



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, May 2, 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, Darold Honore, and Amelia Inman. Vanneriah Wynn joined the call during the approval of meeting minutes. Yolanda Sheppard joined the call during executive session.

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, May 2, 2022; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 3-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. March 31, 2022, Special Called for Discussion of Municipal Court (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Special Called Meeting for Discussion of Municipal Court, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. April 4, 2022, City Council (5:30 pm)

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

V. Public Comments Response

City Administrator Sands indicated that Mr. Karl Jackson proposed a back to school, book bag giveaway for August 13 3-6pm, asking to use more of the parking lot space, which was not approved and therefore action needed, also asking that Mayor and Council attend. Mayor Reynolds indicated that council would discuss during the work session meeting.

VI. Presentations

a. Proclamation Reading: National Police Week

City Clerk Blount provided the proclamation reading for National Police Week

VII. Action Item

a. Park Management

City Administrator Sands stated the draft contract was received with some areas requiring definition and action, such as the fee schedule and action, hard end time at 9:00 pm, if alcohol sales will be permitted, all fees paid at the city, if council will pre-approve all events.

Councilwoman Howard and Councilwoman Inman agree. Councilman Honore feels the park should be rented at 4-hour increments.

Councilman Honore motioned for discussion that the park rental fee per field is \$750.00 for 4-hour increments and park hours are sunup to sundown, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman.

Park Manager Annette Radford joined the discussion and stated there should be an hourly setup fee which normally takes 2-4 hours (staging, lights, sound, porta potty's fencing), and events are generally 8 hours.

Councilwoman Howard suggested \$200 per hour on setup and event production to keep it consistent.

Councilman Honore motioned the fee for each park is \$200 per hour, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. Purchasing Policy

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the purchasing policy with the addition in language if any purchasing over \$3,000 that City Administrator Sands will send out an email, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

c. Storm Water Fee

Councilman Honore motioned to increase the storm water fee to \$10.00 ERU, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to increase storm water salaries to 40 %, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

d. Lithonia Community Day, July 23, 2022

Councilwoman Inman motioned to table the action item for Lithonia Community Day, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

VIII. New Business

a. Zoning

Councilwoman Howard has a concern about rezoning hearings that have taken place, and nothing happens once the rezoning is approved, suggesting that after 6 months the property returns to its former zoning, and the applicant returns to request permission again. Asking this item returns to the agenda as an action item.

Councilman Honore agrees. Mayor Reynolds recommended that City Administrator Sands reach out to the attorney and zoning.

b. Public Hearings

Councilwoman Howard would like to revisit if public hearings should be scheduled earlier on the same day as a regular council meeting. Mayor Reynolds recalled that council agreed to schedule the meetings separately to avoid a long day. Council agreed to leave it as is.

c. Juneteenth Celebration

Mayor Reynolds stated that is there anything in the budget to contribute, \$2,400 remained for the fund, community events budget has been exhausted for this calendar year. The city is unable to participate with any funding, council agreed. Mayor Reynolds is asking that an event application is completed and presented before council.

IX. Old Business

a. Old City Hall Building

Public Works Director Monson indicated there are no new updates on repairs for the building.

b. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Public Works Director Monson indicated, waiting on Hari to provide the plans.

c. Boy Scouts Hut

Mayor Reynolds indicated documents were provided in the packet and that Mr. Reynolds is requesting 1/2 of reimbursement on repairs. Councilwoman Howard recalled that Mr. Reynolds stated he was not asking for reimbursement and that Commissioner Mereda Davis indicated a non-profit that would reimburse. Mayor Reynolds indicated there would be discussion at another meeting.

d. Council Salaries

Councilwoman Howard indicated an amount needs to be discussed to move forward. Councilman Honore motioned to proceed with the inquiry of Councilmembers raises at the next work session meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

X. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

Phone upgrades took place last week with, porting will take place on May 11, temporary number provided in the meantime. Installation of lobby signage will be on Wednesday. July 14th is the defensive driving course. In appreciation of the businesses who participated in cities week would like to propose that the names of the businesses who participated are posted on the digital signage. Met with Dekalb County Tax Commissioner on the milage rate and 5-year history, first ad out by June 2. City Accountant Keshaa's dates of availability were provided to schedule the budget meetings to meet the July 1 deadline. June 3 Budget Meeting (12-2pm), June 9 Milage Rate (2 hearings, 11am-12pm), June 10 Budget Meeting (12-2pm).

b. Police Department Report

Interim Chief of Police DJ stated that door hangers for code enforcement will be received shortly. There will be one reserve each weekend (2 in rotation) to shadow train with Officer Roseberry. Councilwoman Howard asked in Officer Roseberry was able to obtain the tickets (DJ-the same company that Dekalb uses will print the tickets).

c. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds thanked all citizens who came out on Saturday and to all business who gave, grateful for the unity with businesses, staff, community, special thank you to Interim Chief DeJarnette. Dekalb is still in meetings with legal on the proposal of the Amphitheater. In preparation mural is underway at the Bruce street basketball court. Mayor Reynolds asked if other councilmembers will be involved with the Senior fashion show, Councilwoman Howard will be there.

Councilwoman Howard for clarity regarding the park manager, it is her understanding the park manager would inform council of the event schedule, no approval would be needed. Thanked all businesses who participated in Cities Week.

Councilman Honore stated the bingo games went very well, would like to schedule them once/month.

Councilwoman Inman stated the Cities Week event turned out really good, reminder of the Roundtable Discussion on May 19.

Councilwoman Wynn had an opportunity to speak with quite a few people who attended cities week and the feedback was very positive.

VIII. Executive Session (PERSONNEL)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:44 pm, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Mayor and all Council were present, including City Administrator Sands. Executive Session ended at 9:01 pm.

Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 9:03 pm.

Mayor Reynolds stated that no action will be taken at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheppard; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.