



CITY OF LITHONIA  
**MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING**  
Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. Diane Howard joined the call later.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the City Council Work Session Agenda for May 17, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the agenda was approved by a vote of 4-0.

*Mayor Reynolds is requesting the City Administrators report is delivered after public comments.*

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

- a. ~~April 19, 2021 Zoning Public Hearing (3:00 pm)~~
- b. ~~April 22, 2021 Special Called Meeting (10:30 am)~~
- c. ~~May 03, 2021 City Council Meeting (5:30 pm)~~

Approval of all meeting minutes are now deferred to City Council Meetings as the new agenda format.

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

There were no public comments.

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

**a. Ms. Cameron Bolden – Wiz Kid Coding**

Ms. Kyla Bolden, CEO provided a screen presentation on the coding program, stem programs, range from ages 7-14 years old primarily and younger or older, providing coding and technology skills to succeed in a growing economy, preparing students for an economy that will be focused on technology. Wiz Kid works with non-profits, school boards, government agencies, park & recreation centers, and cities in over 20 countries. A wide range of programs are delivered on-line for summer camp, after school to engage students, and customized to meet specific needs. Council was unanimously eager about integrating the program into the community, and Mayor Reynolds asked for a schedule of fees for council's review.

**b. ~~Mr. Charles Anderson – Farmers Market~~**

Mr. Anderson had an emergency and could not be on the call.

**c. Mr. Jhavaun Green – Vacant Properties on Main Street**

Confirmed with council that his email was received, briefly discussed defining blight separate from vacant property where owners are not renting spaces as an unoccupied distinction, how it affects the business community, and asking that vacant properties are addressed, furthermore highlighting an example of how Chicago handled vacant properties. Councilman Honore votes moving it forward to the attorney.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Noise Ordinance No. 2021-04-15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

City Clerk Blount read the changes that were requested during the last meeting. Councilman Dodd indicated missing language that a 3<sup>rd</sup> citation issued within a 2-year period may result in a business license being revoked through the court system. Mayor Reynolds is recommending that council read the ordinance again prior to the June 7 meeting once the attorney makes all changes and be prepared to vote.

**b. City Charter Amendment Ordinance No. 2021-05-03 (Special Called Meeting Notification change from 48 hours to 24 hours) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

City Clerk Blount indicated there were no changes to the ordinance. Council had no questions or comments. The item will be on the agenda June 7, 2021.

**c. Rezone the property at 7238 Center Street, Parcel ID 16 153 02 004 from Edge to Downtown District**

Councilman Honore questioned whether anyone can request a zoning change as a third party and asked for clarification from the attorney, additionally asking that the business license is not approved until council reviews the business hours of operation. Councilwoman Howard agreed. City Clerk Blount confirmed that the applicant did receive approval from the owner and the approval was notarized as required to.

**d. Wildcat Paving Contract**

Mayor Reynolds noted the city attorney has approved the contract and the item would be on the June 7 meeting for a vote. Council expressed no questions or concerns.

**e. Quote approval for St. Paul Fire Hydrant**

Mayor Reynolds stated that St. Paul desires that the city contributes to the cost of the fire hydrant, and the cost could come out of splost funds. Council is in favor of St. Paul securing a contractor of choice and the city will contribute a percentage of the cost once a contractor is identified. Councilwoman Inman would like to see what the remaining funds are in splost and to look at other projects previously discussed.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Rezoning for Annexation**

Councilman Dodd stated that he has been in conversation with Bill Johnston, Zoning Administrator and the area needs to be rezoned before the election, there are a few areas that need to be looked at more closely. Mayor Reynolds stated that it will be on June 7 agenda for approval. Council had no questions or comment.

**b. Moratorium (Pine Mountain Road)**

Mayor Reynolds is asking for council approval to proceed with requesting a moratorium from DeKalb Commissioners, council is unanimously in agreement.

**c. Return Meetings to Council Chambers**

Mayor Reynolds indicated that City Administrator Sands reached out to IT for technical assistance that will allow for virtual public attendance when Mayor and Council return to chambers.

**d. Blight Ordinance No. 2021-05-17 – First Reading**

City Clerk Blount read the first 14 pages of the ordinance. The draft ordinance will be posted on the website for public reading. Mayor Reynolds indicated that any changes can be emailed to her or City Clerk Blount.

**e. Film Permit Fee for Lithonia Cemetery**

Mayor Reynolds stated that HBO would like to film a scene at Lithonia Cemetery to dig a grave and close it, there are no fees in place and an emergency vote is needed. City Clerk Blount provided as an example the City of Decatur's fees, and that public works would be paid \$45-50 per hour directly to dig and close the grave, with the recommendation of \$2,500 as an in-kind to maintain the cemeteries with more focus placed on the Bruce Street Cemetery.

Councilwoman Howard suggested \$1,000 for the cemetery filming and \$500 to break the ground (total of \$1,500), and \$500 each day following. Councilman Honore wanted to know if LBA would receive any funding toward filming. Councilman Dodd wanted to know what steps are taken to ensure that no grave sites are disturbed, or headstones are depicted during filming, Mayor Reynolds acknowledged that HBO will be advised to film away from existing gravestone locations.

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the permit fee for the Lithonia City Cemetery with fees attached as stated, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**f. Business Ordinance – First Reading**

Councilman Honore remarked the attorney did not include the hours of operation for business classifications. Council has decided to defer the first reading to the next work session.

**IX. Other Business**

**a. Police Department Report**

Chief Pollard does not have an in-depth report that has not been previously provided, with nothing new to report. Council had no questions or concerns.

**b. City Administrator Report**

City Administrator Sands provided her report after public comments on pending projects to include the wheelchair ramp in front of Family Dollar, Masonic Lodge, Lithonia Beautification, Splost Project(s) Update, Banners for Downtown. An update was provided on the 2020 Cares Act Funds, and American Rescue Plan. Tasks as of April 30, 2021 were provided on Stormwater. Other topics of reporting included Park Management RFP, Audit,

FY2022 budget and Mill Rate, Traffic on Main and Klondike, Truck Route, and Social Media Engagement. Councilman Dodd commented that for the sidewalk project that residents are made aware prior to engagement of the project, additionally commenting that brackets for the signs were purchased 4-5 years ago, Mayor Reynolds will task the public works department to locate them.

**c. Mayors Report**

Mayor Reynolds is seeking approval for Phase 2 of the Black Lives Matter painting project on Main Street, Doug Thompkins would like to proceed with painting theme picture images of historic people in the community within the lettering, dates for approval are the evening of June 5 to include street blockage for prep, and street blockage for painting on Sunday June 6. Council agrees. Doug Thompkins spoke and is asking for donations towards purchasing the paint. Mayor Reynolds posed a question on the Farmers Market regarding street closure on Main Street, noting with street closure the fees should be more. Councilwoman Howard asked for a report of last year's market to include vendors fees and would like to revisit having Charley Anderson provide a public presentation.

**d. Councilmember District Update**

Councilwoman Howard acknowledged that the comedy show at Premier Lounge was a great treat and she really enjoyed herself, asking that City Administrator Sands provide additional detail on the end result regarding the truck stop. Councilman Honore noted that the LDDA is moving forward with great ideas for the Historic Commission and are working on a garden club. Councilman Dodd announced the annexation zoom meeting is May 26 from 7-8 pm, working on having an event at Bruce Street Park and appointing Block Captains to get the word out. Councilwoman Inman provided a reminder of the Lithonia Roundtable on Thursday May 20 at 5:00 pm via Zoom for informal conversation with structured topics.

**X. Executive Session (NONE)**

**XI. Adjournment**

Councilman Honore motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.