



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Yolanda Sheppard. Darold Honore joined during public comments.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the agenda for April 18, 2022, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Inman requested an addition for discussion under New Business, GIC Housing Initiative with UGA for the upcoming application.

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

Mr. Karl Jackson, representing Royal Ark 574 Masonic Lodge, announced a Back-to-School book bag giveaway, inviting all city officials to include the police department, asking what they can do to use more of the parking lot space, date August 13 Saturday from 3-6 pm. Councilwoman Howard asked for clarity on the hours of the event, Councilwoman Inman and Councilwoman Wynn had no questions or concerns. Councilwoman Sheppard asked if any volunteers are needed (Karl- say a word to the youth). Mayor Reynolds responded that she is more than happy to support and requested that Karl provide a flyer to the clerk's office for council.

V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)

a. Hari Karikaran, Lowe Engineers: Stormwater Preservation, Main Street/Klondike Traffic Study

Hari provided a summary of both studies, for the stormwater utility there are 788 parcels in the city, \$72,747.29 in fees were collected in 2021. There are 101 parcels mostly in the Oakleaf Circle and Ridge subdivisions that were not charged for 5-10 years that would provide an additional \$13,296.96. Functions of stormwater MS4 must be compliant to receive funds, inspecting infrastructure and preparation of annual reports, maintain the ponds and all ditches in the city, curbing, basins, street sweeping, capital improvements. Allowed uses are only for certain uses, public works salaries can be paid out of the fund, purchase and operating maintenance of a vehicle can be paid for, any new construction of piping or ditches, allocate funds to capital improvements, continue to pay the street sweeper payment through 2025. Stormwater utility fund, currently charging \$4 per EDU, if \$6 will increase revenue to \$119,864.00. Recommending 40% is paid toward public works salaries.

Councilwoman Howard agrees to increase the percentage to 40% for public works salaries as justified by the work performed. Councilwoman Inman asked if fees could be retroactive for Oakleaf (Hari-will ask the Tax Commissioner for consideration), agreeable to raise the ERU however does not feel the current homeowners should incur the impact of the 40% increase. Councilman Honore asked about the calculation of the ERU (Hari-currently charging \$48.00 per household for the stormwater function, commercial is based on the square footage). Councilwoman Wynn asked if retroactive fees could be charged to Oakleaf. Councilwoman Sheppard asked if fees could be retroactive with Oakleaf.

Blake Bredbenner provided a presentation summary of the Main Street/Klondike traffic study to

include truck routing. In observation areas were identified where signage needs to be clarified, no direction/guidance as to where the trucks should be going, speed limit sign/truck signs should be visible before reaching the area, no southbound signage for persons entering onto Max Cleland. No good solution as to what was found, hands tied on geometric improvements, recommendation an all-way stop, restriction on left turn lanes, signaling the intersection to include turn lanes.

Councilwoman Howard asked if consideration was given to stop all trucks from entering the city (Blake-yes, that was discussed), further confirming understanding of the recommendations provided by Blake. Councilman Honore asked if a roundabout were feasible for the area (Blake-based on the number of turns there is not much room to install one). Councilwoman Inman asked if Parkway were taken into consideration and a traffic signal (Blake-Parkway was not considered in this report, signalization is driven by left turns, \$250k to install, that turn would contribute to the issue that's already there, temporary traffic control can be implemented), interest in temporary traffic control. Councilwoman Wynn had no questions. Councilwoman Sheppard likes the idea of a 3-way stop and perhaps a traffic light at the intersection.

Hari indicated the need for direction from council.

b. Ms. Dawn Massey: Historic Lithonia Woman's Club

Announced that an application is requested for a business license for an office and meeting space at the Lithonia Women's Club, 2 offices, main room available for classes, business meetings, workshops, and training, available for nonprofits, would like to work with the community as much as possible. Asking for approval of her application.

Councilwoman Howard asked what area would be used for parking (Dawn-behind E-Main Street). Councilman Honore had no questions, good idea to keep business in the city. Councilwoman Inman no comment, good idea for the business. Councilwoman Wynn no comment, sounds solid. Councilwoman Sheppard no comment, sounds good.

c. Ms. Charlene Turner, Friends of First St. Paul: Juneteenth

The Juneteenth celebration will be held the weekend of June 17-19, seeking financial support from the city to make the celebration a success, with a schedule of events planned, a budget was provided listing items needed, asking the city to contribute 50%.

