



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–SPECIAL CALLED VIRTUAL MEETING
COPS Grant Award
Thursday, February 24, 2022 @ 5:30 PM**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

III. Discussion

a. Administrative Matters

Administrator Sands stated the terms for Mr. Pollard's severance pay must be placed on our minutes by way of vote. Councilwoman Howard asked if the discussion should take place in executive session. Administrator Sands stated that's up to council. Councilwoman Howard asked Mayor Reynolds permission to go into executive session. Mayor suggested continuation of the next discussion before going into executive session.

b. COPS Grant

Mayor Reynolds asked Interim Chief DJ to discuss some things with council. Interim Chief DJ stated that he was not involved in the application process however did some research in the DOJ portal and shared information with one of the officers who has experience in grant writing. Wants to share information that he saw so that council can make a wise decision and the best decision. On page 10 of the grant, speaks about fringe benefits and things that are covered, also talks about what's not covered under fringe benefits such as holiday pay, equipment, training, benefit package at 8k coming up to \$45k total compensation, for 8 officers \$361 thousand, \$1.1 ML for 3-year period, with that being said there is no extra money to purchase the equipment. Has an option if the answer is still no to propose to council, with the open spot on the full-time side, if we fill with a regular road officer, has a female who adds diversity, she wants to work at night, can adjust the schedule so that there are 2 officers working at night, he and Patterson can cover the day shift, we want to do everything that we can to move forward to keep morale high and progress the department in the right direction, regular road officer.

Councilwoman Howard asked for clarity on the award of the grant, Administrator Sands verified the numbers which does not include equipment.

Councilwoman Inman asked for clarity if we talked to the attorney on reducing the number of officers to 4, what will that number look like for the city's 25% contribution. Administrator Sands stated that Ms. Seawright the DOJ rep informed her in writing to provide a justification on the reduction of the grant and to reach out with any additional questions, by the deadline of February 28. If hiring 4 officers, estimated cost is \$413,629 from the grant, \$137,876 from the city for a grand total of \$551,505.41. Considering it does

not cover equipment and cars. Councilwoman Inman is leaning more toward the second option of hiring one additional officer, too much risk involved otherwise.

Councilwoman Wynn would like to have 4 officers but understands that we are not fully abreast at this time with little time remaining, in favor of the second option of hiring one additional officer.

Mayor Reynolds concluded the best option from council is to hire one additional officer at this time.

IV. Executive Session (NONE)

Councilwoman Howard would prefer to meet for executive session during Monday's March 7 City Council meeting, Administrator Sands stated that she would need the severance pay information by the March 11 payroll deadline.

V. Adjournment

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to adjourn the special called meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman at 6:34 pm.