



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, March 7, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

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, Amelia Inman, and Vanneriah Wynn. Darold Honore and Yolanda Sheppard later joined.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the city council meeting agenda for Monday, March 7, 2022; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. January 27, 2022, Special Called: COPS Grant (5:00 pm)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the January 27, 2022, Special Called COPS Grant Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

b. February 3, 2022, Special Called: COPS Grant Award (5:00 pm)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the February 3, 2022, Special Called: COPS Grant Award Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 3-0.

c. February 7, 2022, City Council (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the February 7, 2022, City Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

V. Public Comments Response

City Administrator Sands stated that Ric Dodd (resident) asked for reconsideration of the cops grant, council did reconsider however the vote did not pass. Dawn Massey (resident) provided good remarks on alliances with LDDA and Arabia Mountain, negative remarks were made regarding noise-hours-and parking on late night entertainment and businesses were called out, requesting an amendment to the noise ordinance, city was advised by the attorney to go after the businesses on the noise violation as per the city's ordinances, unless council wants to look into drafting any changes. Larry Long introduced his non-profit regarding free covid testing for the community in partnership with the city. Council had no questions.

VI. Action Item

a. Fine Amount for Speed Limit ordinance #2022-01-01

Discussion:

Councilwoman Howard is suggesting when 10 miles over the speed limit the fine should start at \$100.00. Interim Chief DeJarnette stated that we are lower than most agencies around, he and Officer Patterson performed a study to include Avondale, Decatur, and Chamblee at \$50-100 higher at every speed. Councilwoman Inman stated that each mile range needs to be raised, x's 2 for each range. Councilwoman Wynn feels the base fine from 6-10 should be \$100. Councilman Honore feels that the city should be competitive with other jurisdictions and start at \$100. Councilwoman Sheppard agrees to start at \$100.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to increase the fines for speed limit; base fine 6-10 from \$25.00 to \$100.00, 11-14 at \$200, 15-18 at \$250, 19-23 at \$300, 24-33 \$1,000, and speed fines for school zone violations at 3x's, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. Time Limit for Moratorium Ordinance #2022-02-02 Automobile and Truck Services

Councilman Honore motioned for discussion of a 90-day moratorium; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard.

Councilwoman Howard suggested 18 months and to revisit after that time. Councilman Honore stated that we can always vote and change it. Councilwoman Sheppard agrees with 18 months.

Councilman Honore motioned to place an 18-month moratorium on Automobile and Truck Services Moratorium Ordinance 2022-02-02, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. City Hall Improvement

Administrator Sands has a few items of discussion for approval; entrance signs from the splost project, Councilwoman Inman inquired about the height of the sign for visibility should be higher, Administrator Sands will revisit to update the size. Both doors at city hall, window privacy coverings for all windows, hours of operation on the door, for a total cost of \$4,425.00 to include installation. Furniture in the lobby; 6-piece sectional set with 2 side tables and lighting at \$2,200. Funds are available in splost and the film account. Seeking councils permission to add City of Lithonia banners on Bruce Street.

Councilwoman Inman is fine with everything mentioned and asked if there are any visuals available for review, also to give consideration of the fabric used for seating based on covid. Councilwoman Howard would like to see a visual of the lobby. Administrator Sands wants to anchor the pictures first to see how the furniture can be staged.

Councilwoman Howard motioned for the city administrator to move forward with obtaining pricing for the lobby, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. Park RFP Interviews

Council agreed that Administrator Sands will proceed in performing the interviews. Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Howard left the call momentarily.

Councilwoman Inman motioned to allow Administrator Sands to hold the interviews for the Lithonia Park Event Manager, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 3-0.

