



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, August 15, 2022 @ 5:30 PM**

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

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Shameka Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Darold Honore, Diane Howard, Vanneriah Wynn, and Yolanda Sheppard. Amelia Inman was absent.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the work session agenda for August 15, 2022, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

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

Mrs. Allene Harper asked about the status of the property on Braswell Street. Mayor Reynolds stated that an answer would be provided by Friday of this week.

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

**a. Ms. Jynsen Henry: The Soul Food Market Team**

Developed for black owned products, since 2018, grocery delivery service and store front, ranging from produce to retail goods, We Buy Black is owned by Mr. Shareef Abdul-Malik, asking for rental of the space located at 6940 Main Street, this would be a first location, would like the business to open in the City of Lithonia.

*Council Questions:*

Councilwoman Sheppard asked if there is interest in taking the space as is, will there be a space to create employment opportunities within the city, and emphasized the need to have businesses that are actually open. Ms. Henry stated there is a budget for construction to fit the need of the building for inside and outside, there will be EBT options, economic stimulation based on demographics, and availability of products at the community's price point. Councilwoman Howard asked if both sides of the building are being requested. Ms. Henry stated the business is requesting to occupy the entire space. Councilman Honore suggested that council come up with a proposal for rent. Mayor Reynolds responded that the city is not in a position to start the conversation as of yet, whether to rent or obtain ownership of the building, still trying to remodel and revitalize the area, and that the city would be in touch and definitely looking for something positive to place in that space.

**b. Ms. Renee Miller: Amphitheater Food Truck Proposal**

Tabled for the September 19, 2022, Work Session.

**c. Ms. Nobontu Ankoanda: Collard Green Festival**

A letter was submitted outlining what we'd like the city to provide, with an electronic copy of the 2019 souvenir booklet, operating since 2013, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival. Requesting assistance as being a major host, help to promote through city web site, social media, and eblast, notification to news media outlet, tent with city resources, proclamation, police coverage, porta potty's, press release. The date of the event is September 25, \$1,500.00 was paid towards the venue.

Mayor Reynolds stated the city will return this as an action item for the September 6 meeting and indicated that LDDA manages the Amphitheater.

## **VI. Action Item**

### **a. Resolution 2022-09-01 for CRM Services**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve Resolution 2022-09-01 for CRM Services, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

### **b. Amendment, Resolution 2022-05-24 Moratorium of Business Licenses**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve amendment resolution 2022-05-24 moratorium of business licenses, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

### **c. Draft Audit FY21**

Mr. Larry Reed rendered a good opinion on financial statements in accordance with general accounting principles, noting the net position and income statement on pages 6/7. Further noting page 21 governmental assets, page 22 capital leases, page 23 budget monitoring, general fund, late submission of the report to the state auditor (June 30, 2022), once turned in there is no penalty. Council had no questions or concerns.

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the draft audit FY21, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

### **d. Resolution 2022-08-15 Dekalb County Service Delivery Strategy**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to renew resolution 2022-08-15 Dekalb County Service Delivery Strategy and for other purposes, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

## **VII. New Business (NONE)**

## **VIII. Old Business**

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

Mayor Reynolds suggested that council express their feelings based upon the earlier presentation. Councilwoman Howard is hoping that the property can be divided into 2 sides, one side for office purposes, and the other for food distribution, and to proceed. Councilwoman Wynn stated it's worth looking into and wondered if the building would be large enough to accommodate what they want to do, the need to occupy both sides of the building, will it be large enough. Councilwoman Sheppard's only comment would like everyone to take a look, take notes, and collaborate notes before making any decisions. Councilman Honore agrees with Councilwoman Sheppard to have everyone meet. Mayor Reynolds requested that Ms. Henry provide the presentation to council.

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

Public Works Director Monson was not on the line, and there were no updates from Councilwoman Howard or Councilwoman Sheppard.

### **c. Vacant Building Ordinance**

Mayor Reynolds and Council agreed to table the discussion in the absence of Councilwoman Inman, emphasizing the need to review the ordinance in its entirety.

## **IX. Other Business**

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

Chief of Police Dejarnette reported that code enforcement will be a part-time position and will be on the call at every meeting to provide a report. Utility camera company will use the city as one of their testing facilities. Mayor Reynolds mentioned the code enforcement issue brought up by Mrs. Harper on Braswell Street, Chief DJ referenced his conversation with Mrs. Harper at the LDDA

meeting and that Officer Roseberry issued a subpoena and paperwork to the owner for which there is difficulty reaching anyone, will provide an update before Friday of this week. Councilwoman Howard commended Chief DJ on the expedient work regarding 18-wheelers parking on the train tracks in front of the trailer park, Chief DJ indicated that a few have returned, and he is working with CSX to have them moved and if not CSX will have the trucks towed, with further discussion regarding the train on the tracks. Councilwoman Wynn stated that trucks are driving upon the sidewalk on Conyers Street and are breaking down the soil to get water, Chief DJ will speak with them again to see if there is a different fire hydrant that can use. Councilman Honore suggested contacting Commissioner Cochran/Dekalb county, Chief DJ will also reach out to Georgia Power. Councilwoman Howard noted a discrepancy of being authorized to use certain fire hydrants, if in a city that has discontinued the traveling of trucks one should be picked in an area that does not prohibit trucks, and outside of the city, Chief DJ will work on it.

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

Mayor Reynolds has a few questions for council, she was contacted by Judge Tunde regarding an increase, city administrator stated that the increase needs to be the same for the new Judge Wiggins as well and needs to be part of a discussion during the next meeting. Park Reservation Manager is still open with 2 applicants who have expressed an interest; are Ric Dodd, and Andrea Renee Miller are very interested, asking that council put it on your radar to get thoughts together to proceed with this issue. Had a wonderful time at the amphitheater this weekend, lot of compliments received, there were no complaints about noise or parking. Participated on a zoom call on Tuesday morning same day as LDDA meet and greet with the new housing executive director, she has a full plate, thinks she'll be okay, wants positive energy, needs the city to stay out of the way. Members appointed for the board with next process swearing in only 2 appointments available, feels there are 3 openings, trying to get this worked out but we'll get through it, the new director is working on a few operational issues.

Councilwoman Sheppard asked Chief DJ how stray dogs are handled, Major Patterson verified that dekalb county animal control handles it. Councilwoman Wynn regarding housing authority asked about the assignment of the resident board members, and someone asked if parking behind Wayfield could be utilized for amphitheater parking, Mayor Reynolds indicated the promoter would ask Mr. Safari, also a reporting of \$5 to pay in the parking lot if there for more than 15 min. Councilman Honore regarding housing authority Mayor has the right to put on as many people as you want, Mayor Reynolds asked that Councilman Honore accompany her on the next meeting, great time at the amphitheater, very positive feedback from the community. Councilwoman Howard expressed concern on housing and the need to proceed as is moving towards perfection, the swearing in is no excuse to postpone and the new board should be part of this process, she would like to attend the meeting with Mayor Reynolds and Councilman Honore. Had a great time at Groovin on the Green, no noise or clean up complaints.

**VIII. Executive Session**

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:05 pm, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Mayor and all Council were present, with the exception of Councilwoman Inman, returning from Executive Session at 7:37 pm. Mayor Reynolds stated that no action is needed at this time, and all concerns will be addressed with the Chief in our police department.

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Howard 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 7:38 pm.