



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, May 3, 2021 @ 5:30 PM**

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**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, and Ric Dodd. Vanneriah Wynn later joined the call.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the agenda for Monday, May 3, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a. April 19, 2021 – City Council Public Hearing on BB&T Loan Restructure and Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)**

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; and approved by a vote of 4-0.

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

Ms. Aileen Harper concerned about the property located at the end of her street on Braswell, house is caving in, becoming a very bad eye soar, the house needs to be cleaned up or demolished.

Ms. Patrilla Arrington property on Pine Mountain Street, awaiting confirmation on the correct date and time to provide Mayor and Council. Also asking if a moratorium can be placed on the property until after the annexation vote.

Ms. Genetha Woods thanks Mayor Reynolds and staff for their support and mirrors Patrilla Arrington's comments.

**VI. Presentation (Limit 3 minutes per person)**

**a. Ms. Annette Radford: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event**

Proposing a festival on Main Street with fireworks (licensed professional), family oriented free event, street closure from Wiggins to Swift Street, 12 noon until 9 pm with plans to contact the fire marshal's office. Mayor Reynolds stated that council will get back to Ms. Radford once the application is complete.

**b. Mr. Leroux Duncan: Park Reservation Date Change**

Mr. Duncan did not appear before Council as a no-show.

**c. Ms. Mavis Johnson: Park Reservation Cricket Games**

Ms. Johnson did not appear before Council as a no-show.

**d. Mr. Leeban McGregor: Park Reservation July 11**

Seeking permission for an adult fun day with games, no live entertainment with subdued music from a disk jockey. Mayor Reynolds stated that council had announced at a previous meeting to place any park reservations on hold.

## **VI. 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 Honore motioned to deny the application for 7238 Center Street, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman for discussion.

Councilman Honore stated according to DeKalb County records there are taxes owed for 2019 and 2020 on this property before rezoning can take place. Councilwoman Inman asked if there is a current ordinance in place that determines if the property owner or business owner of the property makes application and if property taxes are paid before making a rezoning change. Councilwoman Howard stated on the tax record there is an effective day of April 26, 2021 of a record of potential change of ownership with the property. Councilwoman Wynn is concerned and would like to find out what's going on before deciding. Councilman Dodd stated that with all the confusion until all facts are made known does not want to vote on it.

Councilman Honore motioned to table this approval until further information is provided to the council and the zoning administrator is contacted on the legalities of delinquent taxes owed on a property, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **b. Historic Preservation Design Standards**

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Historic Preservation Design Standards, the Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **c. Park Reservation: Mr. Leeben McGregor (June 19)**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the kid's cooler fun day and dance festival on June 19 from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 pm with the assurance there will be a DJ and in adherence to the noise ordinance, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **d. Park Reservation: Mr. Clinton Garibaldi (retain approved date of June 13 and add an additional date of June 12 for a 2-day event, the second date would replace the July 3 date that was approved for Mr. Leroux Duncan which is Mr. Garibaldi's partner)**

Mr. Garibaldi stated on behalf of he and Mr. Duncan to retain the approved dates of June 13 and July 3 with no changes.

### **e. Blackdot Culture Center Arts Festival October 2: Mr. Kazemde Ajamu**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Blackdot Culture Center Arts Festival for October 2, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **f. Quote Approval for St. Paul Fire Hydrant located at Robinson Street and Klondike Road**

This item is tabled pending additional detail needed for quotes. Councilman Dodd is requesting an update of remaining funds available in Splost.

### **g. Change Fiscal Year; Move Fiscal Year from Calendar to July and June 2022**

Councilman Dodd motioned to change the calendar year to a fiscal year starting July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**h. Moving Public Comments and Presentations to City Council Work Session Meetings**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to move public comments and presentations to the city council work session meetings, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Noise Ordinance No. 2021-04-15 – First Reading**

City Clerk Robinette Blount provided a first reading of the noise ordinance.

Council is requesting clarity on 100 ft and the decibel level is amended within the ordinance, and an additional penalty enforced for the business.

**b. City Charter Amendment Ordinance No. 2021-05-03 (Spec Call Meeting Notification change from 48 hours to 24 hours) – First Reading**

City Clerk Robinette Blount provided a first reading of the city charter amendment for special call meeting notification.

**IX. Other Business**

**a. City Administrator Report**

City Administrator Sands stated the courtyard tables would be delivered on Wednesday, the planters have been delivered and still on target for the farmer's market. Website stats for the month of April were great at 2,871 views. TAN was completed last week along with the closing of the mortgage and will be finalized tomorrow. Masonic Lodge electric quotes are complete for review and the funds have been transferred into the building fund. Looking into banners and city flags with new logo, needing 2 additional quotes for downtown. Waste management is still working on the quote for sanitation for the city. Draft of the report from the retreat was forwarded, all changes are needed by May 5 for the final report. Entrance way gateway signage pending. Attended tax digest training, asking council if taxes should remain the same or to rollback, or to increase, due by June, will get with Keesha on some dates. Received one more bid for the audit, still on the high end though at \$19,250.00, the audit is due by June 30, current auditor charged \$10,500.00 for FY19. Council agreed unanimously to retain the past audit company. Chief Pollard will cover the stop sign (3-way at Klondike). Councilman Honore suggested signage posted within the city or a mailer going out to residents announcing the new website. Councilman Dodd if another vehicle was needed for city maintenance. City Administrator Sands indicated there is over \$90,000.00 in the account, targeting the purchase approval in July. Also looking at an increase in the storm water fees through an initiative with Lowes Engineering.

**b. Police Department Report**

Chief Pollard stated that reports were provided on code enforcement, police monthly, and GCIC reporting. There was an incident of streetcar lane drag racing at the middle school which is being addressed. Integrated Health Resources is an option for responding to mental health, drug, or alcohol situations, looking into this as an avenue to use. Code Enforcement is working with Courtware to have violation numbers match definitions defined in the ordinances. The 5k that was approved for stop signs will need to possibly be used for lining, gore markings (solid lines) at the stop signs, and cross-walking lines, additionally looking at marking the lines on Max Cleland that have deteriorated, through research there is no liability change, which lies with the city. On a social note, the 38<sup>th</sup> annual officers' night out is August 3, looking to ask businesses for donations and will provide additional information upon receipt.

**c. Annexation Update**

Councilman Dodd stated the governor's approval remains pending. Townhall meeting designated every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Thanked Mayor Reynolds for her attendance at the last town hall, the outcome was excellent.

**d. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update**

Mayor Reynolds announced that it is City Clerk's Week and asked the city to show its support for Robin's hard work. In summary, that City Clerk Blount provide the remaining fire hydrant quote to council, that City Administrator Sands work in concert with Code Enforcement to find out who the Braswell Street owners are for next steps, that City Administrator Sands provides the splot report to council, that the amendments that council requested are obtained from the attorney for the noise ordinance, and to provide the fire hydrant quote to the attorney if needed. Mayor Reynolds appointed Ms. Dawn Massey and Ms. Carleen Anderson to the Historic Preservation Committee and asked if Council would recommend additional persons in the community to appoint.

Councilwoman Howard commented on the great work that public works is doing. Councilman Honore complimented Mrs. Alison Reynolds' beautification efforts throughout the city. Councilwoman Inman expressed interest to obtain a fire hydrant on Randall Street, City Administrator Sands will check with DeKalb on the process. Additionally, a reminder of the Lithonia Roundtable on May 20 as a great discussion and a personal acknowledgement for all who attended. Councilman Dodd had no additional comments.

**X. Executive Session**

Councilman Honore motioned to go into executive session at 8:31 pm with Council to include City Administrator Sands for personnel, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

The City Council virtual meeting reconvened at 9:04 pm. Councilwoman Wynn and Councilwoman Inman were in executive session, however, did not return to the call as per personal obligations.

Mayor Reynolds stated that she would address the concerns that were discussed and provide an update later in the week.

**XI. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.