



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, August 1, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn and Yolanda Sheppard.

II. Moment of Silence (Observed)

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the agenda for August 1st, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Additions:

Councilwoman Inman, Action Item Letter F: digital signage in lieu of payment for Councilwoman Inman to manage it. Councilwoman Howard, Action Item for discussion Letter G: to resume in chambers for council meetings.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. June 30, 2022, Budget Meeting Work Session #3 (5:30 pm)

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the June 30, 2022, Budget Meeting Work Session #3 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. July 5, 2022, City Council (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the July 5, 2022, City Council meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. July 18, 2022, Work Session (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the July 18, 2022, Work Session meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. July 25, 2022, Special Called Executive Session for Personnel (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the July 25, 2022, Special Called Executive Session for Personnel meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

V. Public Comments Response

No response was provided.

VI. Action Item

a. 365 Total Marketing: DeKalb County's 2022 Bicentennial Commemorative Publication

Councilman Honore motioned to deny the city's participation in DeKalb's 365 Total Marketing, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. USA Energy, LLC: LED Corn Lightbulbs for Downtown Lithonia

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the USA Energy LED Corn Lightbulbs for Downtown Lithonia, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. City Hall Camera System

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the City Hall Camera System through Blue Sky Systems for a total of \$5,500.00, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 5-0. *Funds will come out of Splost for facility improvement.

d. Vacant Building Ordinance

Councilman Inman motioned to approve the Vacant Building Ordinance for discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Councilwoman Howard asked if the attorney has reviewed the ordinance. Councilwoman Inman reiterated that everyone decided to review the ordinance first before sending it to the attorney. Majority of council has not fully reviewed the ordinance to provide input, with more time needed.

Councilwoman Inman motioned to have the attorney review the vacant building ordinance draft for submission during the next council meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 5-0. Mayor Reynolds recommended that everyone read and send questions and concerns to the attorney.

e. Stop Sign at Swift and Main Street(s)

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the purchase of the stop sign for \$1,024.28, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

f. Councilwoman Inman Requesting Payment to manage Digital Signage

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve herself, Amelia Inman to help manage the digital signage for business applications in lieu of in-kind services, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore for discussion.

Councilman Honore out of caution recommended the attorney provide commentary, to ensure the request is legal to receive payment for services. Councilwoman Wynn asked who usually handles the permits and business license applications, response City Clerk. Mayor Reynolds provided her approval for Councilwoman Inman.

Councilwoman Inman withdrew her motion.

Councilman Honore motioned to approve Councilwoman Inman to manage the digital sign advertisement and receive an in-kind payment providing the city attorney approves the agreement for the payment of in-kind services, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

g. Resume in Chambers for Council Meetings

Councilwoman Howard feels the need to touch base on the topic again for discussion. Councilwoman Sheppard and Councilman Honore are fine with in-person. Mayor Reynolds is recommending that councilmembers and any persons providing presentations have the option of zoom if not feeling well, or in-person. Councilwoman Inman, Councilwoman Wynn, and Councilwoman Sheppard agrees with the Mayor to have the option.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to return to session in council chambers and given the option to be on zoom beginning September 6, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard, and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Inman was opposed.

VII. New Business

a. Resolution 2022-09-01 for CRM Services: 1st Reading

City Clerk Blount provided the first reading. Councilwoman Inman is providing a list of the streets, Chief of Police Dejarnette will provide everyone a list.

VIII. Old Business

a. Old City Hall Building

Mr. Monson Met with an architect who will draw up plans, will have available in 2 weeks.

Councilwoman Howard inquired about a prospect; Councilwoman Sheppard indicated yes, and a presentation will be made during the work session. Mayor Reynolds

b. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Completion of window treatments should be complete this week.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrators Report / Police Department Report

Mayor Reynolds indicated that Lathaydra would provide any updates via email.

Chief of Police Dejarnette attended the Chief's conference last week, lots of changes statewide. Flock Safety Camera System would like to perform a ride along for review of how the system is being used to encourage other municipalities, recently used flock to capture a murder criminal wanted in Atlanta. The cars are in and checked in to motor maintenance. Councilwoman Wynn made mention of the trucks on pine mountain/rock chapel and asked if Lithonia could partner with Dekalb to ticket at both streets, trucks are so tall they are hitting the wires, asking for additional violations in place. Chief DJ will touch base with Dekalb regarding enforcement, additionally state officers are returning to the area and can assist in ticketing universally. Two of the vacant positions have been filled, fully staffed at this time.

b. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds thanked all partners for back-to-school events, noting free haircuts sponsored by Flavas on Sunday August 7 at 12 noon. Flavas will also have a room at the barbershop used by teachers for tutoring students. A thank you acknowledgement was made to Councilwoman Sheppard and Councilwoman Howard for standing in for her recently for the proclamation reading for comedian Kier Spates. Councilwoman Sheppard, Lithonia High School Alum Day was a success and thanked Chief of Police and Major Patterson for assisting with traffic. Councilwoman Inman, quarterly cleanup August 27 from 10am-1pm, Mr. Brown the probation officer will provide at least 15 volunteers for a big turnout, August 18 next roundtable discussion. Councilman Honore apologized to council and mayor for wording used during the discussion of returning to chambers for council meetings. Councilwoman Howard would like to place on the next agenda the issue of littering in the city to be accompanied with a fine and placing a sign out. Councilwoman Wynn asked about the existing construction on Center Street, City Clerk Blount acknowledged that a permit was issued for the project and close to expiring.

VIII. Executive Session (None)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Inman motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.