



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:32 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.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the city council meeting agenda for Monday, October 4, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Howard requested for discussion under Old Business to add letter “c”: Energy Solar Panels.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. August 11, 2021, Special Called Meeting (2:00 pm)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the August 11, 2021, Special Called Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. September 7, 2021, City Council Meeting (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the September 7, 2021, City Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. September 20, 2021, Work Session Meeting (5:30 pm)

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the September 20, 2021, Work Session Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. September 27, 2021, Special Called Meeting (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the September 27, 2021, Special Called Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

V. Public Comments Response

City Administrator Sands stated that Morning Star Givers is starting an outreach program in October every third Thursday of the month and requesting a partnership with the city to host a mentorship program at a location in the city. City Clerk Blount summarized that Pastor Michael will be returning to the Work Session Meeting with information to share with everyone.

VI. Action Item

a. Entrance Sign Approval: design change

b. City Administrator Sands will check on clarification of a price reduction if the signs are reduced by one foot and if the cost will differ if the year founded is added to the signs, additionally confirming that funding will come out of Splost.

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve Stewart Signs design with the modification to reduce the sign by one foot to reduce the cost; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VII. New Business

No new business

VIII. Old Business

a. Law Enforcement Training Grant Award

City Administrator Sands consulted with City Attorney (Alicia), whose recommendation is that going forward Council adopt a Resolution for grants and contracts and that she will generate a resolution template. Funds will be taken out of the ARP funds and reimbursed. Two votes are needed: to approve the invoice and going forward to approve that a Resolution is adopted for all grants and contracts.

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the invoice for the Law Enforcement Training Grant Award reimbursement; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Honore was opposed.

Councilman Dodd motioned that before the city applies for grants and contracts that a Resolution is adopted to apply for the grant, and to approve the grant amount and the terms if awarded, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. Masonic Lodge funding for repairs

Councilwoman Howard suggested the following order of repairs: #1-HVAC, #2-Bathrooms, #3-Ceiling, #4-Walls, #5-Floor, #6-Paint, concluding that one contractor should be selected to complete items 2-6 for better pricing. Three bids for HVAC and three bids for a combination of the remaining repairs.

Councilman Honore motioned to obtain bids for HVAC, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Energy Solar Panels

Mayor Reynolds asked that Council identify locations to start a discussion on the Black Oak Commercial initiative. Councilwoman Howard would like to see a proposal on specifically what is being proposed. Councilman Honore suggested the lot behind the old city hall building on Main Street, 5 acres in the Bruce Street area that used to be a dump, and on Covington Highway which is a landlocked area. Councilwoman Wynn indicated Black Oak Commercial is preferably seeking at least 30 acres, also agreeing that it would help to have a proposal in hand. Mayor Reynolds suggested further discussion take place and to schedule another meeting.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

Lathaydra Sands: no report.

b. Police Department Report

Chief Pollard: October 10th Faith In Blue weekend from 3-5 pm, hope to have a good program. The city now owns 2 motorcycles that will be stored at fire station #17, requiring signature for the transfer of titles by Mayor Reynolds. Hoping for a reconsideration to hire a full-time officer in place of a full-time code enforcement officer. Councilwoman Inman feels that we need to keep the consideration of a full-time code enforcement officer, does not want to take that off the table, Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Howard agree. Mayor Reynolds will speak with Ms. Sands and the City Accountant to determine what's in the budget and get back to

council. Councilman Honore asked about insurance liability coverage, what the cost is before approval. Chief Pollard will pull the insurance information together before Mayor Reynolds provides signature.

c. Mayors Report, Annexation Update, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds publicly asked for help in finding out who the landlords are for vacant buildings in the business district on Main Street; the old post office and building next door to Flava's.

Annexation Update: Councilman Dodd stated the next town hall is on October 27th and the last town hall before the election.

Councilwoman Inman introduced You Down With APP (Abandoned Property Project), working as a team with public works and code enforcement to address blight, would like to select a date to speak with the city attorney for questions and interpretation of the blight ordinance with ways to strategize. There are 3 events in October; Community Clean Up on Saturday October 9th from 10am until 12 noon, meeting at city hall, providing lunch, would like to make this a quarterly initiative and asking council to provide a worker from each of their districts. Working with Councilman Honore on the planning and details for Trunk or Treat, asking that business owners participate/advertise, donate candy, decorate your car, making it an annual event. Halloween Party on October 28 at the Crystal Ballroom on Main Street, \$10.00 admission for student book scholarships in Dekalb County.

Councilwoman Wynn expressed a public apology to the Pine Mountain residents regarding the date rescheduling of the last annexation meeting in September. Suggested that in addition to the Annexation Zoom call, driving through the neighborhood to be annexed with a bull horn asking the residents to come out and vote. Extending an invitation to everyone to attend a family event with games for kids at Lithonia Davison Library from 5:30- 7:30 pm on October 29th.

Councilman Dodd received a few calls regarding campaign signs on Main Street on the right of way. Councilwoman Howard stated that she is exempt as a city officer according to the ordinance. Mayor Reynolds suggested having a special meeting on the matter.

Councilman Honore is requesting to block off Main Street.

Councilman Honore motioned to officially move Trunk or Treat back to Main Street on October 31, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Howard had no updates, looking forward to trunk or treat.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.