



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– Special Called Meeting
Monday January 27, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 5:40 pm.

Councilmember Wynn and Mayor Reynolds were absent at the time of roll call. All the other members of the council were present.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion – made by Councilmember Sheppard to approve the January 27, 2025, Special Called meeting agenda. Councilmember Howard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

IV. Public Hearing

Citizens interested in commenting on the public hearing portion of the meeting may comment in person. You may also submit your comment in writing to cityclerk@lithoniacity.org by 2 pm the day of the Public Hearing to be read into the record at the meeting. If you choose to submit your comment in writing, please include your full name, address, the item you are speaking about and if you are for or against it. When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address, and relationship to the case.

There is a ten (10) minute time allotment for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.

a. For Decision - 7041 Swift Street Special Exception Request – Bill Johnston, Planning and Zoning Director

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to open the public hearing. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

Bill Johnston gave a presentation of the special exception request by Chirs Johnson for a childcare institution or congregate facility housing up to 18 children with autism with twenty four hour care. Bill Johnston presented his report and recommended that there only be 6 children allowed if the council decided to allow the special exception. He voiced concerns about the effects on the neighborhood and surrounding residents.

Chris Johnson with CJE Youth Development Center, Inc. provided an explanation of his request and details on the proposed congregate facility to help and house children 13-18 years old with autism. He provided details on the location of the property and the property itself including the square footage and

number of bedrooms in the facility. He stated that there would be twenty-four-hour care and one adult on site for every six (6) children.

No one spoke in Favor.

Maxine Young spoke against. She stated that the age range of the children is a concern for her for various reasons. She is concerned that she has a business that serves alcohol near the proposed location.

Sharon Inman spoke against. She stated she is a twenty-year resident of the city and would not like to see this facility in the city of Lithonia for various reasons.

Willie Mosley – 266 Parkway Trail – spoke against. He stated that he understands the needs of the children involved and asked that the council table this decision and provide Mr. Johnson with some resources to help find another location.

Cindy Butler spoke against. She stated that she's a twenty-year resident of the city of Lithonia and feels that the request is to house a lot of children and has concerns that involve a previous experience with a child with autism. She agreed that she would like to see the children helped but in a different location.

Motion – made by Councilmember Sheppard to close the public hearing. Councilmember Honore seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

There was much discussion regarding the concerns about the location, proximity to the train tracks as well as a liquor store, and the number of children the facility would like to house.

Chris Johnson with CJE Youth Development Center Inc. stated that he would like to withdraw his petition for a special exception.

Motion – made by Councilmember Sheppard to accept the withdrawal of the petition for a special exception at 7041 Swift Street. Councilmember Howard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

V. New Business

- a. **For Decision** – Resolution to Amend the Purchase and Sale Agreement for 7005 Swift Street – Chief DeJarnette, City Administrator

Motion – made by Councilmember Sheppard to approve the resolution to amend the purchase and sale agreement for 7005 Swift Street. Councilmember Honore seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

- b. **For Decision** – Resolution to Appoint DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections – Chief Dejarnette, City Administrator

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to approve the resolution to appoint DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

- c. **For Decision** – Resolution to Provide for and Publish Qualifying Fees – Chief Dejarnette, City Administrator

Motion- made by Councilmember Honore to approve the resolution to provide for and publish Qualifying Fees. Councilmember Howard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

VI. **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, 4) Cyber Security

VII. **Updates and Reports**

- a. Mayor's Report
- b. City Administrator's Report

Chief Dejarnette stated that there have been new lights installed on Main Street.

- c. Police Update
- d. Councilmember Update

Councilmember Sheppard asked for an update on the swift street paving project. Chief Dejarnette explained that a traffic study would need to be conducted first. There was some discussion on the crosswalk/intersection at Max Cleland Blvd, a possible atm option in the city, if Citizen's Bank is interested in selling the abandoned bank, and updates on the Lucious Sanders Park project.

Councilmember Honore informed council that the Methodist Church is now for sale.

Charlene Anderson asked to speak and thanked the council for their partnership with the PTSA and the Resource Center. She requested some sponsorship from the city of Lithonia to help take 90 students to the Capital building for a tour.

VIII. **Adjournment**

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

Motion passed 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Attest:



Ashley Waters, City Clerk



Shameka Reynolds, Mayor