



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday August 21, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting started at 5:32 pm. Mayor Reynolds was present via telephone. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard, Councilmember Honore, and Councilmember Howard were present. Councilmember Inman and Councilmember Wynn were not present at the time of roll call.

Councilmember Wynn arrived at 5:35 pm.

Councilmember Inman arrived at 5:49 pm.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to approve the agenda for August 21, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Public Comment Responses

V. Discussion Items

a. For Discussion - SPLOST II - Chief Dejarnette

Chief Dejarnette asked that this item be tabled as the City Attorney has not completed the Intergovernmental Agreement.

b. For Discussion - Masonic Lodge - Council Member Howard

Councilmember Howard asked Council to consider using the Masonic Lodge instead of the Old City Hall building for the Resource Center. Chief Dejarnette clarified that SPLOST money could possibly be used to fix up the building but the Grant money for the Resource Center could not. There was much discussion about alternative uses for the Masonic Lodge and funding that could help renovate the building.

VI. Updates and Reports

a. Police Department Update

Chief Dejarnette gave a brief overview of his attendance at the Kulture City Ball in Birmingham, Alabama. He said he was very excited about the City of Lithonia Police Department becoming certified to help people with non-visible disabilities.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Reynolds thanked Chief Dejarnette for his help and support during the last week of meetings regarding SPLOST. She stated that she learned a lot about this entire process, and she is grateful for the funding that will help the city of Lithonia.

c. Council Member Updates

Councilmember Wynn spoke about a couple properties in the City that appear to be in limbo in terms of completing renovations and getting up and running. Chief Dejarnette provided some additional information about the situation of the properties mentioned and their status. Councilmember Wynn would like the City to be more involved in the ongoing process so that the Council is aware of what is taking place when/if asked.

Councilmember Inman had no update.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard stated that she noticed several maintenance concerns in and around Lithonia Park. She stated that the city should speak with DeKalb County Mr. Billups about the upkeep and park maintenance as well as the Lithonia Park rental agreement. She then stated that the City of Lithonia could request that DeKalb County give them all of Lithonia Park. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard stated that she has reached out to the Citizens Trust Bank about the old bank building located in the city but has not gotten a return phone call. She stated that the building has several areas of concern, and the bank should be responsible for maintaining it regularly. Chief Dejarnette stated he spoke with the new area manager at Citizens' Bank about the property and they have agreed to work together on the maintenance and upkeep of that property.

Councilmember Honore stated that the Lithonia Downtown Development Authority (LDDA) is planning an appreciation dinner for the Lithonia Police Department on the 30th of this month. He mentioned a presentation given to the LDDA about container homes and that he is attempting to get him to come and present to the City Council.

Councilmember Howard spoke about the Lithonia Housing Authority sending someone to address the Kudzu weeds. She thanked Ms. Nikkii Davis for her assistance.

Councilmember Honore mentioned the number of abandoned cars on Bruce Street. Chief Dejarnette stated that he and the Director of the Housing Authority are working together to address that issue.

Councilmember Howard asked if the City's Public Works Department could keep the chemicals on hand to kill to weeds and maintain it. Chief Dejarnette stated that the city could not house commercial chemicals at this time.

VII. Executive Session (If Necessary)

(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)

Motion – made by Councilmember Inman to go into Executive Session for Personnel. Councilmember Howard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Wynn to exit Executive Session. Councilmember Inman seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to adjourn. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.


Mayor Shameka Reynolds

Attest:

City Clerk