VII. New Business
(None)

VIII. Old Business

a. Old City Hall Building

Councilwoman Inman as a reminder to prioritize obtaining the title to ensure that it is filed, the building can be used as passive income by renting it out, requesting that Public Works Director Monson begin a scope of work on work remaining to be performed. Mayor Reynolds requested that City Clerk Blount email to Mayor and Council the tax assessors information on who owns the

building. Mayor Reynolds additionally is waiting on additional information from the housing authority, and this item will remain on the agenda.

b. Monetizing the City's Digital Sign (Fee Structure)

Councilwoman Inman asked for councils input on the fee structure, if \$25 would be sustainable. Councilwoman Wynn feels the fee should be higher at \$50 or \$75 depending on the project so the city does not have to come out of pocket to cover the cost of the advertiser, Mr. Kilgore. Councilwoman Howard is also suggesting higher and should be weekly at \$75-100 per week, or \$200 per month. Councilwoman Inman feels the fee should start at a simple cost and increase over time. Councilwoman Sheppard asked for clarity on who will update the advertising board, Mayor Reynolds stated that Mr. Kilgore will design the graphic and Administrator Sands would update the digital sign, the need for advertising to run at least 30-days at a time. Councilman Honore suggested that Councilwoman Inman gather more feedback/research through the Roundtable Discussion and LDDA, starting with 3 pricing fees. Councilwoman Inman agreed that she would obtain additional information and circle back to council.

c. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Mr. Monson was not available to be on the call, Administrator Sands indicated a new design was provided by Hari with Lowes, Councilwoman Howard has requested a copy of the design, and if council has any questions or suggestions to share that she can include the ideas in her discussion with Hari.

Councilwoman Howard exited the call, in celebration of her birthday.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

A health topic virtual employee training will be held on March 16, employee portal will be open March 14-18, summer internship requesting 2 positions, attorney reviewed the EOS policy, no changes were needed final presentation and vote during March Work Session, April work session will discuss the storm water fee review. On March 9 IT will be on site for review assessment of internet and phone services, the servers are also in need of upgrades. Still seeking individuals that are interested in the Vista program, please encourage anyone that you know if interested. Council had no questions.

b. Police Department Report

Interim Chief of Police DJ provided an update for the past few weeks, received a call from a citizen who reported gunfire at night along the walking trail, a high-powered rifle was seized, 4 guns were taken off the street, made several stops and seized numerous narcotics in the past 5 days. Officer Rogers just came aboard, her first day of training tonight, she will be the 2nd night shift officer and will work full time in 3 weeks for more coverage, there will then be 2-night officers, reserves will be working Fri Sat Sun between 12 noon to 4am to assist on weekends.

c. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds stated that Commissioner Mereda Davis-Johnson is requesting a zoom meeting for an update on the Amphitheater, seeking council's availability, council agreed on Thursday March 10 at 5:30 pm. This will be Mayors last week receiving bios for the housing authority, in the process of figuring out who will be appointed, in need of a resident to submit their bio. Mayor then introduced a guest on the line, Johnny, a Boy Scout from Stoneview Elementary provided a few announcements, with Troop 517, in his senior year, wants to give back to the community, eagle scout project was the garden, and the progression has been great, asking for support of the council, sign up for 6-12 years, Mayor Reynolds will provide the go fund me link for the clerk's office to send out to everyone. Camp cards are \$10 each for fundraising.

Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the Roundtable Discussion meeting for March 17 at 5:30 pm, and community clean up on March 19 from 10 am until 12 noon. AI Inc has a scholarship program, looks at community work as well.

Councilwoman Wynn provided stated that she provided Interim Chief of Police DJ information on having officers assist in the garden as well.

Councilman Honore stated the LDDA would be meeting at city hall tomorrow at 5:30 pm in person.

Councilman Sheppard provided accolades to Interim Chief for his hard work and has noticed officer presence in the community.

VIII. Executive Session (Personnel)

Councilwoman Inman motioned to go into executive session for personnel, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard, and approved by a vote of 4-0 at 7:06 pm.

All council members were present in executive session with the exception of Councilwoman Howard.

City Council reconvened at 7:30 pm.

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to approve a 30-day severance pay for former Chief Nathan Pollard with the agreement that he will not file any legal litigations with the city, council, or mayor, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilman Honore motioned to increase Interim Chief DeJarnett's pay with a stipend of \$6,000, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Honore motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.