



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, May 16, 2022 @ 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, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Yolanda Sheppard. Darold Honore joined during approval of the agenda.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the agenda for the City Council Work Session agenda for Monday May 16, 2022, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Howard requested discussion regarding trucks, Mayor Reynolds indicated that Chief DJ would provide the information on his report. Councilwoman Inman requested an addition for discussion under New Business, letter d. GIC application.

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

Mrs. Alene Harper thanked the city for removal of the orange barrels. Observed speeding on Bruce street by regular drivers and police officers, the speed limit is 25 mph. The walkways and sidewalks are consistently blocked by cars and is not good for seniors. Property on Braswell street is not lived in, grass has taken over, house falling in, has reported in past, something needs to be done with the property.

**V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)**

**a. Proclamation Reading: National Public Works Week**

City Clerk Robinette Blount provided a reading of the proclamation.

**VI. Action Item**

**a. FY22 Budget Amendments**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the FY22 Budget Amendments, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**b. Stormwater Utility Fee Resolution**

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Stormwater Utility Fee Resolution, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**VII. New Business**

**a. 2022 LMIG RFP 2022-FB-001**

Mr. Monson provided 3 RFP quotes in the packet for paving in the city, vote to take place next meeting, suggesting Allstar Innovations who paved Rock Chapel Road and did a good job.

**b. Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Rate (Bill Johnston-Zoning)**

Zoning Administrator Bill Johnston provided the introductory phase of the short-term rental (Air-B&B), working together with the City Administrator and the City Attorney to produce 2 draft ordinances to be finalized and adopted. Air B&B taxation is collected separately from the operators, regulations state there are 3 levels of charges that can be accessed, collected and

monitored by vacation rental companies, monitoring of the fees is a complicated task. Asking that council consider what type of fee to propose, lot of decisions to be made for these types of rentals. Council had no questions or concerns at this time.

**c. Park Bookings**

Councilman Honore indicated for discussion the Park Manager has booked an event on May 29 on the same day as the Amphitheater event, the Amphitheater Manager was notified recently and told that she would need to work out logistics (traffic/parking lot coverage/police coverage). Suggesting to cancel the park event as these are 2 large events and not feasible. Mayor Reynolds asked City Clerk Blount to provide history on the event; Colorgasm has been held for 4-5 years in the back of the park, on November 29, 2021, the event holder requested the dates for the event, which prompted a save the date document for tracking purposes, received event dates for the Amphitheater on March 16, and subsequent dates for Lithonia Park since November 2021.

Councilwoman Howard for clarity asked if Colorgasm was approved, understanding that Ms. Radford would present the events, answer any questions, then obtain approval from Council. Mayor Reynolds perceived the same, that Ms. Radford will book the events and run them past us, did not know about Colorgasm at the time. Councilwoman Howard asked what is the capacity of the park, can the park take both events at the same time, if anything is going on with the Amphitheater can you have 2 events going at the same time. Councilwoman Inman unsure on how to fix this, based on the times of the events there will be an overlap. Mayor Reynolds indicated there have never been any issues with the Colorgasm event, suggesting everyone enter to the left of the park, parking can be accommodated, Council agreed, however exiting the park could be an issue. Councilwoman Wynn expressed concern the residents will incur this activity all day, hours should be shortened. Mayor Reynolds requested an emergency Special Called Meeting to include Ms. Miller and Ms. Radford, Chief of Police, and LDDA, everyone agreed to meet on Wednesday May 18 at 5:30 pm to resolve.

**d. GIC Application**

Councilwoman Inman indicated an informational webinar for the upcoming application deadline is this Friday from 10-11am, would like for housing authority board members to attend, Mayor Reynolds will provide the names. If anyone on the call is interested encouraged to provide their contact information in the chat.

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Old City Hall Building**

Mr. Monson stated the leak on the roof has been repaired. Councilwoman Wynn is encouraging other Councilmembers to tour the building. Councilwoman Inman made a suggestion to hire a contractor to provide open possibilities of use for the building for renting it out. Mayor Reynolds asked Mr. Monson to reach out to a few contractors.

**b. Masonic Lodge Repairs**

Mr. Monson indicated there are no updates on the Masonic Lodge. Councilwoman Howard indicated a hold should be placed until additional funds are allocated for the repairs, remainder of the project.

**IX. Other Business**

**a. City Administrator Report**

Mayor Reynolds indicated the report was provided to council prior to the meeting and to send any questions directly to City Administrator Sands.

**b. Police Department Report**

Interim Chief of Police DeJarnette provided an update on incidents that occurred and provided council with reporting prior to the start of the meeting. Increase this past week with aggravated

assault cases, 3 involved a firearm, apprehended 2 subjects on 2 different matters. Made a sizeable bust in the city on a house that was selling narcotics and had several firearms. Still working a few investigations. A few truck traffic stops were made. Regarding the speeding on Bruce Street, will measure the hill to come up with a practical method to target the speeding. Councilwoman Howard regarding Bruce Street, not sure if she noticed there were speed limit signs, Mrs. Harper and Chief acknowledged the areas the speed limit signage is located. Chief also indicated that Code Enforcement is working on the issue with the home on Braswell Street. Councilwoman Howard also asked about a fire hydrant that is being used in the city and if water could be gathered outside of the city, Chief indicated how the fire hydrant was being used for construction work within the city. Councilman Honore agrees another location outside of the city needs to be used to obtain water, even on Parkway and not on the city streets.

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

Mayor Reynolds asked with FY22 budget coming up to revisit purchase of a new police cars, and additional officers. Chief is in the process of putting together a package for review

Councilwoman Howard agreed to address the cars and hiring of another officer. On another note, did a walk-through of the new senior center and it is beautiful. She and Councilwoman Wynn attended the grand opening at Porter Sanford Amphitheater, very good event.

Councilman Honore mentioned upcoming events at the Amphitheater.

Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the roundtable on Thursday at 5:30 pm, some of the residents and businesses would like to see a neighborhood watch program, looking to champion this project in the very near future, if you are a SME in a specific field you are encouraged to join the roundtable discussion.

Councilwoman Wynn remarked that Bruce Street Day was awesome and enjoyed herself.

Councilwoman Sheppard provided Kudo's to Mayor Reynolds for leading an initiative that included the Lithonia High School Alumni to clean the track area behind the middle school as part of Lithonia Beautiful.

**VIII. Executive Session for Personnel**

Councilwoman Sheppard motioned to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 7:21 pm, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Reynolds stated an agreement was made to get started with the Chief of Police selection for the City of Lithonia.

**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 8:06 pm.