



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, June 4, 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, City Attorney Chuck Watts, and Deputy City Clerk Tebony Rosa.

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 Parrish recognized Jake Neal of Parks and Recreation 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.

7. [ID 19-0228](#) Recognition of the Water Conservation, Water Quality and Soil Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Mayor Vaughan stated Council had been requested to remove Item #7/ID 19-0228 from the agenda.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaite, seconded by Councilmember Wells to remove the item from the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

I. CEREMONIAL AND/OR PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. [ID 19-0266](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Sr. (ne' Stevenson)

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson and Councilmembers Thurm and Hightower read portions of the resolution; and presented the resolution to the family.

Mrs. Kilimanjaro and daughter, Afrique, accepted the resolution; voiced appreciation; and spoke to the character, historical achievements and community involvement of Mr. Kilimanjaro.

Councilmember Hightower recognized Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members in attendance; shared memories; and expressed condolences.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Wells 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

163-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE DOCTOR JOHN MARSHALL KILIMANJARO, SR. (NÉ STEVENSON)

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2019, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Doctor John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Sr. at the age of 88;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro, Sr. was born June 6, 1930 in Little Rock, Arkansas as John Marshall Stevenson; he later changed his name to reflect the "origin of his birth";

WHEREAS, he attended Tougaloo College in Mississippi; became a charter member of the Rho Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1948; earned a B.A. degree in English in 1952 from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, which is known today as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; and was one of seven African-American students to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he earned a Masters of Art and Doctoral degree in Speech, Theatre Arts, and English Literature in 1965;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was a competition-winning pianist while at the University of Arkansas, playing for Chi Omega and Delta Delta Delta sororities;

WHEREAS, he served our country with both the United States Marine Corps in Europe and the United States Navy as a Naval Hospital Corpsman during the Korean War; and was honorably discharged from both service branches;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro became a faithful member of Temple Emanuel in Greensboro in 1955;

WHEREAS, as Secretary of the Greensboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1958 he helped arranged a speech for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and he attended Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was instrumental in establishing North Carolina Agricultural & Technical Speech and Theatre Arts Department; NC A&T's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; was a member of Alpha Psi Omega; National Honor Society of Dramatic Arts; Sigma Delta Chi; National Journalism Honor Society; Phi Delta Kappa; and Beta Gamma Sigma;

WHEREAS, he co-founded the Carolina Peacemaker in 1967 where he sought to publish news on issues and events vital to the African American community presenting minority viewpoints;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro covered the scene of the 1969 NC A&T/Dudley High School uprising where he was the only African American person permitted to be out past curfew to cover the story;

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Carolina Peacemaker received numerous journalism awards from the North Carolina Press Association; the National Newspaper Publishers Association; and was selected as the Samuel E. Cornish Publisher of the Year in 2006;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was awarded the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Mike Easley in 2002 for his "significant contributions to the state and community through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments";

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 Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Sr., for the outstanding

contributions he has made to the community, and the legacy he 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 John Marshall Kilimanjaro's many years of dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Marikay Abuzuaiter

2. [ID 19-0401](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Frances E. Keck Robinson

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson read the resolution into the record; and presented the resolution to the family.

Pastor Randall Phipps spoke to his mother's various community endeavors and organizations; to the history of Daniel Keck Cab Company; referenced Bennett College; and highlighted Ms. Robinson's work with the special needs community.

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Wells 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

164-19 RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE FRANCES E. KECK ROBINSON

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2019, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Frances E. Keck Robinson;

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina graduated with the Class of 1956 from James B. Dudley High School; and continued her education at Bennett College;

WHEREAS, during the 1960's, she began a career with the Charlotte, North Carolina School System; later worked in Newark, New Jersey until her return to Greensboro where she eventually owned and operated family owned, Daniel-Keck Taxi Company, Inc.;

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson served children with special needs for nearly twenty-two years while employed by the Guilford County Schools Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson was known for her love of cooking, socializing with friends, family and former classmates, and staying abreast of current events.

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 Frances E. Keck Robinson, 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 Frances E. Keck Robinson as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her many contributions to this community.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

3. [ID 19-0278](#) Resolution Recognizing the Fourth Anniversary of the Family Justice Center

Councilmember Abuzuaiter read the resolution into the record, recognized agencies in attendance, and presented the resolution to the Guilford County Family Justice Center (FJC) Director, Catherine Johnson.

Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation for Council support; provided testimonials to accompany theme: "Hope Rising"; reiterated statistical changes; and spoke to the network of service providers.

Discussion took place regarding the partnership with FJC creating a safer city; a better quality of life; referrals by the city; and with the community impact.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, 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

165-19 RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (FJC)

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Family Justice Center (FJC) opened June 15, 2015, with a mission to empower family violence victims to live free from violence and abuse, and hold offenders accountable by providing easily accessible, coordinated, and comprehensive services in a single location;

WHEREAS, FJC is a "one stop shop" for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse that incorporates over 100 professionals from 18 different disciplines who work together to provide consolidated and coordinated safety, legal, social, and health services to those in need;

WHEREAS, through FJC, survivors have access to a wide range of supportive resources such as victim advocacy; filing a restraining order; civil and criminal legal support; law enforcement follow-up; medical care; counseling; and assistance accessing shelter as well as other community resources;

WHEREAS, the success of impact of FJC is rooted in partnerships, and through its work and services there has been an 88% decrease in the number of domestic violence related homicides in 2018 compared to 2013; and there have been no homicides associated with the victims who have sought services from the FJC;

WHEREAS, some of the key accomplishments over the past four years include, but are not limited to, the following: service to over 25,000 individuals and families, opening a second location in High Point, increased access to emergency legal assistance, enhanced training to professionals to improve response to high-risk for lethality cases of abuse, community outreach to over 15,000 citizens, nationally recognized programming focused on reducing child trauma and elder abuse, and implementing successful collaboration focused on providing pathways to hope and healing and breaking the generational cycles of violence and abuse;

WHEREAS, the City Council commends FJC for their work and contributions to the City of Greensboro and to Guilford County.

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

That it hereby recognizes the Guilford County Family Justice Center on its fourth anniversary and extends appreciation for the contributions FJC has made to the community over the past three years.

(Signed) Tammi Thurm

4. [ID 19-0360](#) Resolution Declaring the Month of June 2019 as 'Homeownership Month'

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record; spoke to the housing bond's down payment assistance program; and presented a resolution to Neighborhood Development Administration Manager, Lamont Taylor.

Mr. Taylor highlighted to the 187th loan closure as of June 3, 2018.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to the east Greensboro tornado damage; voiced appreciation for storm recovery efforts; spoke to service provider meetings; and to damage assessments to rebuild houses.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wells 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

166-19 RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019 AS 'HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH' IN GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, National Homeownership Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the many benefits of homeownership, and to encourage residents of the City to consider the opportunity for homeownership; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, homeownership has been central to the American way of life. Homeownership plays a critical role in strengthening families and communities, and for those reasons, our nation has long promoted homeownership; and

WHEREAS, our community strongly supports the use of federal, state and local resources to increase and preserve safe, decent and affordable homeownership options for low- and moderate-income households; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Homeownership Month provides an opportunity for all partners of the housing industry to work together to provide families with the tools and information they need to overcome barriers to homeownership; and

WHEREAS, the Greensboro Department of Neighborhood Development has a goal of promoting homeownership awareness through community events; and

WHEREAS, to help raise awareness of homeownership, the month of June shall be designated as "Homeownership Month."

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

That the month of June 2019 is hereby declared 'Homeownership Month' and all residents are encouraged to participate in the events planned for the month.

(Signed) Yvonne Johnson

5. [ID 19-0359](#) Presentation of The Greensboro Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities Scholarships

Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities Chair, Bruce Pomeroy, recognized three outstanding high school graduates Elijah Blake, Christopher Cole and Caroline "Cali" Hull; provided an overview of their accomplishments,

community activities and grade point averages; and presented scholarship checks from the Committee.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to appreciation of Donna Gray and her team; and congratulated the award winners.

6. [ID 19-0374](#) Presentation of the Greensboro/Guilford County Tourism Development Authority 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Vaughan recognized President/CEO Tourism Authority Henri Fourrier who made a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.

Mr. Fourrier spoke to the success of generating revenue projects; to Coliseum construction bonds; to tourism's economic impact; and to increases in capital funding.

