



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday December 18, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 5:36 pm.

Mayor Reynolds and Councilmembers Wynn, Howard, and Honore were all present.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard arrived at 5:38 pm.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion – Made by Councilmember Honore to approve the December 18, 2023 agenda with the removal of letter a, “The Pickup” film. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment Responses

There were no responses given.

V. Discussion Items

a. For Discussion – “The Pickup” Film – Brooke Fields

This item was removed from the agenda.

b. For Discussion – Bria Janelle Introduction – Chief Dejarnette

Chief Dejarnette introduced Bria Janelle to City Council. Bria Janelle explained that she was from Lithonia and grew up in the city and would love to do more within the community. She mentioned several partnerships she is part of and asked for the city to partner with her on a MLK day event where there would be free haircuts and styles for young people in the community. She also mentioned the possibility of partnering with the City of Lithonia for a Gold Tournament in the summer that would benefit young girls with an interest in STEM.

c. For Discussion – Historic Preservation Grant – Chief Dejarnette

Chief Dejarnette explained the Historic Preservation Grant opportunity to City Council. He stated he would like to do more research and possibly explore if this grant would benefit the city of Lithonia.

d. For Discussion – Inaugural Ceremony and Council Swearing In – Mayor Shameka Reynolds

Mayor Reynolds announced the Inaugural Ceremony for Councilmembers Honore, Wynn, and herself would be held at City Hall on January 2, 2024. She stated that there would be light refreshments and a DJ there.

e. For Discussion – Naming of the Resource Center – Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard asked that City Council begin to brainstorm names for the Resource Center. There was some discussion about the naming possibilities. City Council agreed to vote on a name at the next meeting.

f. For Discussion – Updating Business Licensing Fees and Processes – Ashley Water, City Clerk

City Clerk, Ashley Waters, asked that Council review the business licensing fees and processed and asked for guidance on how to move forward as we enter into renewal season. She noticed that the City had been using outdated business codes and classifications and that fees were not being calculated based on the last occupational tax certificate (business license) update. She asked that City Council revisit the administrative fee and if the city would like to proceed with processing occupational tax certificates the correct way this year or hold off. There was much discussion to better understand how this has impacted the city and will impact the city going forward. Ashley Waters stated she would come back to council for a decision and vote at the next council meeting.

g. For Discussion – Updating Vendor Permits – Ashley Water, City Clerk

City Clerk, Ashley Waters, asked City Council to review the current vendor permit for the City of Lithonia and several areas of concern that often cause confusion. She stated that her goal was to clarify the total costs of a vendor permit and eliminate requests for certain information that would not be used by the city. She stated that she would return to council for a decision and a vote at the next council meeting.

h. For Discussion – 2024 Meeting Schedules and Holidays – Ashley Water, City Clerk

City Clerk, Ashley Waters, provided City Council with the list of scheduled city meetings for the 2024 year as well as the list of scheduled holidays for City Hall employees for the 2024 year. She asked that they review the dates provided and she would return at the next council meeting for a vote to approve.

VI. Updates and Reports

a. Police Department Update

Chief DeJarnette provided an update of recent significant events and gave a brief mention of the City's Health grant being approved for the 2024 year.

b. City Administrator Update

Update was given with the Police update.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Reynolds announced the City of Lithonia's Christmas Dinner would be held Wednesday December 20th at Pappadeaux Restaurant in Norcross.

d. Council Member Updates

Councilmember Howard stated she had concerns with the rezoning at 124 and Conyers Street and all the Truck parking surrounding the City of Lithonia.

Councilmembers Wynn, Honore and Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard did not have an update.

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)

VIII. Adjournment

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.



Mayor Shameka Reynolds

Attest:



City Clerk, Ashley Waters