Road; Alan Hedric, 3718 Manor Drive; and Alycia Muhammad.

Discussion continued regarding personnel matters; and majority votes.

III. ITEMS CALLING PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no items calling public hearings for this agenda.

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

Mayor Vaughan spoke to conversations and comments regarding personnel issues; explained the authority of the City Manager in regards to personnel; referenced a press release; spoke to code of conduct for the town hall style meeting; explained reports that provide greater detail than a press release; stated she would not instruct the City Manager in regards to personnel; and that she did not support the firing of Police Chief Wayne Scott.

Councilmember Hoffmann voiced agreement with the Mayor Vaughan's comments.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced agreement with Mayor Vaughan; echoed personnel matters were the responsibility of the City Manager; and spoke to the management of press releases.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced agreement with Mayor Vaughan; explained the personnel authority of the Council; and spoke to acknowledging situations that had been handled correctly.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter voiced support for the City Manager; and spoke to the history of citizen concerns with regard to Police Chief Scott.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern with the process; voiced concerns with police presence in District 1; spoke to doing the right thing; to accountability; referenced previous press releases; concerns by police officers; and acknowledged citizen concerns.

Moved by Councilmember Hoffmann, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to appoint Emily Linden to the Parks and Recreation Commission to replace Andrew Egbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Wells shared information regarding #INVEST EAST; spoke to perceptions; and voiced appreciation to staff for work on the initiative.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wells to appoint Jesse Arnett to the Historic Preservation Commission for the District 4 slot replacing Tracy Pratt. The motion carried by voice vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson highlighted Black History Month; an upcoming event at Smith High School; and spoke to available

tickets for an event at The International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to an event to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the Sit-In.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced appreciations for Bennett College contributions.

Councilmember Thurm spoke to the Participatory Budgeting (PB) idea collection kick-off; to representation by high school and college students; to upcoming events; offered congratulations to the Guilford Metro 911 for their five-time accreditation status; and reminded citizens that the Transportation Department Vision 0 survey was still open.

Discussion ensued regarding PB idea collections being scheduled on City Council meeting nights.

Councilmember Outling extended congratulations to Bennett College; spoke to a Java with Justin event on Friday; and to community concerns with attending City Council meetings.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Outling to appoint Janne Cannon to the alternate position for Minimum Standards Housing Commission. The motion carried by voice vote. Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to Bennett Bells; and echoed congratulations to Bennett College.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the procedures for the Town Hall meetings; to community concerns regarding attending meetings; to the need for a change; referenced conversations with other Council members; and requested feedback from Council on the issue.

Discussion took place regarding repeated speakers from the floor; attendees calling out from the audience; citizen concerns in attending meetings due to safety; discussions on a difference of opinions; the purpose of the town hall meetings; and the need to follow rules.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the need to clarify expected behaviors; comments made about Council; rules of decorum; citizens leaving prior to the Council comment portion of the agenda; the need to listen to the community; and the need to create a safe space for all citizens.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter requested staff research town hall formats in other municipalities.

Councilmember Hoffmann voiced support to revising the format of the meeting to reflect previous procedures to which speakers from the floor were allowed a total of 30 minutes per meeting.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff provide feedback on the formatting of the town hall meetings; and clarified that Council should submit thoughts and feedback to her in order for Council to develop a plan moving forward.

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

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:53 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR