



# City of Greensboro

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

5:30 PM

VIRTUAL

VIRTUAL

### Call to Order

This virtual City Council meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on the above date. Mayor Vaughan took a roll call to confirm the following members were present:

- Present: 7 - Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Councilmember Marikay Abuzuaiter, Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, Councilmember Justin Outling, Councilmember Tammi Thurm and Councilmember Goldie F. Wells
- Absent: 2 - Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson and Councilmember Michelle Kennedy

### 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 21-0169](#) Resolution Honoring the Memory of the Late Fred Dewey McKoy

Mayor Vaughan requested a motion to postpone this resolution to the first City Council meeting in April.

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

- Ayes,** 7 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells
- Absent,** 2 - Yvonne J. Johnson and Michelle Kennedy

2. [ID 21-0213](#) Resolution Honoring and Recognizing the Retirement of Elizabeth McKinnon as the First African American Female Transit Operator in Greensboro, North Carolina

Councilmember Hightower read the resolution into the record; recognized Elizabeth McKinnon's accomplishments and retirement.

Mayor Vaughan expressed appreciation for Ms. McKinnon's years of service.

Councilmember Wells spoke to Ms. McKinnon being a trailblazer; and extended congratulatory remarks.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter commended Ms. McKinnon's work ethic.

Ms. McKinnon expressed gratitude to Council for the honor; and spoke to the pleasure of serving for forty years.

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

**Ayes,** 7 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

**Absent,** 2 - Yvonne J. Johnson and Michelle Kennedy

050-21 RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ELIZABETH H. MCKINNON AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE TRANSIT OPERATOR IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Greensboro Public Transportation (GTA) services were initially provided by Duke Power Transit Company in the early 1900's;

WHEREAS, on June 22, 1981, Duke Power Transit Company with its expansion following segregation began the employment of Greensboro's first African-American female bus driver;

WHEREAS, Elizabeth H. McKinnon accepted the position with humility and determination to blaze a path for other African-American women in Public Transportation;

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinnon, known affectionately by fellow drivers and riders alike as "Liz" provided 40 years of professional service to the Gate City Community;

WHEREAS, she embodied the role gracefully with every person she touched at Greensboro Transit Agency, giving credit to her parents for her personal development and drive;

WHEREAS, she began her behind-the-wheel experience transporting students on school buses;

WHEREAS, working in public transportation, Mrs. McKinnon adapted to changing transit technologies, driving a range of vehicles from 1980's diesel to 2020 battery-electric buses;

WHEREAS, she served as a role model to young and old, maintaining a consistent presence in the driver's seat, as well as participating in GTA public outreach events;

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinnon hung up her transit operator's cap on the first day of Black History Month, February 1, 2021, retiring after 40 years of service; and

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

1. That the City Council wishes to honor Mrs. Elizabeth H. McKinnon for serving as a symbol of excellence in public transportation, black history, and in the community.

2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to Mrs. Elizabeth H. McKinnon as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her many years of service to Duke Power Transit Company and the City of Greensboro.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

3. [ID 21-0202](#) Resolution in Support of the 10th Anniversary of the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation April 1-30, 2021

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record; spoke to outreach efforts; and to water conversation ideas.

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

**Ayes,** 7 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

**Absent,** 2 - Yvonne J. Johnson and Michelle Kennedy

051-21 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYLAND NATIONAL MAYOR'S CHALLENGE FOR WATER CONSERVATION APRIL 1- 30, 2021

WHEREAS, the Wyland Foundation, established in 1993 by renowned environmental artist Robert Wyland, inspires people to recognize the importance of clean and healthy water;

WHEREAS, the Wyland Foundation presents the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge with support from Toyota, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, WaterSense, The Toro Company, National League of Cities, Hobie, and Petal;

WHEREAS, the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge (the Challenge) for water conservation, brings people and communities together for a fun and educational "water wise" competition;

WHEREAS, the Challenge invites cities to engage in efforts to become better environmental stewards;

WHEREAS, the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation is a non-profit challenge to residents to encourage pollution reduction and smart water use; encourage residents to register their participation in Greensboro's Challenge online, by making pledges to decrease their water use and to reduce pollution for the period of one year, thereby assisting their cities to apply State and Federal water conservation strategies and to target mandated reductions;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro continues to explore ways to manage residential consumption of water and power; and to inspire its residents to care for our natural resources;

WHEREAS, fresh water is vital to sustained life; experts predict that by the year 2030 the global demand for water will exceed the supply by 40 percent; and climate change and droughts have already led to reduced water supplies in the United States;

WHEREAS, from April 1- 30, 2021, the City of Greensboro wishes to encourage its residents and neighboring communities to take the "Wyland Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation" to reduce impacts on the environment to see immediate savings in their water, trash, and electricity bills; and residents will be provided with tools to take specific measurable actions throughout the year to improve the sustainable use of natural resources; and

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

1. That the City Council agrees and supports the "Wyland Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation".
2. That the program will be implemented from April 1 through April 30, 2021.
3. That through a series of communication and outreach strategies residents will be encouraged to take the conservation "Challenge".
4. That the City Council hereby recognizes the month of April 2021 as Wyland Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation in the City of Greensboro.

