



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

3:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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I. Call To Order

This Virtual City Council work session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaite, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Tammi Thurm, Goldie Wells, Justin Outling, and Michelle Kennedy.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts, and Deputy City Clerk Tebony Rosa.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson from the work session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote, 8-0:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaite, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson

II. Presentations

City Manager David Parrish spoke to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 City Council Recommended Budget; impacts due to the pandemic; and recognized Assistant City Manager Larry Davis and Budget and Evaluation Director Jon Decker.

1. [ID 20-0390](#) Review of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Budget

Mr. Decker made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided an overview of core community services during the COVID-19 pandemic; highlighted preparations for the future; spoke to the Stephen Tanger Performing Arts Center (STPAC); to debt service refinancing; to a general fund decrease; to the property tax rate; to an allocation of Economic Development (ED) Funds; to sales tax; to the budget gap; and to maintaining water rates.

Mr. Decker highlighted a FY 21-22 projected need for pipes and infrastructure; to peer city comparisons; to Council priorities; to an impact on the capital reserve; to projected deficits; to employee compensation; to the North Carolina (NC) State retirement system requirements; to a \$15 minimum wage; to upcoming ED incentives; and to the Coliseum's operating cost increases.

Councilmember Hightower requested staff to research information about step plan compensation for employees citywide; and voiced concern regarding equitable merit pay increases.

Assistant City Manager Davis explained the merit and step plan structure.

City Manager Parrish spoke to a balanced budget; and to providing equally to all city employees.

Councilmember Thurm inquired about employee health insurance rates.

City Manager Parrish spoke an annual review of health insurance benefits around September/October.

Mayor Vaughan requested the City Manager to quantify the percentage of employees receiving a \$15 minimum wage increase.

Mr. Decker continued the PPP; highlighted budget reductions; spoke to project delays in building maintenance; to delaying the Participatory Budgeting (PB) process; to outside agency support; and to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Library Department virtual programming.

City Manager Parrish expressed appreciation to staff for being innovative; and spoke to the re-programming of services for community engagement during the pandemic.

Mr. Decker outlined the proposed Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) reductions; spoke to vendor costs; to routes and fares; to ridership trends; and to the iRide service.

Councilmember Hightower voiced concern with the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicle (NCDMV) car registration revenue allocations; and requested staff to research alternative ridership options.

Discussion took place regarding route service reduction; and the impact on shift workers.

Mr. Decker highlighted the hotel/motel occupancy tax; the impacts on the Coliseum and STPAC programming; spoke to operational deficits; to an impact on the general fund; to season ticket holders; to capital projects; to bond implementation; to fire station infrastructure; to the Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF) buildings; to the Greensboro Science Center carousel; to downtown streetscape investments; to housing repairs; to street resurfacing; to the J. Douglas Gaylon Depot renovations; to Parks and Recreation construction projects; to an upcoming virtual public hearing; to a budget adoption timeline; and to the budget simulator available to the public.

Discussion took place regarding the grand openings of Fire Stations #7 and #56; and the internship program with Dudley High School students.

Councilmember Outling left the meeting at 3:44 p.m.; and returned at 3:48 p.m.

Mayor Vaughan indicated Councilmember Outling had experienced internet connection difficulties; and confirmed Councilmember Outling had re-joined the meeting.

City Manager Parrish encouraged Council to submit questions to staff; and reiterated the decreased general fund was due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mayor Vaughan emphasized that future projections on allowing mass gatherings in large arenas would impact operations.

Councilmember Outling requested information on possible scenarios that would trigger future budget reductions; and spoke to economic recovery.

Councilmember Thurm requested staff to research city properties available for sale.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter expressed appreciation to staff working on the proposed budget; and requested staff to prioritize the Cultural Arts Center roof repair.

Discussion ensued regarding eviction assistance; service providers; and disseminating information to the public.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No. 13, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

2. [ID 20-0418](#) Recess to Closed Session

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Thurm, to recess into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the Greensboro area, including an agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered. The motion carried by the following roll call vote, 8-0:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson

Council recessed to closed session at 4:05 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to reconvene to the work session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote, 8-0:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson

Council reconvened to the work session at 4:24 p.m. with all members in attendance, except Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following roll call vote, 8-0:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 4:25 P.M.

TEBONY C. ROSA
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR