



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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Mayor Pro Tempore Darold Honore. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Amelia Inman, and Yolanda Sheppard. Vanneriah Wynn joined during the first presentation. Mayor Reynolds was absent.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda for the July 18, 2022, City Council Work Session, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

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

Mr. Jhavaun Green representing LDDA as the Vice Chair acknowledged a thank you for the stop sign at Swift/Main. Extending an invitation to City Council and Administration on Tuesday August 9th for a mixer at 5:30 pm. Thanked Councilwoman Inman for championing the vacant building ordinance with Dawn Massey. Asked if anyone was interested in taking a trip to the City of Monroe to meet with the economic development person to see how they have spurred growth. Councilwoman Sheppard and Councilwoman Inman expressed an interest in the visit to City of Monroe.

V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)

a. Mr. Nelson Smith: 365 Total Marketing

Hired by Dekalb Chamber of Commerce to produce Dekalb County's 2022 Bicentennial Commemorative Publication to celebrate 200 years, on-line and hardback book highlighting each municipality and businesses there-in along with leadership, 2 sizes of ads to choose from, the book will release in November, deadline to submit is August 30.

Councilwoman Wynn would like to work with Nelson on providing any historical data. Councilwoman Inman, Councilwoman Sheppard, and Councilwoman Howard had no questions or comments. Mayor Pro Tempore Honore recommended the item return on the August 1 agenda for approval on the ad size preference. Council agreed.

b. Mr. Curtis Schlobohm: USA Energy LLC

Targeted 32 lighting fixtures (333 total lightbulbs in the city) in the historic area on Main Street from City Hall to Swift Street. Manufactures, distributes, and retails a corn bulb intelligent lighting product, cost \$17/month, can bring cost down to \$3.65-unit, monthly savings of \$479.52, yearly savings of \$5,754.24/year, recycling rebate for the existing bulb, cost for everything \$2,176. Breaks usage down to 1 kl per hour. Offering a 5-year warranty. Replacement bulbs can be drop shipped from the company's Norcross location, Mr. Monson would be responsible for replacing the bulb.

Mayor Pro Tempore Honore recommend the item return on the August 1 agenda for discussion and approval. Council agreed.

c. Mr. MJ Smith: Steve Harvey Morning Show Event

On July 21st hosting a birthday celebration for Kier Spates who has a sickle cell foundation and a regular on the Steve Harvey morning show. Mr. Spates would also like to work with the city of Lithonia during Christmas to sponsor 10 families of sickle cell patients. Mayor Reynolds would provide a proclamation on the steps of city hall, to honor his work. The show is being promoted on Majic 107.5 which has 7ml listeners, national syndication to include I-heart radio, talking about the city and mayor for the past 2 weeks. The event will include a band, DJ, catered food, it is a ticketed event, creating a street festival atmosphere, street closure at the entrance of Wayfield to the city hall building, 6-11 pm, VIP's will be in attendance. Inviting all council members to attend.

Councilwoman Wynn asked for clarity on the location of MJ's property, 6947 Main Street The Life N Times Cigar Lounge across from Wayfield. Councilwoman Inman expressed favor to approve the event. Councilwoman Sheppard expressed concern for the short notice and thoughts on parking, MJ replied that he talked to the Mayor about the event and decided to extend closing the street for approval, apologized for the late notice, was not an option during last months work session, bringing in acknowledgement of the city of Lithonia, has a partnership with Wayfield to use parking there and would like to use the Wiggins lot if necessary. Councilwoman Howard asked for clarity that it's a ticked event will that be inside or outside and how will it be controlled, MJ replied the event is not open to the public, there will be 80 VIP's in the lounge, parking lot and street festival, additional 80-100 people attending, street will be barricaded with security and Lithonia Police.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve blocking the street on Main between the 2 Wayfield store entrances on July 21 for the Steve Harvey event from 6 pm until 12 midnight, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VI. Action Item

a. Lowe Engineers On-Call Contract for City Engineer Services

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Lowe Engineers On-Call Contract for City Engineer Services not to exceed \$15,000.00, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Hari was present on the call to answer any additional questions and shared his screen to provide council an overview of the documentation contained in both agreements.

