



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, December 6, 2021 @ 5:30 PM**

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

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:32 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, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the city council meeting agenda for Monday, December 6, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Inman requested the addition of Business Operational Hours under Old Business, item b.

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a. October 18, 2021, Work Session (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the October 18, 2021, Work Session Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**b. October 20, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing – 2618 Max Cleland Blvd, Secondhand Store (3:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the Zoning Public Hearing minutes for 2618 Max Cleland Blvd.; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Inman abstained.

**c. November 1, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing – (1) M-1 Light Industrial District and M-2 Heavy Industrial District, and (2) Future Land Use and Character Areas Map adopted in the City of Lithonia 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update (3:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the November 1, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Inman abstained.

**d. November 1, 2021, City Council (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes for the November 1, 2021, City Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**e. November 8, 2021, Special Called for Personnel Matters (5:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the November 8, 2021, Special Called Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**V. Public Comments Response**

City Administrator Sands stated that business owner Maxine Young expressed a concern about the noise complaints the city recently received, and business owner Annette Radford expressed concern of the proposed mandate of closing her business at 12 am. Under the advisement of the city attorney, while the city cannot dictate the business hours of operation once a tax occupational certificate is

issued, the city can control noise issues by adding restricted hours of operation to the city's noise ordinance to provide proper control of noise levels at times based on the type of business.

Several residents' expressed concerns with M1 and M2 districts, which council decided to table for further discussion as the categories still need to be added. Hence council has agreed to schedule a special called meeting in January (anytime after 4:30 pm) to provide greater detail and address all concerns.

## **VI. Action Item**

### **a. Police Officer Job Description**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Police Officer Job Description; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **b. Code Enforcement Job Description**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Code Enforcement Job Description; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **c. Stormwater Truck Approval**

Public Works Director Monson stated that a truck has become available at \$36,049k however when initially presented was around \$28K. City Administrative Sands would like to compare repair costs of the existing truck and return this item to the Work Session.

### **d. FY2020 Audit Approval**

Auditor Larry Reed summarized the 39-page report with a good opinion on the financial statements in accordance with government auditing financials. Highlighting Statement of Net Position on page 8 there were changes made in the pension plan, storm water fund-black hawk lease, covid act relief funds. Statement of Activities on page 9 there was a net decrease. Budget To Actual Comparisons on page 33, the actual revenues did not meet expectations, most likely related to covid, in comparison the taxes and judicial income were down, \$274k, operating expenditures were less than budgeted, which is still good. Bottom line on the general fund the city operated at a deficit of \$296k, however covid funds were not completely used at \$206k which would take away from the deficit number.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the FY2020 Audit; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 5-0.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Blight Ordinance**

Councilwoman Inman recommended a special called meeting for further interpretation of the ordinance to include the attorney and code enforcement to address vacancies on Main Street and the enforcement of fines. Councilman Honore, Councilwoman Howard, and Councilwoman Wynn expressed an interest to be a part of simplifying the ordinance. City Administrator Sands will coordinate availability dates to code enforcement and the city attorney. Mayor Reynolds recommended that council meet first with code enforcement before meeting with the city attorney.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **a. Masonic Lodge funding for repairs**

Councilwoman Howard provided an update, lights are on, a walk-through was performed to look at the next repair project (HVAC), requesting to place a few holiday reefs on the door, the repair of floors and ceiling will be the next phase to bring the building up to code. Public Works Director stated the HVAC project will start on December 9th for 5 business days of completion.

**b. Business Operational Hours**

Councilwoman Inman stated that clarity is needed on regulation of business hours. City Administrator Sands acknowledged as per the city attorney that business hours cannot be regulated once a business license is approved/issued, a permitted use application does not come before council however a special exception use and alcohol license application would. Councilwoman Wynn expressed a concern for residents who live close to event centers, CA Sands on advice of the city attorney concluded the city can look at ways to address this issue through the noise ordinance. Councilman Honore questioned the change of business hours each year, CA Sands will consult with the city attorney for clarification.

**IX. Other Business**

**a. City Administrator Report**

CID update: 5 reserve officers currently in the division; 1 officer handles murders/aggravated assaults/rape cases, 1 white collar crime/backgrounds, 1 IE citizen complaints/background checks, 3 officers handle all other complaints and reports. All are working to provide closure to all open cases. Website data 4,391 page views, police dept 411 views, mayor and council 312, planning and zoning 160, annexation 136, forms and permits 131, clerk tab 117, default 96. Working with Community Core to get permit application process online, working on quotes from AT&T and Comcast regarding internet and phone systems, IT group is looking at another phonenumber system, will present all quotes to council once all information is obtained. Has 2 dates in January for rescheduling the health/wellness class. Awarded the cops grant, details pending upon receipt of the award package.

*Response from Council:*

Councilwoman Howard asked how many cases are currently open, response 45-50.

**b. Police Department Report**

Chief Pollard stated that some citizens have asked for more presence in the downtown area at night and that is working out well. Criminal reports will be available tomorrow.

*Response from Council:*

Council had no questions or concerns. Councilwoman Wynn expressed a concern about the trucks on Pine Mountain. Mayor Reynolds looked into it, the Dekalb East Precinct's TACT Unit monitored the area however there is not a lot of activity, they also contacted the owner of the trucking company and learned that Dekalb County approved the license without providing any restrictions, that outcome is unknown at this time. Councilwoman Howard expressed a concern about re-routing trucks out of the city that do not have business in the city, to address entrances and exits into the city and reducing the speed limit. City Administrator Sands has assigned Public Works Director Monson to create a truck route for discussion on the next meeting. Chief Pollard stated that he and Major Hughes will work in tandem as well.

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

Mayor Reynolds extended an appreciation to everyone who came out for the tree lighting, shout out to Lithonia Middle School for their performance with plans for the city to make a donation to the music department. Looking for families in need of help during xmas and to forward the information to the city clerk's office with name of the family, address, and contact phone number by middle of December.

Councilwoman Howard extended an invitation to the public to join an advisory committee. Councilman Honore extended kudos to Mayor Reynolds for presenting a proclamation to the family of Elder Wilson at his funeral service today. Councilwoman Inman looking forward to upcoming events, made an acknowledgement to Mayor Reynolds for putting together an awesome tree lighting ceremony for the city, reminder of the last Roundtable Discussion of the

year on December 16 at 5:30 pm, highlighting that a garden location is being sought. Councilwoman Wynn expressed that she is grateful for everyone working together chief of police and council. Councilman Dodd plugged Str8N-natural's toy drive deliveries can be made to the salon or city hall, recent news that Greenhaven (City of DeKalb) will be presenting annexation plans in 2022 to the state and the area includes the proposed area that COL was looking to annex, made emphasis that the city must strongly move forward on the 100% annexation plan.

. **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 7:20 pm.