



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, and Ric Dodd. Vanneriah Wynn was not present on the call.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the agenda as written for Monday, April 5, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. March 15, 2021 – City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the March 15, 2021 City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 pm), the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. March 22, 2021 – Special Called TAN Resolution and Closing Index Virtual Meeting Minutes (3:00 PM)

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the March 22, 2021 Special Called TAN Resolution and Closing Index Virtual Meeting Minutes (3:00 pm), the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilwoman Inman abstained.

c. March 25, 2021: Zoning Public Hearing 7238 Center Street Virtual Meeting Minutes (3:00 PM)

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the March 25, 2021 Zoning Public Hearing 7238 Center Street Virtual Meeting Minutes (3:00 pm), the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; and approved by a vote of 4-0.

V. Public Comments (Limit 2-minutes per person)

Maxine Young (business owner) acknowledged the issues of the event center and would like to work with neighbors in addition to serving the community by providing events. Also extending an open invitation for conversation with anyone who is having issues with the noise levels to co-exist.

Alfred Young (business owner) asking to be contacted directly by neighbors if there are any issues with the event center.

Howard Richardson on behalf of Maxine and Alfred Young to address the noise levels and stated that he is open to feedback to work together with the community and is working with sound engineers to soundproof the building.

Tanjineka Brown (community partner) Friends of the Park and Cheer Director for Lithonia Park Lions, April 22 Earth Day, proposing to provide and plant flowers at the entrance of Lithonia Park with the assistance of Park Pride, additionally asking for a trash can and recycle bin near the basketball court.

Terry Fye (Lithonia resident) requesting that council consider the decriminalization of marijuana for the Lithonia community to provide a fair set of laws, researched how it can be done through an ordinance and shared this information via email with council.

Dawn Massey (business owner/resident) expressed concern that multiple businesses are open until 3/4am in the morning and the noise is an issue and a serious quality of life issue, asking city council to be creative and come up with some solutions to protect the citizens of Lithonia.

Carlene and Frederic Anderson (2580 Wiggins Street) provided a statement of encouragement for Mayor and Council and an expression of concern about the noise that comes from the event centers and asking that they are soundproofed.

Olithia Reid (resident) follow up on code enforcement if DeKalb's standards will be used, Mayor Reynolds requested that Chief Pollard follow up with Ms. Reid on the code enforcement issue. Additionally, stated the Lithonia Park was not designed for concerts but as a ball field.

Grace Flullen (6747 Phillips Street-City of Stonecrest) lives in the community of Lithonia Park? annoyed with the noise on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Aileen Harper (resident) stated that she invited other seniors on the line to hear about the annexation, and to reach out to code enforcement about 2 abandoned homes on her street.

VI. Presentation (Limit 3 minutes per person)

a. Ms. Jewell Hunter and Mr. Devyne Stephens: Camp Jewell House

Music Hall for youth programs, music therapy. *Quality of sound was inaudible during the presentation; council needs more time to review the proposal.*

b. Mr. MJ Smith: Cinco de Mayo Event, May 5, 2021

Proposing an event in partnership with City of Lithonia (COL), The Granite City Cinco de Mayo for the community, partially block Main Street between Johnson and Wiggins Streets from 4-8pm; set up at 3pm and shutting down at 8pm (one hour), applying for vendor and alcohol permits with alcohol and beer sponsors, expecting 200 attendees, a family event, music and stage will be provided on his property, parking in the Wayfield lot, covid measures providing masks and hand sanitizer stations. Announcement of the event will be distributed through print and social media marketing, COL newsletter, posters throughout Lithonia by a street team, and social media influencers. The event will be hosted inside after 8pm.

c. Mr. Clinton Garibaldi: Park Reservation July 30, July 31, August 1

Addressed issues that occurred during this past weekend and efforts made to resolve. Adding July 4 for Atlanta Rum and Wine Festival, July 31 and August 1 for the Cooler Fete which was preapproved for June 13 however the date has been changed. Council had no questions. Councilman Dodd suggested adding a condition that any event booked stays in the park and noise levels must be maintained, if not adhered to the event will be shut down.

d. Mr. Leeban McGregor: Park Reservation April 24

Withdrawing his request for this event upon learning of the noise issues that occurred in the park, would like to continue conversations to request a different date to host an event intended to raise funds for a youth soccer academy.

VII. Action Item

a. Re-Adoption of the TAN Resolution

Councilman Honore motioned to re-adopt the TAN Resolution, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. RFP 2021-FB-001 Mill and Paving of Max Cleland Blvd Intersections (Swift St & Conyers St)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to adopt RFP 2021-FB-001 Mill and Paving of Max Cleland Blvd. Intersections at Swift and Conyers Street to Wildcat Stripping, Sealing & Paving, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Inman is requesting that references are checked for quality of work. Councilman Dodd is requesting that the contract once approved by the City Attorney contain a clause penalty if the work is delayed/not completed by a certain time.

c. RFP 2021-FB-002 Audit Services

City Administrator Sands stated that only one bid was received and is higher than what was paid in the past 3 years: quotes for 2020 \$26k, 2021 \$26k, 2022 \$27k, 2023 \$27k, and 2024 \$28K.

Councilman Dodd motioned to resubmit an RFP for Audit Services, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

d. Lithonia Park Facility Rental Agreement

Council needs more time to review the agreement.

Councilman Honore motioned to table for the Work Session, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

e. Ms. Mavis Johnson: Park Reservation Cricket Games

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve Ms. Mavis Johnson for Park Reservation Cricket Games; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman.

Councilman Dodd withdrew his motion as there was no fee presented to rent the park.

f. Mr. MJ Smith: Cinco de Mayo Event, May 5, 2021

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the May 5 Cinco de Mayo event, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

g. Mr. Clinton Garibaldi: Park Reservation July 2, July 3, July 4

Councilman Dodd motioned to disapprove the park reservation for July 2, July 3, and July 4, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Howard expressed concern that the music during this past weekend was so loud and during the time of presentation council was assured that this would not happen. Councilman Honore would like to hold off on park rentals because of the echo from the music that occurs throughout the community.

h. Mr. Leeban McGregor: Park Reservation April 24

Mr. McGregor would like to reschedule his event for a future date.

i. RFP for Park Manager

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the RFP for Park Manager, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Reynolds stated that it is the pleasure of council to make recommendations on the requirements for the RFP and to forward those recommendations to her and City Administrator Sands.

VIII. New Business

a. Moratorium on Events after midnight

Councilman Honore expressed concern that standards are not in place for hours of operation for events. Check with the city attorney if the city has the grounds to shut down an event or business at a certain time outside of what is stated on the business license issued, and if hours

of operation can be defined by business classification, becomes a nuisance issue after 11pm will cease the operation and issue a citation.

Councilman Honore motioned to engage the city attorney to review the business license ordinance and prepare a draft with proposed changes, and that council resume discussion once the draft is prepared, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. Future Lithonia Park Rentals

Councilman Honore stated the park was not intended for music events but for sporting events. There was no response from council.

IX. Other Business

a. Update Covid Relief Grant for Business and Residential

Councilwoman Inman referenced a request for a second round, for the remaining \$25,000.00 balance (confirmed by City Administrator Sands) of the covid relief grant fund. Council agrees to place the item as Action on the Work Session Agenda and to include tighter qualifiers.

b. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands highlighted beautification projects around the city and noted the magnolia tree outside of city hall is rooting through the foundation of the building, the cost to remove and grind the tree is \$900.00 and can be taken out of splost funds – council agrees to move forward with the removal. The planters and tables have been ordered. No movement on the Masonic Lodge, once the TAN funds are received the electrical project can begin. Safebuilt is now providing a code enforcement software for tracking at no cost to the city and an upgrade to apply for a business license through the website for record keeping of internal reports.

c. Police Department Report

Chief Pollard acknowledged that his report was sent out electronically, the code enforcement officer has returned to worked and has issued 15 citations. An electronic warrant system was recently instituted in-house at no additional cost, 2 officers will be receiving their radar certifications within the next few weeks. Councilwoman Howard asked about the results from Park Street, Chief Pollard indicated that it has been addressed, the debris will be removed, the city attorney has been contacted and code enforcement is compiling paperwork, looking at possession of the home.

d. Annexation Update

Mayor Reynolds announced that Annexation was passed through the House and Senate and Senator Tonya Anderson confirmed that approval is pending for Governor Kemp's signature to place on the November ballot.

Councilman Dodd indicated that cost was not budgeted for the election and requested that City Administrator Sands get in touch with the DeKalb County Elections Board to inquire about additional cost to place the referendum on the ballot. One town hall has occurred, thanked everyone for attending, want to keep annexation as a hot topic, continue to host monthly town halls and to pass out flyers. A zoning hearing needs to happen regarding the Pine Mountain area before November for rezoning. During town halls would like to start introducing city clerk, city administrator, chief, and public works director. April 28 from 7-8pm was proposed as the next town hall. Mayor Reynolds requesting that City Administrator Sands reach out to the city attorney to inquire about additional procedures required on annexation by Work Session.

e. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds is requesting that everyone on tomorrow at 12 noon post the city's new and improved website on their social media pages, www.lithoniacity.org. The LBA pop up was a nice event and a request was made to host another pop-up event on May 15 from 10am to 5pm between Swift and Wiggins Street, a representative from the LBA will return to the Work Session for a presentation, additionally Blackdot Culture Center would like to host their second annual Arts Festival on October 2 between Swift and Wiggins. City Clerk Blount will send out a calendar of events for all events that have been approved. Mayor Reynolds addressed the nuisance issue acknowledging fairness given for residents and businesses.

Councilwoman Howard commented that the LBA pop-up event was very family oriented and a wonderful event. Councilman Honore had no updates. Councilwoman Inman acknowledged headway made with annexation and looking forward to going to higher levels and provided a reminder of the Lithonia Roundtable on April 15 as a great discussion to hear from business owners to close the communication gap to have their opinion heard. Councilman Dodd deferred to Councilwoman Inman to remind everyone of the Lithonia Roundtable.

X. Executive Session (NONE)

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.