(Signed) Nancy Vaughan

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Vaughan explained a hybrid format for the April City Council meeting; spoke to continuing a virtual platform for speakers; and encouraged adherence to the 3Ws of wait six feet apart, wash hands, and wear face coverings.

Mayor Vaughan stated the written comment received for the meeting would be posted on the city website; and identified the speakers from the floor.

Anjail Ahmad voiced concern with the paratransit fare increase; the need for notice and a public discussion; and spoke to the i-Ride transportation alternative.

Andrew Blythe voiced concern with paratransit correspondence; spoke to i-Ride; and to the need for a public discussion.

Alfred "AJ" Inglesby voiced concern with availability and fare changes of premium trips; and addressed ridership needs to get to places of employment.

Keri Waldrop voiced concern with financial hardships of the autistic clientele; spoke to the negative impact of fare increases; and requested further examination into other remedies.

Marie Bokor voiced concern with rate increases; and spoke to the impact to her son's employment and leisure activities.

Assistant City Manager Kimberly Sowell recognized Transportation Director Hanna Cockburn to address concerns.

Councilmember Hightower asked for clarification that there was no fare increase with the transit system.

Ms. Cockburn provided an overview of paratransit services; Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) budgetary concerns due to population increases; i-Ride pilot program; differences between regular and premium routes; COVID-19 impacts on ridership; and confirmed the transit system had no planned fare increases.

Discussion took place regarding the engagement campaigns; public hearing requirements; outreach to service providers; transit alternatives; Guilford County mobility programs; and subsidies.

Mike Bronowicz emphasized a public forum platform for discussion and debate; and voiced concern regarding the public comment 3-minute time frame.

The following speakers voiced concern with policing; the Marcus Smith case; and the Zared Jones case:

Linda Shillito; Lewis Pitts; Hester Petty; Marcia Foutch; Lauren Eaves; Paulette Montgomery; and Catherine Holcombe.

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA (One Vote)**

**Moved by Councilmember Sharon M. Hightower, seconded by Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann, to adopt the consent agenda. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:**

**Ayes,** 7 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

**Absent,** 2 - Yvonne J. Johnson and Michelle Kennedy

4. [ID 21-0115](#) Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development-Required City of Greensboro Citizen Participation Plan

052-51 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-REQUIRED CITY OF GREENSBORO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving annual block grants for community development, affordable housing, and homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires local government grantees to engage stakeholders and the public regarding the community's needs per Federal Regulation 24 CFR 91.105;

WHEREAS, the local government (jurisdiction) is required to adopt a citizen participation plan that sets forth the jurisdiction’s policies and procedures for citizen participation;

WHEREAS, the citizen participation plan must provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the consolidated plan, and substantial amendment to the consolidated plan, and the performance report;

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction must provide citizens with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the substantial amendments to the citizen participation plan;

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act permits grantees to adopt expedited citizen participation procedures and hold virtual hearings for consolidated plan submissions fiscal years 2019 and 2020;

WHEREAS, a public comment period was open from February 11 to February 15 to receive comments on the amended citizen participation plan;

WHEREAS, no comments were received during the public comment period; and

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

That the amended City of Greensboro Citizen Participation Plan presented to City Council at its March 2, 2021 meeting and known as Citizen Participation Plan is hereby adopted with the subsequent inclusion of any applicable comments from the City Council.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

- 5. [ID 21-0176](#) Ordinance Amending State, Federal, and Other Grants Fund Budget for the Appropriation of 2020 North Carolina Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0 (N.C. House Bill 1105) Remote Learning Centers Grant Fund for Community Recreation Services Remote Learning Centers

21-026 ORDINANCE AMENDING STATE, FEDERAL, AND OTHER GRANTS FUND BUDGET FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF 2020 NORTH CAROLINA CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ACT 3.0 (N.C. HOUSE BILL 1105) REMOTE LEARNING CENTERS GRANT FUND FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES REMOTE LEARNING CENTERS

Section 1

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That the State, Federal, and Other Grants Fund Budget of the City of Greensboro is hereby amended as follows:

That the appropriation to the State, Federal and other Grants Fund be increased as follows:

Account name – REMOTE LEARNING CENTERS GRANT FY20

Account	Description	Amount
220-5005-01.4110	Staff Salary Reimbursement	\$9,595
Total		\$9,595

And, that this increase is financed by increasing the following State, Federal, and Other Grants Fund accounts:

Account	Description	Amount
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220-5005-01.7100	Federal Grant	\$9,595
Total		\$9,595

## Section 2

And, that this ordinance should become effective upon adoption.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

6. [ID 21-0031](#) Resolution Listing Loans and Grants for City Council Approval

053-21 RESOLUTION LISTING LOANS AND GRANTS FOR CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

WHEREAS, at the March 1, 2005 meeting of City Council, the City Manager was instructed to include on the regular Council Consent Agenda all loans and grants in excess of \$10,000;

WHEREAS, City Council approval is required for all loans and grants, or pass through loans or grants in excess of \$10,000 on the recommendation of agencies, non-profits, or other organizations acting on behalf of the City prior to the disbursement of funds;

WHEREAS, requests have been made for loans in excess of \$10,000, said requests are presented herewith this day; and

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

That the requests for loans in excess of \$10,000 presented herewith this day are hereby approved in accordance with the guidelines set at the March 1, 2005 Council meeting and the City Manager is authorized to execute agreements.

(Signed) Sharon Hightower

7. [ID 21-0122](#) Budget Adjustments Requiring Council Approval 2/9/2021 through 2/22/2021

Motion to approve the budget adjustments of 2/9/2021 through 2/22/21 over the amount of \$50,000 was adopted.

(A copy of the report is filed in Exhibit Drawer D, Exhibit No. 6, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

8. [ID 21-0123](#) Budget Adjustments Approved by Budget Officer 2/9/2021 through 2/22/2021

Motion to approve Budget Adjustments Approved by Budget Officer 2/9/2021 through 2/22/2021 was adopted.

(A copy of the report is filed in Exhibit Drawer D, Exhibit No. 6, which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes.)

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

There were no public hearing items on this agenda.

#### **V. GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA**

9. [ID 21-0178](#) Resolution Authorizing to Contract for FY 2020-21 US Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funds in the Amount of \$8,669,703 for

Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance Programs (Greensboro Housing Coalition, Greensboro Urban Ministry, Housing Consultants Group, Salvation Army)

Mayor Vaughan read the resolution into the record; and spoke to the rental and utility assistance for the city of Greensboro differing from the Guilford County program.

Neighborhood Development Director Stan Wilson provided an overview of training; executing contracts; and program budget allocations.

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

**Ayes,** 7 - Nancy Vaughan, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Sharon M. Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm and Goldie F. Wells

**Absent,** 2 - Yvonne J. Johnson and Michelle Kennedy

054-21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO CONTRACT FOR FY 2020-21 US TREASURY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,669,703 FOR EMERGENCY RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (GREENSBORO HOUSING COALITION, GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY, HOUSING CONSULTANTS GROUP, SALVATION ARMY OF GREENSBORO)

WHEREAS, the City received a special allocation of US Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program funds designated for households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic as authorized by section 501 of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260;

WHEREAS, ERA funds are to be used to provide financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy cost arrears, and other expenses related to housing to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, ERA funding will be allocated in the amount of \$8,669,703;

WHEREAS, ERA funding in the amount of \$8,669,703 will be allocated in Fiscal Year 2020-21;

WHEREAS, ERA funding in the amount of \$1,366,893 will allow Greensboro Housing Coalition to provide emergency rent and utility assistance;

WHEREAS, ERA funding in the amount of \$3,080,929 will allow Greensboro Urban Ministry to provide emergency rent and utility assistance;

WHEREAS, ERA funding in the amount of \$811,229 will allow Housing Consultants Group to provide emergency rent and utility assistance;

WHEREAS, ERA funding in the amount of \$3,410,652 will allow Salvation Army of Greensboro to provide homeless prevention assistance;

WHEREAS, US Treasury ERA funds in the amount of \$8,669,703 will be utilized to fund said contracts; and

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

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with aforementioned agencies subject to the terms outlined above.

(Signed) Nancy Hoffmann

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

Mayor Vaughan extended condolences to the family of Mo Milani, Executive Vice President for Hospitality at Koury Corporation.

Mayor Vaughan requested staff to schedule work sessions for the Guilford County Economic Development Alliance, the Greensboro/Randolph Megasite and post-COVID plans with community leaders; spoke to the National Guard assisting with large-scale vaccinations at Four Seasons Town Centre; and encouraged everyone to adhere to the 3Ws.

Councilmember Hoffmann spoke to a welcome package for visitors to the vaccination site.

Councilmember Thurm requested staff to provide a strategic plan option for Horse Pen Creek and Fleming Road area.

Councilmember Outling requested staff to schedule a work session to discuss economic development and crime updates; and spoke to an upcoming Java with Justin event.

Councilmember Wells encouraged residents to get vaccinated; spoke to an upcoming District 2 Zoom town hall meeting; and to the Islamic Center's free library ribbon cutting event.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to the ground breaking ceremony for a community garden at St. Philips AME Zion Church; to the Mothers Against Gun Violence memorial; and encouraged use of Crime Stoppers and Gun Stoppers programs.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to events attended; commended the Neighborhood Development department on the rental and utility assistance grant; requested staff to follow up with Alfred "AJ" Inglesby regarding evening and weekend transportation alternatives; to research tools identified by Michele Clark-Jenkins from Griffin and Strong, PC regarding the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) reserve program; and to investigate a local homicide arrest and incarceration.

### Matters to be presented by the City Manager

City Manager David Parrish extended an invitation for Council to view the COVID-19 safety precautions taken inside the Chamber.

### Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

City Attorney Chuck Watts expressed condolences in the passing of his mentor and civil rights activist Vernon Jordan.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councilmember Thurm, seconded by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by affirmation.

THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

TEBONY C. ROSA  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN  
MAYOR