Councilwoman Howard had no questions and remarked that last years event was great. Councilman Honore had no questions and looking forward to the celebration. Councilwoman Inman had no comments, lots of great feedback from last year. Councilwoman Wynn indicated that she looks forward to the event this year. Councilwoman Sheppard had no questions and excited about the event.

VI. Action Item

There were no Action Items.

VII. New Business

a. GIC Housing Initiative with UGA for the upcoming application

Councilwoman Inman previously participated in a GIC meeting, Councilwoman Wynn more recently. Provides studies to make the city better, the cost is \$75 per person for the retreat, a 3-year workshop, housing improvements, an upcoming application release date is May 2, new housing authority board should make application. Councilwoman Wynn indicated that she shared the information with Kaz/Blackdot, given the opportunity to speak with other smaller towns who have participated with the improvement of their cities, has a video to share.

VIII. **Old Business**

a. **Old City Hall Building**

Mr. Monson stated the building is ready for a walk through to determine if the public works department can specifically provide any additional repairs, working on stopping the water leak and waiting on two additional quotes for lighting.

b. **Masonic Lodge Repairs**

Councilwoman Howard indicated a response was pending from Hari regarding the plans (Hari has approached 2 contractors to tour the building with no response back and looking at 2 additional contractors in the meantime to engage).

c. **2022 Georgia Cities Week Celebration April 30**

City Clerk Blount provided the calendar of events and asked if vendors could participate. Councilwoman Howard suggested \$30.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to have vendors at City's Week at a cost of \$30 per vendor, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Honore asked if the citizens recognition would be an award such as key to the city, something more significant. Mayor Reynolds is asking for nominees for the award. Councilwoman Howard will be shopping for bingo gifts, 10-15 games. Mayor Reynolds indicated the food boxes from Honey Baked Ham would be \$9.00 per box, 50 boxes.

IX. **Other Business**

a. **City Administrator Report**

Health grant for \$1,500, with \$694 spent so far, final team building event, reached out to the bowling alley, will need a definite headcount, looking at May 18 as a tentative date. LMIG project no bids were received, new bid deadline April 29. City hall upgrade work to be performed on May 2. Spoke to Truist Bank, there would be a large monthly increase, will compare this list to Citizens bank. Splost update, listing must be updated, Hari will assist with getting the projects completed. The bags for cities week lowest quote is not feasible for the budget, Mayor Reynolds will provide Lathaydra with another company that may be cheaper.

b. **Police Department Report**

Interim Chief of Police Dejarnette indicated nothing major to report, would like to commend Councilwoman Sheppard on her assistance of a missing persons case. The county will perform a utility survey on all the locations to place the truck signs. Door hangers were finalized today. Having an issue with Code Enforcement applications, qualifications need to be a sworn-in person, assigned a reserve to work with Officer Roseberry to help alleviate and expedite (Officer Welch) writing tickets. Councilwoman Howard asked for information to include in the gift bags for cities week.

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

Mayor Reynolds stated this year the Lithonia High School Alumni will host their annual picnic on July 30th from 11a-7p, the back of the park where the basketball area is will be used, not the fields, Mayor Reynolds and Councilwoman Sheppard are on the committee, would like to get an official vote on May 2. Also, wanted council to be aware that a call was received from the commissioner's office with interest to provide funding for the bike trail on Wiggins street, will share additional information when available. Amphitheater manager has confirmed acts upcoming on Aug 13 Calvin Richardson in concert, and on Sept 17 Sir Charles Jones and Pokey Bear.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the alumni function for July 30 from 11am to 7pm in the basketball section of the park, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman second and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Howard asked if police coverage is needed, and if an application is required. Councilwoman Sheppard stated that historically 75-80 people attend the event, 2 off duty police officers are hired and paid out of their budget.

Councilwoman Howard enjoyed the Bruce Street Day celebration function, food was good, music was good, wrapped up in an acceptable hour. If interested the Advisory Committee meeting is every first Thursday of the month at 3:30 pm, next meeting is May 5.

Councilman Honore participated in the LDDA meeting last week, will have more information next month as things continue to move forward in place.

Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the roundtable on Thursday at 5:30 pm, shout out to Councilwoman Sheppard for Bruce Street Day, huge event, congratulations to the police department.

Councilwoman Wynn remarked that Bruce Street Day was awesome and enjoyed herself.

Councilwoman Sheppard has informed her neighbors about April 30 Cities Day, goal to get more people on the calls in her neighborhood for involvement.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.