



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, June 7, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

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, Darold Honore, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. Amelia Inman was absent from the call.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the agenda for the June 7, 2021 City Council meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

- a. April 19, 2021 Zoning Public Hearing (3:00 pm)**
- b. April 22, 2021 Special Called Meeting (10:30 am)**
- c. May 03, 2021 City Council Meeting (5:30 pm)**
- d. May 17, 2021 Work Session Meeting (5:30 pm)**

Councilman Honore motioned for general approval of all council meeting minutes as written on today's agenda; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Dodd abstained; uncertainty that all minutes could be approved by one motion.

V. Action Item

- a. Rezone the property at 7238 Center Street, Parcel Identification Number 16 153 02 004, from the current Edge District to the Downtown District**

Councilman Dodd motioned for approval to rezone the property at 7238 Center Street, Parcel Identification Number 16 153 02 004, from the current Edge District to the Downtown District; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilman Honore would like to review the business license application prior to approval, as a separate item.

- b. St. Paul Fire Hydrant**

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the city's participation in the relocation of St. Paul's Fire Hydrant relocation; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd for discussion.

Councilman Dodd asked which proposal was being agreed to. City Administrator Sands indicated that Mr. Hammond submitted a new proposal dated June 1 with 3 options. Council would prefer to know specifically which option will be selected by St. Paul before agreeing to an amount.

Councilman Honore withdrew his motion to approve the city's participation in the relocation of St. Paul's Fire Hydrant and motioned to table the discussion for the work session and vote after work session; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

c. Noise Ordinance No. 2021-04-15

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve Noise Ordinance No. 2021-04-15 with the amendment that the business license is revoked for the 3rd offense by the court, and the business owner can appeal before council to reinstate the license; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

d. City Charter Amendment Ordinance No. 2021-05-03 (Special Called Meeting Notification change from 48 hours to 24 hours)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the city charter amendment ordinance No. 2021-05-03 Special Called Meeting Notification change from 48 hours to 24 hours; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd for discussion, approved by a vote of 3-0.

Councilman Dodd opposed stating, "it is our responsibility to ensure that all council meetings are open to the public with as much advance notice so as to not restrict attendance".

e. Wildcat Paving Contract

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Wildcat Paving Contract for Max Cleland/Swift and Max Cleland/Center Streets; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Funding will come out of Splost and LMIG.

f. Rezoning for Annexation

Councilman Dodd motioned to request that Bill Johnston begin the process for annexation rezoning, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

g. Resolution: Appointing DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections to Conduct The City of Lithonia 2021 General Municipal Election

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the resolution to appoint DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections to conduct the City of Lithonia 2021 General Municipal Election; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

h. Dekalb Ordinance Request via Code Enforcement

Councilman Honore motioned to approve adopting the Dekalb County Ordinance for Code Enforcement for the City of Lithonia; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

VI. New Business

a. Police Cars

Chief Pollard: recap of previous request with explanation provided for purposes of annexation, some vehicles have reached their life-limit and has not opted for repairs, date of the initial payment can be changed to March 2022 for 6 vehicles, the discount is greater when more vehicles are purchased.

Councilwoman Howard stands on her previous decision to slowly acquire new cars, starting with 2-3, would like to see projections to pay for remaining cars. Councilman Dodd expressed concern about the wear and tear of the current fleet and repair cost based on mileage, the cost for outfitting 6 vehicles is \$52k and there is an \$8,200 grant, concern of preparing ahead of time for annexation at a discounted cost, \$56,800 remaining in splost until depletion, any additional payments would come out of the general fund. Councilman Honore stated that he would agree to acquiring 2 cars and would like to see some numbers, concerned about the payroll cost for hiring the new officers coupled with the cost of acquiring 6 cars, and requesting the accountant look at the numbers again. Tabled for further discussion during the work session.

b. Park Management

Mayor Reynolds stated as a head's up this item will be on the work session agenda. City Administrator Sands stated that proposals were received from Alima LLC requesting 10% fee on venue rentals and 2 personal rental dates per year, and Innovations Solutions Management Company requesting a 1-year term agreement and 50% of the venue rental fee. Councilman Honore expressed concern that management procure events and not use it for themselves.

c. City Hall or Annex Rental

City Clerk Blount indicated the city was approached by Gateway Management to lease the courtroom space for \$1,000 per month, to conduct potential tenant interviews for affordable townhome units on Chupp Road, Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm. Council is not in agreement as it would pose a conflict and liability issue if something were to go awry.

VII. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands provided an update on electrical work for the Masonic Lodge (Annex 2), Streetscape Grant, Fire Hydrants, Splost Project Update, Entrance Signage, Banners for Downtown, Cares Act, American Rescue Plan, Stormwater, Park Management RFP, Audit, FY2022 Budget and Mill Rate, Traffic on Main and Klondike, Truck Route, Social Media engagement, and Georgia Power. (Detail on the report provided to Mayor/Council and available as an agenda item). Councilman Dodd inquired about the additional truck purchase for Public Works, and if the street sweeper would continue to be leased or purchased, discussion to be continued during the Work Session.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve Realtime for the electrical repairs of the Masonic Lodge project; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. Police Department Report

Chief Pollard stated that the May reports for code enforcement and statistics were forwarded to Mayor, Council, and Administration. A \$62,500 grant for an APEX virtual learning machine was awarded during the month of May, new reserves were sworn in to include 2 motorcycle officers, and some chaplains. DeKalb County ordinance for code enforcement was adopted. Councilwoman Howard inquired about the March 2021 report indicating that 25 cars were parked on Swift Street, Rock Chapel, and Parkview Drive without registrations, and wanted to know the status, Chief Pollard indicated that fines were levied and collected for not having proper registration, some fines were provided an extension, additionally a monthly court report will be provided to include fines levied and received. Councilman Honore also expressed a concern about the efficiency of reporting that council is currently receiving. Councilwoman Wynn would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting with Chief Pollard.

c. Annexation Update

Councilman Dodd stated the next townhall meeting is June 23, participation at the last meeting was light but good, there was some question about property taxes. Planning to meet with Bill Johnston to ensure the property is zoned correctly and to see what steps need to be taken. County elections board stated that Dekalb would have the referendum on their ballot and the referendum will be on the City of Lithonia ballot. Councilman Honore asked if a switch up would help if meeting in the Hollingsworth courtyard, or at the ice cream parlor. Councilman Dodd indicated that a Bruce Street social was previously discussed. Councilwoman Howard suggested an ice cream social in the courtyard as well.

d. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds is asking on behalf of Good Finds Thrift Store to allow that her business license stays in effect until the end of the year, the business owner moved into the suite next door, moving the address. Business Owner Kazemde with Blackdot indicated that he moved his business during mid-year and paid a \$50 change of address fee if ownership name or name of business does not change. Also, Waylow Taco has a situation about the music and asked if there is a certain decibel that he should go by or to play no music at all, clarity needed to ensure that he is compliant with the city of Lithonia. Councilman Honore is good with the music if it's not loud. Councilman Dodd indicated the noise ordinance that was just approved covers all of that.

Councilwoman Howard commended Ms. Radford on the Friday Night Wind Up-she really enjoyed herself, also stated that Ms. Black's yard has been cleaned-up by public works and the neighbors (Ms. Reid) are satisfied. Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Wynn had no comment. Councilman Dodd stated that he would like to hook up with Councilwoman Wynn, Ms. Patrilla, and Ms. Woods before the town hall meeting to look at the Pine Mountain area to look at some issues.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.