



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 6, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:40 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 Yolanda Sheppard. Vanneriah Wynn joined during Action Items.

II. Moment of Silence (Observed)

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda for September 6, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Additions:

Councilwoman Howard, Old Business Letter F: Trucks. Mayor Reynolds, Action Item Letter B: Park Reservation Manager. Councilwoman Inman, New Business Letter B: Community Event for the Fall.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. August 1, 2022, City Council (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the August 1, 2022, City Council Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. August 15, 2022, Work Session (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the August 15, 2022, Work Session meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilwoman Inman abstained.

V. Public Comments Response

Mayor Reynolds stated that Chief DeJarnette referenced his conversation with Mrs. Harper at the LDDA meeting that Code Enforcement Officer Roseberry issued a subpoena and paperwork to the owner, no response from the owner at this time.

VI. Action Item

a. Collard Green Festival

Ms. Nobantu Ankoanda, Organizer/Mr. Arkee Hodges with the Black Achievement Fund: items requested by COL as a host are police and EMR coverage at no charge (2 officers at \$45/hr.), 2 porta potties, the event starts at noon until 8pm, notification to media outlets, booth tent with City of Lithonia information available, marketing the festival on the city's website, identify additional funding. Mayor Reynolds asked Chief DJ if the reserve officers could volunteer their time for reserve hours at no cost, Chief DJ indicated that he could stagger officers throughout the day.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the items discussed using reserve officers and contributing towards 2 porta potties, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Sheppard were opposed.

b. Park Reservation Manager

Mayor Reynolds stated that 2 persons submitted an application, Ric Dodd and Renee Miller. Councilwoman Sheppard motioned for further discussion; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman. Councilwoman Sheppard made a recommendation to hire Ric Dodd. Mayor Reynolds made a recommendation to allow for further attorney review of the contract.

VII. New Business

a. Judge Tunde Pay Increase

Mayor Reynolds provided a recap of Judge Tunde's email request to return his compensation from \$250.00 to \$500.00.

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve \$500.00 per court session for Presiding Judge Tunde and the Assistant Judge, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. Community Event for the Fall

Mayor Reynolds introduced an annual community-based event that Councilwoman Inman would like to hold under her non-profit to provide scholarships for students in the City of Lithonia, \$5.00 entry fee \$6.00 at the door, must be at least 18 years old, at the Amphitheater, back of the park, or on Main Street/Old City Hall building. Councilwoman Inman provided a recap. Councilwoman Sheppard is in favor of the event and blocking off Main Street. Councilwoman Howard asked how admission into the event would be controlled if on Main Street, and if trunk or treat would be combined, Councilwoman Inman feels the events should be separate because trunk or treat is a free event. Councilman Honore suggested the event is pushed out further beyond October 15 and suggested obtaining clearance from the attorney if an organization run by a council member can raise money through a city event, Councilwoman Inman offered a suggestion to avoid legal liability that another board member could run the event. Mayor Reynolds indicated the attorney will be consulted to ensure everything will be okay and requested that Councilwoman Inman share the names of those on the board and the name of the non-profit.

VIII. Old Business

a. Old City Hall Building

Mr. Monson is still waiting on the plans from the architect.

b. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Ms. Monson indicated there are currently no updates.

c. Vacant Building Ordinance

Councilwoman Inman recapped that council would read over the ordinance and provide feedback for the attorney. Councilwoman Wynn referenced the \$250 thousand insurance, everyone's house will not hold that value and would like to see reference to masonry within the ordinance. Councilman Honore is in agreement with the masonry reference. Councilwoman Sheppard would like to increase some of the fees within the ordinance. Councilwoman Inman made reference to Historic Preservation Commission and suggested Councilwoman Wynn send an email referencing the masonry to Dawn Massey, Fred Reynolds, and Jhavaun Green to continue conversation for presentation to the attorney.

d. Entrance Signs

Mr. Monson presented 3 quotes, but they are high, recommending that he continue to look. Councilwoman Howard indicated 2 quotes were for two-sided signs and would like to know that distinction on all quotes, a one-sided sign would be just as effective. Mr. Monson will share an update at the next meeting, and additionally will confirm if funding will come out of splost.

e. Wiggins Street Parking Lot

Mayor Reynolds indicated the next step is to have a drainage study performed and waiting to hear from Hari/Lowes if this will fall under stormwater. Councilwoman Inman is recommending a parking garage. Councilman Honore is in favor of moving forward right away this year, LDDA survey was the first step and Lowe's would be a second step to be shovel ready. Councilwoman Howard recommended having open parking during the day and renting the lot at night for events. Code Enforcement Officer Roseberry indicated that she has been towing cars, i.e., storage and car repair. Mayor Reynolds posed the question if the lot should be closed off for now. Chief DJ can have South Dekalb Towing post an unauthorized parking sign and you will be towed, will get back to Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Inman motioned for Lowe's to perform a drainage study on the Wiggins Street Parking Lot, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

f. Truck Issues

Councilwoman Howard indicated a potential problem controlling the number of trucks that are still coming through the city starting at 4am-9am increasing at high speeds on Conyers Street. Councilwoman Sheppard made reference to hot spots throughout the city. DJ will post officer coverage on Conyers, Rogers Lake, Main from Covington highway, Rock Chapel, and Center Street. Officer Roseberry recommended replacing the

current sign from 18 to 5 tons at each entrance of the city.

IX. Other Business

a. Police Department Report

Chief of Police DJ acknowledged Officer K9 Perro's memorial would be tomorrow at city hall with a procession to follow, 1pm, guest speaker, inviting everyone to attend. Working on a grant program through the governor's office, up to \$1.5 ML to combat youth gun violence and to encourage programs, requesting to work with council individually to look at different ideas, and identify a youth center in the city. CSX is doing a better job of separating the train.

b. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds stated that her items were discussed throughout the agenda.

Councilwoman Sheppard had no updates.

Councilwoman Wynn expressed concern about dumping currently taking place at Rock Chapel/Smoky Row, a sign is needed, and fines enforced, working with Mr. Monson to look at it. Chief DJ indicated a new hidden mobile camera will be in next week to catch any illegal activity and will also capture license plates. Consideration needed for restoration of the sign across from the new Bruce Street Senior Center.

Councilwoman Inman complimented Officer Roseberry regarding the illegal business on Johnson Street and asked if there are any tools available that would be more effective. Officer Roseberry indicated that 5 citations were written for the illegal business, the fine for dumping is currently set up to \$1,000 if egregious, the event center will start being cited for parking violations along Swift Street. Infor System would be a good tool with universal access for council.

Councilwoman Sheppard asked if the ticket forms were updated with accurate information. Officer Roseberry will reconfirm and share an update with council.

Councilman Honore was not available to provide an update.

Councilwoman Howard expressed good will that everyone enjoyed their holiday weekend, the Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday at 3:30 pm, everyone is invited to provide input.

VIII. Executive Session (None)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.