



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, March 15, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:42 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Darold Honore, and Amelia Inman. Ric Dodd joined the call during the approval of the agenda, Vanneriah Wynn joined the call later.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of the Action Item; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; the agenda was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Howard added action item "b" Park Reservation Application for Clinton Garibaldi on April 4.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. March 1, 2021 – City Council Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the City Council Virtual Meeting (5:30 pm) Minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard; and approved by a vote of 3-0.

V. Public Comments Response (City Administrator Lathaydra Sands)

CA Sands indicated that no changes have been made at this time regarding parking/no parking zone in the courtyard, asking for direction from council. Code enforcement complaints have until the end of week to rectify warnings issued. Chief Pollard provided an update on Parkway; at a point where the city would condemn and seize the property, looking to merge the violation, no family members are involved. GDOT has not returned calls yet regarding the truck route.

VI. Presentation

a. Ms. Mavis Johnson: Park Reservation for Cricket Games

Ms. Johnson asked if the park reopened and would like to use it from April 25 until September 9 from 9 am until 7 pm on Sundays, there are 2 games played in the lower field. Asking to use the park at no cost and mentioned that the sanitation bond is on retainer since 2019. Mayor Reynolds indicated the city would be in contact with Ms. Johnson later in the week. Councilwoman Howard wants to ensure there are no conflicts with scheduling activity in the park. Councilman Honore does not favor free usage of the park if other applicants can pay for events, Ms. Johnson can postpone games on those days. Councilwoman Inman favors the remarks made by Councilman Honore and otherwise would look forward to the games being held there. Councilman Dodd feels that the same rates should apply.

VII. Action Item

a. Citizens Trust Bank TAN terms

Councilman Honore motioned to accept the terms of the Citizens Trust Bank TAN loan pending the approval of the City Attorney and review from the City Accountant, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. Park Reservation Application for Clinton Garibaldi on April 4, 2021

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Park Reservation for Clinton Garibaldi to include April 4, 2021, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Dodd was opposed with sensitivity to the noise level issues in the park, speakers should point away from the City of Lithonia to reduce the noise levels coming into the city.

VIII. Old Business

a. Mrs. Yvonne Holmes; No Parking, Loading/Unloading

Councilwoman Inman stated her concern that to service the grease trap and allow for handicapped patient transporting is bias and poses a conflict with allowing the filming company to use the space. There is plenty of space to use the area as a courtyard, only going to use for 20 minutes or less at a time. Councilwoman Howard is concerned that the sign would not be limit Mrs. Holmes' business to loading/unloading, wheelchairs can be used-is the building compatible to allow for wheelchairs? Councilman Honore indicated that there was an agreement under former Mayor Jackson, not holding Mrs. Holmes to anything right now. All that Mrs. Holmes is asking for is a loading/unloading sign. Mayor Reynolds moved forward and asked for a vote from council, Councilwoman Howard (NO), Councilman Honore (NO), Councilwoman Inman (YES), Councilwoman Wynn (NO), Councilman Dodd (YES).

b. Addressing Blight on Main Street (Commercial Bldg.)

No updates from the attorney have been provided at this time.

c. Annexation Update

Mayor Reynolds stated that door hangers were distributed, a townhall virtual zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 24 from 7-8pm, requesting that all council members are physically present at City Hall, there were no objections from council. Councilman Dodd stated that an article will be in the Champion Newspaper and the next door hanging campaign is scheduled for March 20. Mayor Reynolds is also recommending that the next council meeting is in person and on Zoom for the public.

IX. New Business

a. Roberts Rules of Order

Councilman Honore expressed the importance of portraying oneself in the community, once Roberts Rules of Order is established, the Mayor controls the meeting, everyone is respectful to one another and business is handled for the operation of the city. Action items are only on the agenda during the council meeting and all discussion takes place during the Work Session. All presentations and social issues are on the Work Session, operations can be discussed during the Council Meeting. To maintain order Roberts Rules of Order should be adopted each year. Mayor Reynolds suggested that further discussion takes place at the retreat.

b. Parking Lot Behind Luxor Lounge

Mayor Reynolds provided an update that the Housing Authority gifted the parking lot to the city, with consideration of using Splost Funds to pave the parking lot. Councilman Dodd raised a question as to what Arabia Mountain proposed at a previous meeting to participate in the cost of paving in lieu of making Wiggins Street a one-way street. Mayor Reynolds plans to have continued conversation with Arabia Mountain.

c. ~~Film Permit Fee Schedule~~

d. Filming notification procedure for business sidewalk closure

Councilwoman Inman expressed the need to have a method in place that will allow for proper and friendly communication when notifying businesses. Councilman Dodd recommended that the filming company receive a check list of businesses to contact through the filmapp so that everyone is on the same page.

e. Ozark extended days for filming

CC Blount provided an update on filming requests and activities.

f. City Administrator Report

CA Sands is recommending that the tables for the courtyard are purchased through the film fund in addition to beautification at the City Hall complex. Councilwoman Howard suggested using river rocks at City Hall and the area surrounding annex one for a uniform look. Time for the CDBG Grant, the deadline is March 31 to apply for a revolving loan fund (for businesses) for the CDBG Grant, typically administered through the LDDA (application and approval process), city administers the funds and establishes the terms and interest rate, CA Sands will get additional details out to council by end of week. There is a \$55,000.00 balance for the Main Street Streetscapes Plan, requesting location parameters from council on beautification to connect the Bruce/Conyers Street area, professional service quotes are needed (RFP).

g. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds stated the organizers of Bruce Street Day are seeking approval to utilize the Bruce Street Park on Easter Sunday and will abide by covid guidelines. It was suggested that the distribution of a numbered ticket system with a drawing held for a door prize sponsored by the city could be a way of giving back to the community, thus monitoring the number of persons attending the event, council is in favor. The Camp Jewels organization approached Mayor Reynolds about partnering with the city to utilize the Masonic Lodge as a music educational facility for youth and seniors with funds contributed toward renovation efforts and would like to make a presentation before council to have a conversation. Lithonia Middle School: Public Works will clean-up trash routinely on Monday's which is currently a hardship for the school with limited staff, witnessed 2 individuals having sexual activity in the car and requesting that Chief have police presence in and surrounding the park. Will continue to gather information on Lithonia Middle for the City to acquire ownership of the track, an awning is also needed from the parking lot to the front of the school for the students and asked if council knows anyone who can build an awning for a quote better than \$90,000.00 (the quote was provided by DeKalb County).

Councilwoman Howard had no updates and thanked everyone for their efforts with annexation. Councilman Honore had no updates, pleased with the beautification efforts in place to obtain the tables. Councilwoman Inman had no updates. Councilwoman Wynn had no updates, although concerned about the volume of music over the weekend, she called 911 around 4 am. Councilman Dodd asked if the City Attorney has amended the ordinance and to revisit. Councilman Honore asked if there are operating hours in place for the event centers. Chief Pollard stated that he is looking to associate fines with issues such as these.

X. Executive Session (NONE)

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd 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 8:15 pm.