



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES– City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, July 6, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting began at 5:39 pm. Mayor Reynolds conducted roll call. All members were present.

**II. Moment of Silence**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** – made by Council member Sheppard to approve the July 6, 2023, meeting agenda. Council member Inman seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Public Comments**

*Citizens wishing to make a public comment may do so in person. Citizens may also submit public comments via email to [cityclerk@lithoniacity.org](mailto:cityclerk@lithoniacity.org) by 2 pm on the day of the meeting to be read by the City Clerk. All members of the public wishing to address the City Council shall submit their name and the topic of their comments to the city clerk prior to the start of any meeting held by the City Council.*

**Joyce McKibben** – Spoke in support of the Protect Our Street Police Grant and the Grant awarded for the youth program to the City of Lithonia Police.

**V. Consent Agenda**

**VI. Public Hearings**

*Citizens interested in commenting on the public hearing portion of the meeting may comment in person. You may also submit your comment in writing to [cityclerk@lithoniacity.org](mailto:cityclerk@lithoniacity.org) by 2 pm the day of the Public Hearing to be read into the record at the meeting. If you choose to submit your comment in writing, please include your full name, address, the item you are speaking about and if you are for or against it. When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address, and relationship to the case.*

*There is a ten (10) minute time allotment for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.*

**VII. Old Business**

- a. For Decision** - Parkway and Main Repair – *Chief Dajarnette*

There was brief discussion about an obstruction of view at this intersection and what the city could do to correct it. Chief Dejarnette also clarified details about the drainage box and stop sign located at this intersection.

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to approve the Parkway and Main repair. Councilmember Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. For Decision - Wiggins Street Parking Lot Drainage and Improvement – Chief Dejarnette**

Chief Dejarnette gave a brief overview of the Lowe Engineering request and explained the need for permission from Council to run a camera in the sewer.

**Motion** – Made by Councilmember Howard to approve the Lowe Engineering quote for Wiggins Street. Council member Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**VIII. New Business**

**a. For Decision – Lithonia Mentoring Program with STEM – Chief Dejarnette**

Chief Dejarnette explained the two grants awarded to the City of Lithonia. One of the grants is in partnership with STEM for a youth mentoring program in the amount of one million fifty-one thousand dollars. He explained this grant would cover the salaries for various positions including the grant monitor, project coordinator, director, and community liaison as well as supplies like laptops, desks, paper, etc. Chief Dejarnette stated he would like to see this program housed in the old city hall building stating it could be a way to revitalize Main Street and the downtown area.

Jodi Woodruff and her staff with the STEM program provided additional details about the goals and resources that would be provided to the City of Lithonia through this grant and mentoring program.

Mayor Reynolds asked if this program could provide the youth with a course that introduces them to the possibilities of being a mayor or working in Municipal Government. The Executive Director of Systemic explained that with the help of the community, the youth involved in the program will be given knowledge of what political government and politics are and they will be given a course, roadmap, and support to encourage them to remain focused and not get derailed. Joyce McKibben added that will also be a shadowing piece of the program that allows the participants to shadow people in municipal government as well as other business owners.

Council member Howard asked about the age range of the participants in the mentoring program. Joyce McKibben clarified that the program covers participants from 12 to 24 years of age.

Council member Inman and Howard stated that they would like to see the application and addition information submitted for the grant as they has not seen the information as of yet. They also requested various other information be provided to Council. Chief Dejarnette made it clear that he will make all information requested available to Council one it has been updated with accurate numbers and received from the Grant writer and the State.

Council member Sheppard asked about the one elementary school in the City of Lithonia and how they will be informed about the program. Joyce McKibben explained that she had some contacts in place to work with Lithonia Middle School to refer any kids that they believe would benefit from the program and will work to make those connections with the Elementary School as well.

There is robust discussion of additional partnerships and programs that will be offered through the mentoring program.

**Motion** – made by Council member Honore to approve the Lithonia Mentoring Program with STEM. Council member Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. For Decision – Protect Our Streets Grant – *Chief Dejarnette***

Chief Dejarnette provided details of the Protect Our Streets Grant awarded to the city of Lithonia. He explained the amount of the grant awarded is \$265,368.00 and those funds would be used for hardware and software upgrades and replacements of current police equipment as well as radios, protective vests, and the purchase of additional flock cameras. He also explained what was applied for and how the city was awarded the amount it would receive. He also further explained how this funding will help and improve the day-to-day Police functions.

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to approve the Protect Our Streets grant. Council member Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. Updates and Reports**

**a. Police Department Update**

Chief Dejarnette stated that the fourth of July was the most hectic he's seen in the four years he's been here. He stated that there was an incident where a bullet went through a home and hit the television of a young lady lying in bed. He stated that the Police

think they know who is responsible and are actively working to stop this from happening again. He stated that there was a large amount of gunfire coming from Ida Street and that there were 7 domestic calls. He also stated that the housing area on Dean Court had a massive party and that was an area of concern. Chief Dejarnette stated that the housing authority has been notified of several issues but not much seems to be done.

There was discussion of the cameras that were once located at the Housing Authority apartments and why they were removed.

Chief also stated there is an active investigation involving a kidnapping in the city as well.

**b. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Reynold's announced the passing of Mr. Cooksey, who was known and has worked with the City of Lithonia. She also announced that Lucious Sanders will be hosting midnight basketball at the park to give the youth something to do at night. She will provide more information when she receives it. Mayor Reynolds also asked Council to think about the parking lot and the addition of electric car chargers being placed there. She stated that this could be a means to generate some income in the city and would like council to think about the possibility of it.

**c. Council Member Updates**

Council member Wynn stated that on Rock Chapel and Pine we lost a tree that was over a century old. She stated that the tree was often used as a point of reference when coming to the city but that the area has been kept clean lately. Council member Howard stated that Ms. Harper was elated to see the cleanup in that area. Ms. Wynn praised Public Works Director Munson and the Public Works Department for staying on top of things and for all the hard work lately.

Councilmember Howard praised Nikki Davis at the housing authority for their prompt response to the Kudzo vine. She stated that they have been prompt and really on top of it since she called.

Council member Inman inquired about property located near Bruce street or some other location for a dog park in the city. She stated that about a half an acre would be needed for both large and small dog sections but that it would bring so many people and pet owners to the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard added that she heard a lot about Splash Pads in other cities and how they bring the community out. She expressed interest in exploring the option of adding a splash pad in the City as well.

Council member Howard stated there was a breakfast at the Bruce Street Senior Center and it was marvelous. Council member Honore stated that it was really good, and he

enjoyed it as well. Council member Howard also stated the Senior Center is collecting medical bottles and old eyeglasses. She mentioned if anyone had anything, she would drop them off to the Senior Center. She added that the Traditions Senior Home is also accepting any donations and she's happy to drop those off as well.

**X. Executive Session (If Necessary)**

*(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)*


**XI. Adjournment**


**Motion** - made by Council member Inman to adjourn the meeting. Council member Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting ended at 7:19 pm.**

Attest:

  
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Ashley Waters, City Clerk

  
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Shemeka Reynolds, Mayor