b. Lowe Engineers Stormwater Annual Reporting

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve Lowe Engineers Stormwater Annual Reporting not to exceed \$15,000.00, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Public Works Camera System

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the Public Works Camera System, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. Storm Water Vehicle

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve the purchase of the Storm Water Vehicle, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VII. New Business (NONE)

VIII. Old Business

a. Old City Hall Building

Councilwoman Sheppard stated that she met someone who expressed interest in occupying the building and will be on the next work session meeting for presentation.

b. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Councilwoman Sheppard stated the window treatments are nearly complete.

c. Vacant Building Ordinance

Councilwoman Inman stated that she has been speaking with Dawn Massey, LDDA. Dawn summarized the ordinance and captured information best suited for Lithonia, citing various sections to include protective treatment, structures for commercial and residential, lawful activity open continuously, registration of vacant buildings and fees. Councilman Honore suggested sending the ordinance to the attorney to draft as an ordinance, then council can approve. Councilwoman Inman recommended that council should meet first to fine tune the document before delivering it to the attorney. Mayor Pro Tempore Honore made the recommendation to place on the August 1 agenda as an Action Item. Council agreed.

d. Lowe Engineer Estimate of Max Cleland

PW Director Monson provided 3 quotes, recommending Alpha Striping at \$8,850.00 having previously completing a project for the city. Councilwoman Howard noted that no itemization fee was provided in the quote. Councilwoman Sheppard had no questions, good with Mr. Monson's recommendation. Councilwoman Inman and Councilwoman Wynn had no questions.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve Alpha Striping for the work on Max Cleland and the stop sign on Swift and Main Street, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

e. Entrance Sign

PW Director Monson is continuing to gather quotes, asking council if the same lettering graphics should be used.

f. LED Lighting Max Cleland

PW Director Monson received an updated quote on the crosswalk signage for Max Cleland and 2 additional quotes for the flashing lights. Council is requesting pictures of the signate with recommendation to place on the August 1 agenda as an Action Item.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the city for the past 3 years. Have experienced issues with IT services and feels it's a good time to look at another service, vc3 offers IT services, working on gathering information and turning the project over to Chief DJ to discuss during the next meeting. Meeting with Bill Johnston tomorrow to wrap up some things, he will take over the projects regarding zoning, another meeting to finalize things with LDDA and Housing Authority. Fiber was installed today, closed on GMA lease today as well. Council individually thanked Ms. Sands for her contribution to the city.

b. Police Department Report

Interim Chief of Police Dejarnette publicly thanked Ms. Sands. Has a quote for the camera system and will provide it during the August 1 meeting. Concurred there have been on-going issues with the IT group. Sgt Bradford has resigned and moving on to a different industry, has replaced the position.

c. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Councilwoman Inman reminder of the Roundtable this Thursday at 5:30 pm, the vacant building ordinance will be one of the topics. Councilwoman Wynn expressed concern for citizens in the Rock Chapel Road area, trucks are parking in the area and littering. Councilwoman Sheppard reiterated the importance of participation on the Roundtable discussion. Councilwoman Howard spoke favorably of the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Bruce Street Senior Center. Councilman Honore shared an update on LDDA, noting the upcoming website for HPC was a topic of discussion and an informational HPC mailer will go out to residents, Renee Miller will make a presentation in August, reminder of the LDDA meet and greet function on August 9.

VIII. Executive Session for Personnel

Councilwoman Inman motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:37 pm, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Council returned from Executive Session; all were present.

Councilwoman Sheppard extended an offer to Interim Chief DeJarnette as Chief of Police, and he accepted.

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to bring on Interim Chief DeJarnette as the new Chief of Police for the City of Lithonia at \$55,000.00 per year, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

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 8:28 pm.