Discussion took place regarding the operating budget; hotel/motel occupancy tax distribution; recreating Greensboro's brand; sports marketing user fees; and the budget review process.

Councilwoman Kennedy left the meeting at 6:17 p.m. and returned at 6:23 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding capital to fund future projects; to the tourism authority's accomplishments; and to highlighting the community affects of tourism dollars.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jaime Gabby, 4900 Unit D Tower Road, voiced concerns with Specialized Community Area Transportation (SCAT) paratransit system; spoke to fare increases and riders' fixed income; and thanked Council for not raising rates.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern with Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) mechanical issues; customer service; and alternative transit methods.

Larsina Johnson, 5653-A Hornaday Road, voiced concerns with GTA; and spoke to the need for communication.

Vickie Motley, 67 West Friendly Avenue, voiced concerns with SCAT; and spoke to a recent incident.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concerns with iRide; and spoke to the need for training.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to sharing these issues with GTA to investigate.

Carol Beakman, 7108 West Friendly Avenue, expressed the need for bus services in her area.

Lee Britt, 109 Green Valley Road, spoke to Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. (GBI) and the Gateway Gardens Visitor's Center project; voiced concerns regarding attending design and pre-vetting meetings; and requested clarification in partnership participation.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concerns with miscommunication; spoke to funding for the Visitor's Center; and to construction delays.

Ms. Britt spoke to not having a conversation with the contractor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked GBI for work in Woodmere Park and Kings Forest.

Daniel Smith, 4411 Williamsburg Road, spoke to a handout provided to Council; and voiced concerns with GBI being excluded from construction meetings.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to schedule a meeting to discuss concerns.

Mr. Smith reiterated concerns with cooperation with the city; and being excluded as a GBI volunteer.

Councilmember Wells extended apologies; spoke to finding a resolution; to GBI's donation of trees to Kings Forest; and to GBI's planting of trees in Woodmere Park.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to the value of GBI; and to working together to resolve the issue.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to research the format for town hall meetings; and schedule a work session to discuss.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to addressing taxpayers' concerns; and to attending GBI events.

James Rosa Jr., 707 Kirkman Street, provided a handout to Council; spoke to a garden pilot program at Gateway Gardens by the Rosa Foundation and Hayes-Taylor YMCA; and invited Council to attend an upcoming Community Health & Job Fair on June 22nd.

Ron Tuck, 1500 West Vandalia Road, highlighted African-American Music Month; and voiced concerns regarding SCAT.

Latoya Alston, 2301 Bevill Place, spoke to a handout provided to Council regarding the Ray of Sun events on June 7th and June 16th; and requested a meeting with Council to discuss transit and community concerns.

Sondra Wright, P.O. Box 36355, voice concerns regarding a Triad Business Journal article; spoke to Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) contracting policies; to 'good faith' standards; and an independent audit.

Mayor Vaughan explained the City conducted annual audits.

Paula Seiber, 2226 Oak Hill Drive, spoke to The Sustainability Resource Center's community garden project; and to upcoming park projects.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to Ms. Seiber's involvement with the Tiny Houses Ribbon Cutting and GBI.

Ms. Seiber spoke to a goal of ADA compliant gardens; to a contest in the Guilford County School System; and to providing gardening nutrition educational classes.

Korreanne Burt, P.O. Box 712, voiced concerns with identification theft; with confronting drug dealers; and with the bus transit system.

Peter Boykin, 1504 Talley Street, spoke to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community and Pride Month; to the Trump Administration; to the Republican Party; and to the March for Trump and Pride Rally for Free Speech on June 15th.

Billy Belcher, 5939 West Friendly Avenue, voiced concerns with police; and with the Marcus Smith incident.

Eddie Brewer, 407 East Washington Street, spoke to getting married; voiced concerns with a theft; and with the bus transit system.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to Mr. Brewer being a candidate for a permanent housing program.

Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street, voiced concerns with the Marcus Smith incident; with the Greensboro Police Department (GPD); and requested an independent investigation.

Ryan Tardiff, 830 West Market Street, voiced concern with the GPD; spoke to mental health programs; to

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids; and voiced concern for immigration support.

