



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, July 19, 2021 @ 5:30 PM**

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. Darold Honore later joined the call.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Dodd motioned to approve the agenda for the July 19, 2021, Work Session meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Howard requested to add letter b. Police Car Contract, under Old Business.

**IV. Public Comments (Limit 2-minutes per person)**

Mr. Kazemde Ajamu with Blackdot Bookstore is seeking a \$3k partnership with the city for his 2<sup>nd</sup> annual arts and cultural festival to bring more exposure to the downtown area, and to enhance the children's program with entertainment.

**V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)**

**a. Mr. Leif Tilden – HBO Productions, Lithonia City Cemetery Filming on August 16**

Mr. Tilden is proposing to film at the city cemetery, section 2 near Tribble Street and Randall Avenue, for the movie Staircase. Still looking for a base camp location.

**b. Mr. Fred Reynolds – DDA Survey of Wiggins Street Parking Lot**

Mr. Reynolds provided 3 survey quotes, indicating there are 5 entry points into the parking lot which accounts for the high bid cost. Seeking council's approval of the award. Councilwoman Howard expressed concern that the businesses who utilize the parking lot should contribute to the cost of paving.

**c. Mr. Leeben McGregor – Reschedule Date for Park Reservation Family Event**

Mr. McGregor is requesting to reschedule his June 19 date to September 11 or 12.

**d. Ms. Renee Williams – Hair Braiding Shop at the Flea Market**

Ms. Williams is proposing a braiding shop in the flea market.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Lithonia Possession Ordinance No. 2021-07-19**

City Clerk Blount provided in summary the new section for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana. City Administrator Sands provided the recommendation of Judge Akinyele to amend the ordinance by providing one flat fee each time someone appears in court because there is no way to track it.

**b. Police Department Job Description**

Major Ferguson enhanced the 2012 job description to be more attractive, in dire need for a full-time criminal investigator, the RMS System holds 964 cases that have been open since 2004 and must be open and closed by a criminal investigator. If the cases remain open the city

runs risk of liability with the Dekalb County district attorney's office. The approval of grants for additional funding toward salary's is still pending.

**c. Farmers Market**

City Administrator Sands stated that an invoice for \$5,009.96 that Charley Anderson recently submitted without a paper trail (receipts) and she and the mayor did not feel comfortable with releasing the check without guidance from council. Mr. Charley Anderson provided an explanation on the procedures of reimbursement, formerly weekly with receipts and now monthly with no receipts as requested by the new accountant . There have been 8 markets thus far this year that he has paid out of pocket, with 11 markets remaining. Council is requesting a copy of the receipts.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. St. Paul Fire Hydrant Allocation**

Councilwoman Inman proposed a \$10,000.00 contribution, Councilwoman Wynn proposed \$10,000.00-\$15,000.00. Councilman Dodd proposed \$10,000.00. Councilwoman Howard inquired about the condition of the existing fire hydrant and proposed \$25,000.00. Mayor Reynolds suggested finding out the condition of the fire hydrant first for consideration of the amount. Councilman Honore feels that to remove or replace the fire hydrant the proposed amount of \$15,000.00 is appropriate. In summary the pleasure of council is the approval of \$15,000.00 to be voted on during the August 2 City Council meeting.

**b. Police Vehicles**

Councilwoman Howard indicated that as per the attorney 3 RFP's are needed to move forward with the purchase of new vehicles.

**VIII. Other Business**

**~~a. City Administrator Report~~**

**~~b. Police Department Report: Code Enforcement~~**

**c. Annexation Update**

Councilman Dodd stated that flyers will go out on Saturday and asked for help from Council, additionally acknowledged a thank you to all councilmembers for their involvement.

**d. Mayors Report, ~~Councilmember District Update~~**

Mayor Reynolds is asking for Council's availability to film the annexation (benefit of) video and decided on Wednesday at 12:30 pm at city hall.

**VI. Executive Session**

Councilman Honore motioned to go into Executive Session for personnel, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Everyone was present in Executive Session.

After returning from executive session, Mayor Reynolds indicated, the recommendation from council will be brought forward and situated by Wednesday of this week.

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Howard 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 8:47 pm.