



**CITY OF LITHONIA  
MINUTES– COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday January 4, 2024 @ 5:30 pm**

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

The meeting began at 5:38 pm. Mayor Reynolds and Councilmembers Inman, Sheppard, Honore, and Howard were all present. Councilmember Wynn was absent.

Councilmember Wynn arrived at 5:40 pm

**II. Moment of Silence**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Inman to approve the January 4, 2024, meeting agenda. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**IV. Public Comments**

Mrs. Reid made a public comment regarding the speed bumps on Park Drive stating she thinks that they are needed.

**V. Public Hearing**

**a) For Decision** – 2501 Park Drive Rezoning – *Dekalb County Parks and Recreation*

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Honore to go into The Public Hearing for 2501 Park Drive rezoning. Councilmember Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Bill Johnston, zoning administrator gave a presentation on the rezoning matter. Allen Mitchell with DeKalb County also presented information regarding the rezoning request.

James Fluellen spoke against the rezoning, sharing concerns about the streets infrastructure and how the traffic would affect his property.

Mrs. Reid spoke against the rezoning stating she had concerns about infrastructure and how the developments traffic would affect her and her property.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to close the public hearing. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

There was further discussion among city council about the concerns of the citizens with infrastructure of Park Drive and the affects the new development could have on the residents of that neighborhood. Major concerns surround the width of Park Drive and that currently, the street is too narrow. Allen Mitchell with DeKalb County gave a deeper explanation of the plans on Park Drive and how those plans would be implemented. He also explained that this effort and plan would be in conjunction with the City of Stonecrest to ensure that all concerns of the citizens were addressed.

**Motion** – made by councilmember Sheppard to defer the vote on 2501 Park Drive rezoning until the February 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Councilmember Inman seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

### **a) For Decision – Alcohol License Renewals – Chief Dejarnette**

Chief Dejarnette presented three applications for alcohol license renewals. He stated there were no current issues with the business owners. Those applications were for Bawani Grocery, Wayfield Foods, and Jway convenience store.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Inman to approve Consent Agenda. Councilmember Honore seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VII. Old Business**

## **VIII. New Business**

### **a. For Discussion – Lithonia Amphitheater– *Mayor Shameka Reynolds***

Mayor Shameka Reynolds expressed her concerns about the management of the Lithonia Amphitheater. She stated she was frustrated with a lack of progress in terms of two specific requests, purchasing trash cans and a stage covering/tarp. Dawn Massey stated that there have been conversations about replacing the stage completely. There was much discussion about the plans for improving the amphitheater and plans to improve communication within the Downtown Development Authority members.

### **b. For Decision – Holiday and Meeting Calendars – Ashley Waters, City Clerk**

Ashley Waters, the city clerk presented the council with the holiday and meeting calendar for 2024. The City Council agreed on changes to the holiday calendar that include city hall closures for Independence Day to include both Thursday and Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and Christmas to include Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday December 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to approve the 2024 holiday and meeting calendars including Fridays July 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. **For Decision** – Vendor Permit Application – Ashley Waters, City Clerk

Ashley Waters, the city clerk requested that the city council review the current vendor permit application and clarify any misleading or confusing requests and requirements on the application. She suggested that the fee and the photo requirements be clarified.

**Motion** – made by councilmember Sheppard to update the vendor permit application to exclude the phot requirements and correct the pricing for the application to \$35. Councilmember Inman seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- d. **For Decision** – Business License Application – Ashley Waters, City Clerk

Ashley Waters, the city clerk requested that the city council give permission to process occupational tax certificates based on NAICS code because the previous administration had not done so. She also asked that they provide an updated administrative fee to be applied to occupational tax certificates.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to move the business license renewal deadline to May 1<sup>st</sup>, increase the admin fee to \$150 and process the applications the correct way. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- e. **For Decision** – Naming of the Resource Center – Ashley Waters – City Clerk

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Sheppard to name the resource center “Lithonia Resource and Achievement Center”. Councilmember Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- f. **For Decision** – City Hall Building Repairs – Chief Dejarnette

Chief Dejarnette presented City council with two quotes for repairs to the entrances at City Hall. These repairs would make the City Hall entrances ADA compliant. He explained that repairs will be paid out of the facilities upgrades budget.

**Motion-** made by Councilmember Sheppard to approve All Phases Construction Development LLC for total dollar amount \$27,764.00. Councilmember Inman seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**g. For Decision - MLK Day Grooming Event – Chief Dejarnette**

Chief Dejarnette explained that he was informed the day of the meeting that the event was changed and would not be held during MLK holiday weekend but will be a back-to-school event held in July with all of the city’s barbershop and beauty salons participating.

No vote taken.

**IX. Updates and Reports**

- a. Police Department Update**
- b. City Administrator update**
- c. Mayor’s Update**
- d. Councilmember Updates**

**X. Executive Session (*If Necessary*)**

*(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)*

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Inman to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to exit executive session and return to the regular council meeting. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to approve the creation of the Urban Redevelopment Agency. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Sheppard to approve a raise for Chief Dejarnette to be made effective immediately. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**XI. Adjournment**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Wynn to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Attest:

  
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Ashley Waters, City Clerk



  
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Shameka Reynolds, Mayor