



City of Greensboro

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

3:00 PM

VIRTUAL

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.

Mayor Vaughan took a roll call to confirm Councilmembers in attendance. The following members were present:

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

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Chuck Watts and Assistant City Clerk, Victoria L. Howell.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 20-0797](#) Downtown Greensboro, Inc. - 2030 Strategic Vision Plan

City Manager David Parrish recognized Downtown Greensboro Incorporated (DGI) representatives.

Jeff Yetter, DGI Board Chair made a PowerPoint presentation (PPP); spoke to the downtown future; to partnerships; to pop up events; to COVID-19 impacts; to the 2030 strategic action plan; and to the DGI Board.

Sarah Heeley, DGI Director of Operations continued the PPP; spoke to a streetscape plan; to the Creative GSO program; to working with City departments; and to the 10 year transformation of downtown.

Ellie Fiore, MIG COM Director of Planning Services continued the presentation; outlined an implementation timeline; spoke to community engagement; to stakeholder focus groups; to pop-up events; to the container hub project; to affordable spaces; to the mixed-use depot development; to the autonomous shuttle connector; to gateway plans; to the Battleground entertainment district; to supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses; to creating a compelling pedestrian experience; to residential development; and to cultivating a mosaic of distinct districts.

Discussion took place regarding the launch process; location of the container hub; funds raised for implementation; training for opening a business; impacts COVID-19 would have on the plan; and COVID-19 friendly holiday events.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to provide an update on the Downtown Streetscape and Greene Street project; and to place the DGI 2030 plan on a future agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson requested staff to provide the DGI presentation on the Greensboro Television Network (GTN).

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No.27, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

2. [ID 20-0795](#) Behavioral Health Update

City Manager Parrish recognized Assistant City Manager Kim Sowell for a behavioral health update.

Assistant City Manager Sowell made a PPP; spoke to the Social and Emotional Learning Group (S.E.L) updates; to residents in crisis assisted between March and October; outlined travel time for crisis counselors; demographics of race, gender, age group, housing status, and disposition being served; spoke to council districts; to the Greensboro Police Department (GPD) survey responses; and recognized GPD Deputy Chief John Thompson to discuss survey responses.

Deputy Chief Thompson spoke to survey questions; to SEL response time; and to interaction with the SEL group.

Assistant City Manager Sowell spoke to the successes and barriers of the program; to resident feedback; to proposed timeline for an internal Behavioral Health Response Team; and to the interview process.

Discussion continued regarding the impact on homelessness; a homeless response team; time of response to calls; community partners; feedback from the SEL group; peer municipalities models; types of calls; software applications; training; and the "Take Me Home" program.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to provide mental health response data; and information on the "Take Me Home" program model.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer C, Exhibit No.27, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

3. [ID 20-0802](#) Closed Session

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Hightower, to adjourn to closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the City's attorneys and the City Council in connection with a certain litigation matter. The parties to the litigation matters to be discussed include, in addition to the City of Greensboro, Michael Forgay. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

Council reconvened into open session at 5:07 p.m. with all members in attendance.

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter to return to open session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:09 P.M.

VICTORIA L. HOWELL
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR

