



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:35 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 Ric Dodd.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda with additions; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; the agenda was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Dodd added letter "c" under Action Item: LBA Small Business Pop-Up Event on Main Street. Councilwoman Howard added letter "d" under Other Business City Administrators Report.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. January 4, 2021 – City Council Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)

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

b. January 19, 2021 – City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)

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

c. January 22, 2021 – Special Called Virtual Meeting for Candidate Qualifying Fee for November 2, 2021 Election (3:45 PM)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Special Called Virtual Meeting (3:45 pm) Minutes for the Candidate Qualifying Fee for the November 2, 2021 Election, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Wynn abstained.

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

Mrs. Patrilla Arrington (resident) is requesting that a truck sign is placed at Rock Chapel and Pine Mountain Road, the signs were placed at Pine Mountain Street and not Pine Mountain Road. Chief Pollard shared that he researched the limits of the dump truck, the trucks weigh at 25 thousand pounds which is under the limit and would have to be voted on by council to limit the weight, there is also a trucking company that uses certain roads as well. Chief Pollard provided his contact information for follow up.

Mrs. Genetha Woods (resident) stated the signs were knocked down by the trucks coming through Pine Mountain Road. The other issue is that Lithonia Holding LLC purchased property on Stone Mountain Street, and they are looking to combine all parcels, classified as commercial in their

residential area. A zoning petition for commercial took place, and an appeal was denied. A virtual community meeting is scheduled for February 3, and a planning committee meeting scheduled for February 8, asking mayor and council to be present on both calls. Mrs. Woods will email the information to City Clerk Robinette Blount to share with Mayor and Council.

Mr. Marso Babtiste (business) is proposing an annexation of The Women's Club with Occasions for smaller events. Mayor Reynolds is asking that Robin reach out to ask specifically what they are proposing and to possibly return before council.

Ms. Aileen Harper (resident) expressed gratitude to Mayor Reynolds and her team for all that they are doing; progress in 2020, repaving of the road on Pendley, code enforcement achievements, herself and others are appreciative of what the city is doing and thankful for the Covid kit, we appreciate you and keep up the good work.

Mr. Terry Fye (resident) thanked council for the work they are doing and wants to know if the city of Lithonia has any plans to decriminalize marijuana if the quantity is less than an ounce. Councilman Dodd indicated that the city is following state guidelines. Councilwoman Howard acknowledged that it could be something to investigate.

Ms. Yvonne Holmes (business owner) still has a concern with the parking in front of her business that has an effect on transporting her clients and there is no other business in the city of Lithonia with a no parking sign in front of their business, asking for a loading and un-loading sign. Mayor has asked that this item is placed on the Work Session Agenda.

VI. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

a. Demi Oche – One Powerhouse

Derrick Hill provided a PowerPoint presentation to council in proposing a community development center in the old city hall building.

VII. Action Item

a. Selection of Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilman Honore motioned to appoint Councilwoman Wynn as Mayor Pro Tempore for 2021, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Wynn abstained.

Mayor Reynolds thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Amelia Inman for her hard work and ideas in providing assistance.

b. Police Fleet Approval

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the police fleet contract for discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Councilman Dodd asked if the attorney approved the contract and that it was not received by council. Chief Pollard indicated that the attorney stated the contract held the standards and the contract would be returned from the attorney for mayor and council review. Councilman Honore stated that the police

fleet outcome was stated during the financial budget meeting and is recommending one car at a time. Councilwoman Howard expressed concern about review of the contract and repossession.

Councilman Dodd rescinded his motion to approve the police fleet contract and motioned to table the item for the Work Session Meeting Agenda to review the contract, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Small Business Pop-Up Event on Main Street

Councilman Dodd invited Donald Blount on the call on behalf of the LBA to propose a Small Business Pop-Up on Main Street for Saturday April 3 with 30-40 vendors, holding to Covid-19 restrictions on the sidewalk, each vendor pays the City \$25.00, the hours are 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Councilwoman Howard proposed to have street closure. Councilman Dodd asked if the city would waive the fee to block off the street. Mayor proposed that Tri-Cities Funeral Home would cover the cost of one officer, Chief Pollard dropped the fee down to \$35.00 per hour.

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the LBA Small Business Pop-Up Event on Main Street and waive the fees for the barricade of police cars, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VIII. Other Business

a. Annexation Update

Councilman Dodd stated the truck-stop and sign issue falls in the area that would potentially be annexed, therefore a benefit to represent residents in that area. Provided a copy of the resolution to State Representative Carter to present to her attorney's and then the assembly, suggesting that the city attorney draft a notice for posting to the legal organ and include the legal boundaries for annexation. Mayor Reynolds is suggesting that the ad is placed with On Common Ground and The Champion. Councilman Honore suggested reaching out to Tonya Anderson as well.

b. Black History Month Events

Mayor Reynolds is asking council for input and ideas by end of week on activities in recognition of Black History Month.

c. Lithonia Business Grants

Mayor Reynolds stated that most businesses missed applying for the grant and is asking council to reopen the application process.

Councilman Honore motioned to reopen the covid business grant application for those who have not applied previously until end of February, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands reached out to Mr. Woodard the attorney who completed last year's TAN, waiting on a return call. Reached out to BB&T about re-financing the mortgage to 2.960%, a resolution would be drafted by the city attorney. Councilwoman Howard wants this item placed on

the Work Session Agenda for further discussion. Councilwoman Inman wants to know if there are any other creative options available. Quotes were provided for inside remodeling, and HVAC of The Masonic Lodge, all details will be emailed to council and does not include electrical. Meeting with DeKalb to discuss the city's fire hydrant later in the month and will forward the zoom information.

e. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds invited LDDA President Dexter Johnigan on the call to provide information on the Lithonia Façade Grant; the application process launched today and is open until February 28, up to \$500.00 for façade improvements, will announce all approved applications by March 15, all approved businesses will have up to 3 months to complete the improvements for up to a \$500.00 reimbursement.

Councilman Dodd stated the tractor trailer that parks on Swift Street is driving over the storm drain and that is a concern, it is pushing the granite down, he has reached out to Bill Johnston to obtain his opinion of commercial parking on that property.

Councilman Honore asked Chief Pollard about the car lots. Chief Pollard indicated that the new code enforcement officer is addressing those concerns.

Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the Lithonia Roundtable and is asking for everyone's involvement to include LDDA and LBA to address business ideas and issues; Thursday February 18 at 5 pm.

Councilwoman Howard stated that she met with President Dennis Allen with Friends of the Park on updates for Bruce Street Park to include landscaping and beautification.

Councilwoman Wynn talked to the supervisor at Bruce Street Park on different ideas. For anyone that would like to participate on February 3 again asking for participation from council and the community to join the zoom call and provided a narrative on the existing issue at Pine Mountain Road with re-zoning that area.

IX. Executive Session (NONE)

x. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd 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 8:23 pm.