Brian Wakins, 1903 Taylor Street, voiced concerns with GPD; politicians; and President Donald Trump.

Mayor Vaughan declared a recess at 7:56 p.m. Council reconvened at 8:26 p.m. with all members in attendance.

III. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Mayor Vaughan stated this was the time and place set for a public hearing to receive public comment on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Budget.

8. [ID 19-0377](#) Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Budget

Ramone Johnson, 2602 South Elm Eugene Street, spoke to favoring the step plan over the merit system; and spoke to Field Operations employees assisting with tornado relief.

Christopher Yancey, 7728 Friendship Church Road, spoke to working in all weather conditions as a city employee.

Brendan Wynands, 3609 Temple Street, spoke to the step plan for Police and Fire Departments; and to working in inclement weather.

Councilmember Hightower voiced appreciation to the Field Operations workers; and requested staff research a city-wide step plan.

Councilmember Kennedy voiced agreement with Councilmember Hightower; and requested employees with early work hours have speaking priority at meetings.

Rev. Beth Huger, 408 Woodlawn Avenue, voiced concerns with code compliance performance measures; collection practices; minimum cases standards; spoke to rehabilitated housing; and to discriminatory complaints to the Human Relations Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested a review of code compliance plans; and requested a review of code compliance violation percentages.

City Manager Parrish responded that Neighborhood Development Director Stan Wilson would provide a response.

Becky Phillips, 6 Ashton Court, voiced concerns regarding the M/WBE disparity study implementation, resources, and staffing; spoke to M/WBE credibility; and to committing to the program.

Hester Petty, 3402 Canterbury Street, voiced concerns regarding fees generated by The Steven Tanger Performing Arts Center (STPAC), parking decks, and hotels; housing for disabled, homeless, the poor; and greenhouse gas.

David Hampsten, 2304-A Golden Gate Drive, spoke to the creation of an identification card for the homeless and newly-released prisoner population; and to safer pedestrian walkways.

Mary Wakeman, 2710 Azalea Drive, spoke to code compliance enforcement.

Mayor Vaughan left the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and returned at 8:53 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to close the public hearing. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to place the name of Thais Weiss to the databank. The motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Councilmember Hightower, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to appoint Veda Howell to the Sustainability Commission. The motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Jim Gaylon to the ABC Board. The motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson to reappoint Rick Pinto to the ABC Board. The motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Hoffmann spoke to community events; and highlighted the Parisian Promenade and Poodle Parade.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke to the value of city employees; to a city-wide step plan; to code compliance; and to prioritizing adequate housing.

Councilmember Wells spoke to the Smith Senior Center pickleball field; to the sunflower patch project on Phillips Avenue; and to safer and better looking neighborhoods.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson spoke to developing innovative methods for boarded up housing; and to addressing poverty.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to the Summit-Cone apartment fire; to the repair timelines; to the method of collecting fines; and requested staff to research expedition of repairs; and fine collections.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to restructuring the town hall meetings; to hosting meetings in each district; explained the July 8th meeting would be located at Ruth Wicker at Barber Park; and clarified the meetings would not be televised.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter welcomed incoming Assistant City Managers Trey Davis and Larry Davis; recognized newly appointed City Attorney Chuck Watts; extended prayers for Virginia Beach city employees; spoke to event attendance; to the International Advisory Commission; and to the Muslim community raising funds for the poor and homeless community.

Councilmember Outling spoke to a fire that took place on May 20th; expressed condolences to the family; commended the Greensboro Fire Department; spoke to upcoming events; and to a work session to discuss housing issues.

Councilmember Thurm spoke to meeting with Assistant City Manager Barbara Harris before her retirement to identify homes to be condemned and look at options for receivership; and referenced the online video compilation of Parks & Recreation programs.

City Manager Parrish requested to identify homes slotted to be condemned for possible receivership.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to housing improvements; to liens and fines; code compliance; to a step plan; voiced concerns over GTA customer service; requested data on Boards and Commission attendance policies; and requested correspondence be sent to Virginia Beach.

Councilmember Outling spoke to a forced priority lien; and to the good repair ordinance regarding property ownership.

Mayor Vaughan outlined bid concerns with the Summit-Cone property.

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 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 9:29 P.M.

TEBONY C. ROSA
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR