



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**Monday, October 17, 2022 @ 5:30 PM**

---

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

The City Council In Person & Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Mayor Shameka Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Yolanda Sheppard, and Vanerriah Wynn. Diane Howard was absent.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the work session agenda, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

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

- a. **Ms. Maxine Young** expressed concern for an event that took place 2+ weeks ago that drew complaints. Council had no questions or comments.
- b. **Mrs. Allene Harper** follow up on the vacant house on Braswell and requesting a regularly scheduled street cleaning on Braswell. Code Enforcement provided an update. Mayor Reynolds indicated that she spoke to Cory Turner one of the owners and expressed the city's concerns, Mr. Turner indicated that in the next month or two renovations will be taking place at the property. Mr. Monson stated that Braswell Street was on the schedule next week and had been behind due to the rain.
- c. **Ms. ShellyAnn Cole** on behalf of her church proposing to participate with the city for the Halloween Trunk or Treat event, and on Thursday has a food pantry for the community.
- d. **Mr. Ric Dodd** (did not appear)
- e. **Ms. Yvonne Holmes-Ford** announced that Von's Barbeque has reopened, partnering with Lithonia High School to provide scholarship funds in giving back to the community, patrons will donate-Von's will provide a match.

**V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)**

- a. **Ms. Tina Troup, Mothers Rebuilding America** proposing to utilize the Masonic Lodge for her non-profit providing the building would be used for youth community service activities; furniture bank, computer labs. Willing to engage in a relationship for utilizing the building and construction.
- b. **Ms. Joyce McKibbon, Repertoire, Inc. provided a presentation to** request utilizing the Bruce Street recreation center as an innovation center for 16-24 year old's, (Lithonia Middle and High School).
- c. **Ivet Bandirma, 21<sup>st</sup> CentED** executive director for STEM, implementing STEM strategies, MOA to include an advisory board, collaboration with the police department on the buildout. Has a verbal commitment from Microsoft in play.
- d. **Caesar Mickens Jr., Ph.D., 21<sup>st</sup> CentED** work with at opportunity youth to set up partnership and career pathways through workforce development, project-based learning. Work with mayor/council to transform the community, providing accelerated learning to take advantage of job opportunities.
- e. **Mr. Terron McDonough** petitioned for an extra hour until 4:00 am for thanksgiving Friday at Grand Crystal on Swift Street, under the guise that council recently changed the hours of the ordinance. Council was unanimously in favor of not granting the request.

Council expressed concern regarding the advertisement hours of operation that event centers and lounges are marketing. Mayor Reynolds made recommendation to meet with all event centers and lounges asap.

## **VI. Action Item**

### **a. Wiggins Street Parking Lot Improvements**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve Lowe Engineers to conduct a parking lot drainage study to include standard and vertical parking, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Lithonia Housing Authority**

Councilman Honore stated the housing authority has been estranged from the city, the city has not been included in its governance for 8 years, no acknowledgement of the mayors appointments, no inclusion with meetings, qualifications are unknown of the executive director, meetings are being held in Duluth. There are 6 members on the board that were not appointed by a mayor, all terms have expired. Mayor has the right to replace.

Attorney Alicia Thompson acknowledged that Councilman Honore was right, appointments not made by the mayor are invalid, mayor has the power, followed by a certificate of appointment filed in the clerks office. Recommending a reconciliation of the remaining members on the board. Mayor can reappoint new or existing members by appointment. Can be provided in writing at the desire of the mayor. Housing authority is subject to the open meetings act, meetings should take place in Lithonia versus Duluth, can be held via zoom if in a state of emergency.

Mayor Reynolds made a recommendation of appointment for Ms. Joyce McKibbon.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **a. Old City Hall Building**

Mr. Monson stated that repairs were complete to include painting, installation of the bathroom floor, replacing a toilet, and vanity. Invited Mayor/Council to tour.

### **b. Masonic Lodge Repairs**

Mr. Monson stated there were no updates.

### **c. Entrance Signs**

Mr. Monson stated the funds come out of splost. Chief DJ stated the remaining balance in Splost is \$970,405.10. Mr. Monson will return to the floor next meeting upon researching type of finishing, pricing for faux granite, double sided, 5 signs.

### **d. Trucks**

Chief DJ stated code 72-94 provides that businesses who are in the city or conducting business in the city cannot receive citations.

## **IX. Other Business**

### **a. Police Department Report**

Chief DJ introduced 3 new officers; Officer Hugely comes to Lithonia from Clayton and formerly Fairbury police departments, attended high school in Cochran Georgia. Officer Wright transferred from Clayton County Sherriff's department. Officer Shalom (reserve officer) transferred from Dekalb County. Working with partnering on the STEM program on the grant. Detailing for the new cars will be complete tomorrow. Officer Brooks will become the fulltime code enforcement officer starting Oct. 24, 3 major cases that he'll be working on with Officer Roseberry in preparation for court, her departure is Oct. 21.

### **b. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update**

**Mayor Reynolds** confirmed that Trunk or Treat hours are 5:30-7:30 pm on October 31 on Main Street. Requesting to speak with Joyce and Tina at the end of the meeting.

**Councilman Honore** will be working on Trunk or Treat to get more cars involved, and social media. LDDA announcement on Maxine's Sip/Chat for teen mom's with 30 registered so far.

**Councilwoman Wynn** stated there are people continuing to dump on Smokey Row, what appears to be a club has popped up in the area and they are also dumping large bags in the area. Reached out to Commissioner Mereda Johnson and Dekalb Planning & Sustainability meeting as a committee to have a voice coming together on zoning issues and what residents want in our respective community.

**Councilwoman Sheppard** expressed concern for future summer/fall events at the Amphitheater and what times the events should end. Councilman Honore invited Councilwoman Sheppard to the next LDDA meeting.

Councilwoman Inman provided announcement of the upcoming AI Inc. Fall Fest, also shout out to Blackdot's Cultural Festival, both events are on October 22.

**VIII. Executive Session (NONE)**

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilman Honore motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.