



CITY OF LITHONIA

MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 4, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Work Session 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. City Attorney Valorri Jones was on the call as well.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the agenda with the addition; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the agenda was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Letter "c" under Other Business: "Our House" Non-Profit

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. December 3, 2020 – Special Called Business Grant Proposal and Procedures for LDDA Virtual Meeting @ 5:00 PM

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the Special Called Business Grant Proposal and Procedures for LDDA Virtual Meeting Minutes @ 5:00 PM, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. December 17, 2020 – Special Called Small Business Grant Application and Residential Rent and Energy Assistance Program Virtual Meeting @ 3:00 PM

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Special Called Small Business Grant Application and Residential Rent and Energy Assistance Program Virtual Meeting Minutes @ 3:00 PM, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; and approved by a vote of 5-0.

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

Ms. Yvonne Holmes, business owner of Loving Touch Support Services and Von's Bar-b-Que received a ticket citation on December 18, additionally received conflicting information from the Chief of Police Nathan Pollard, Major Ferguson, and the Fire Marshall's office. She is concerned and asking for clarity on the parking sign regarding the impact on her businesses where she services handicapped persons and will have food delivery and grease-trap services performed, there has never been an issue. Chief Pollard stated that there is no issue for loading and unloading and that perhaps Major Ferguson was unclear. If the vehicle remains in the parking space for an extended amount of time, that would be an issue. Mayor Reynolds would like to meet with Ms. Holmes this week to include the Chief of Police.

Mr. Donald Blount, business owner of Blackdot Bookstore, seeking clarity on the grass area behind 6984 Main Street as private property for loading and unloading. He was told by a police officer that he could not park on the grass area behind the business.

Councilwoman Howard emphasized the beautification efforts in that area to prohibit driving over the

pavers in the alley. Mayor Reynolds is asking for more consideration on the impact of the businesses and the beautification efforts, and the furtherance for more conversation to include the Chief, Council, Mayor and businesses. Councilwoman Inman suggested to continue the discussion during the next Lithonia Roundtable Virtual Meeting.

Ms. Sharon Inman, resident on Johnson Street, really and truly appreciates Council and Mayor, Administration, Chief and Police Officers, Public Works, appreciates everything positive that she is seeing throughout the city.

Ms. Annette Radford, business owner of Luxor Lounge regarding beautification; reporting for the past 3-4 months that the building behind her business has 3-4 mattresses and sightings of homeless people. Mayor Reynolds instructed City Administrator Lathaydra Sands to have Public Works investigate.

VI. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

There were no Presentations. Mayor Reynolds spoke to Willard Smith the inspector for Dekalb County Fire Rescue today and there are plans forthcoming to have him on the call to provide procedures on inspection of new businesses.

VII. Action Items

There were no Action Items.

VIII. Other Business

a. Alcohol Ordinance No. 2020-11-02

City Attorney Valorri Jones indicated that it would be easier if she answered specific questions and did not provide an overview of what changes were made in the draft.

Councilwoman Howard needs more time for review of the ordinance. Councilman Honore had no questions. Councilwoman Inman had a question about page 2, line 43, item c-no entity may hold more than two licenses total, clarity on page 5, line(s) 134 and 141, clarity on line 132, and having a copy of the ordinance on-line. Councilwoman Wynn wanted to know if bartenders are required to be certified. Councilman Dodd stated the ordinance reads that the City Administrator would be able to approve without council approval, council should approve all licenses.

City Attorney Valorri Jones will address all concerns and asked that council email her with any additional changes prior to vote.

b. Fire Hydrant on Conyers Street and throughout the city

Councilwoman Wynn indicated there is a fire hydrant that has been taped up for the past several months on Conyers Street. City Administrator Lathaydra Sands will obtain the exact location of the fire hydrant and reach out to the Fire Marshalls office for inspection on that location and all other fire hydrants in the city.

c. Non-Profit Powerhouse

Councilman Honore proposing to use old city hall for now to distribute food and once the masonic lodge restoration is complete food can be distributed there. Mayor Reynolds would like council to

consider this and take a vote during the next meeting and proposing that Powerhouse provide a presentation. Councilwoman Howard suggested implementing a number system to allow for social distancing inside the building.

d. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Councilwoman Wynn reported that 2 stop signs were placed on Pine Mountain Road for the trucks. Councilwoman Howard requested an update from Chief Pollard regarding the activity on Pine Mountain Road; more information will be available once Chief Pollard has a conversation with DOT. Councilman Honore had no updates. Councilwoman Inman wished everyone a happy new year and excited to see the growth and advancement in the city, would love to schedule the next Lithonia Roundtable meeting especially with the concerns heard tonight. Mayor Reynolds recognized 2 birthdays: Robin Blount and Councilwoman Inman. Councilman Dodd had no updates. Mayor Reynolds publicly recognized and thanked Craig Lymburner the City Accountant who has retired after 6 years. Mayor Reynolds encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote tomorrow, stay safe, and have a happy new year.

IX. Executive Session (NONE)

X. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.