



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 1, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:37 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 Ric Dodd. Darold Honore later joined during the presentation by YouthBuild.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the city council meeting agenda for Monday, November 1, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. October 4, 2021, City Council (5:30 pm)

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the October 4, 2021, City Council Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0.

V. Presentation

a. YouthBuild 2: Armond Wilkins and Valorie Robinson

Valerie Robinson and Armond Wilkins introduced themselves as Case Managers for the program which is a grant funded alternative education program for ages 16-24, providing free certification and job placement. Partnering with CEFGA, Goodwill Industries, and others. Skills training in construction and welding, hospitality and healthcare, supply chain logistics, and environmental services. Service areas include Atlanta, Clarkston, Scottdale, Decatur, Stone Mountain, and Lithonia. This program is free of cost to all participants. Would like to partner with the city of Lithonia. Armond: the criteria for youth participation low-income family, in foster care, offender, and/or youth with disability, or incarcerated parent, school dropout, re/enrolled student. Travis Williams, Program Administrator introduced 4 additional staff members.

Response from Council:

Councilwoman Howard asked, “what are you asking of the city and where are you housed”? Get the word out to schools, local youth centers, the grant will last for a 3-year period, the main office is housed through Dekalb County Juvenile Court and in the field.

Councilwoman Inman asked, “where would the applicants go for training”? Some of it will be virtual (70-80%) and some face to face.

Councilwoman Wynn asked, “how successful has this program been”? This is the 2nd cycle with the program, awarded Feb 2019, major success, over 16 graduates obtained GED, 20 youth obtained full time employment in various careers, statistics and data.

Councilman Dodd asked, “how big is the YouthBuild Organization and how long in service to communities”? Around for over 35 years, originated in a Harlem NYC housing project, the program can be added to the city’s website and to social media platforms. Lithonia is the first site to explore for this launch.

Councilman Honore had no questions.

Mayor Reynolds thanked YouthBuild 2 and stated the city will be in touch if any questions.

VI. Action Item

a. CDBG Scope

Hari Karikaran (Lowe’s Engineers) briefly covered the options again. 1. Proposing the Main Street; Street Scapes scope, suggesting 2 proposals changing the scope, 2. Bruce Street sidewalk, connecting the city line on Klondike (Covington Highway) between Lithonia and Stonecrest, and St. Paul Church. This is the initial scope of work and includes streetlights, sidewalk, and benches, relocation of power poles. Question for council, to ask DeKalb if they will allow for changes in the scope.

Response from Council:

Councilwoman Howard: The existing sidewalk on Bruce Street needs more emphasis placed on repair in front of city housing, concerned about the use of funds in front of the DeKalb East Precinct, starts at the new senior center, incorporating more into the initial plan for beautification such as benches, stretch the dollars further. Asked if the church has any effort in their plans to include a sidewalk. Hari: Yes, can definitely include and propose those repairs, has not reached anyone at St. Paul to find out what their plans are for a sidewalk.

Councilman Honore: Indicated that Councilwoman Howard hit most of the points. Asked about the standard sidewalk width and if there would be green space between the sidewalk and street. Hari stated the width is 5 ft., 2 ft green space based on the existing right-of-way.

Councilwoman Inman: Asked if the funds are coming from Splost or the grant? Ball park how much will the construction cost, Asking if a concrete or brick sidewalk (purely concrete) can replace grass to avoid maintenance by public works on the strip. Hari: 68K from the CDBG fund, Bruce Street sidewalk is \$103k for construction, asking DeKalb if the funds can be increased to enhance the Senior Center.

Councilwoman Wynn: No questions at this time.

Councilman Dodd: What are the old plans for the Senior Center? Hari: no response.

Council agrees that additional information is needed prior to adoption; St. Paul sidewalk plans on Klondike, sidewalk in front of city housing, would like to see what the numbers will look like for Bruce Street preferably, all concerns stated above.

b. Resolution No. 2021-11-01 to apply for First Responders Supplement Grant

Councilman Howard motioned to approve Resolution No 2021-11-01 to apply for First Responders Supplement Grant; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Ordinance for Revision of License Fees on Insurers

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the Ordinance for Revision of License Fees on Insurers; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VII. New Business

No new business

VIII. Old Business

a. Masonic Lodge funding for repairs

Public Works Director Quinton Monson: Asking if council prefers the 3 or 4 ton unit, each side of the building will have its own unit, 3 quotes (Stone, Vickers, Omega). Will revisit Vickers quote, share new quote with council, on the agenda again.

Response from Council:

Councilwoman Inman 4 ton on both sides

Councilman Dodd: Would high voltage wiring be an added or included cost. Mr. Monson will double check on this.

Councilman Honore: Will these units be located on ground or roof? Mr. Monson replied upstairs on roof, downstairs on side of the building and will they include cages around them.

Councilwoman Howard: Preference to obtain units for entire building.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Sands: Update Facebook traffic 1464, 154, post engagement (social media) city flag logo order will be placed tomorrow. Dealing with network issues going on 2 weeks now with Comcast, Mitel, and IT and the issue has not been quite isolated.

Response from Council:

Councilwoman Inman: Curious about what the network issue is, as a resident AT&T has fiber optics and she has incurred no issues, can we look into AT&T.

Councilwoman Howard: Website identification concern when googling Lithonia City, Ms. Sands is working on looking into this.

b. Police Department Report

Chief Pollard: reports will be available tomorrow morning. Thanked the community for participating in trunk or treat, few issues with confiscating weapons.

Council had no questions or concerns.

c. Mayors Report, Annexation Update, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds publicly thanked everyone for their support during the annexation town halls, tomorrow is election day, wishing everyone on the ballot good luck, looking forward to continuing the journey of doing all that we're doing. Great time during trunk or treat, thanks for your participation.

Annexation Update: Councilman Dodd, last town hall went really well, anticipating a good turn out with the election.

Councilwoman Inman expressed a public thank you to family and community for all the help, love, and support. AI Inc. raised all the funds, thanks for attending the event. Trunk or treat was amazing. Reminder of the Roundtable Discussion, on Nov 18 at 5:30 pm. Remember to vote tomorrow from 7a-7p.

Councilwoman Wynn expressed good luck and best wishes to all candidates and thanked Mayor Reynolds for all the hard work that she does!

Councilman Dodd received a few calls regarding campaign signs on Main Street on the right of way. Councilwoman Howard stated that she is exempt as a city officer according to the ordinance. Mayor Reynolds suggested having a special meeting on the matter.

Councilman Honore enjoyed trunk or treat, would love to have more events for the children, good luck to everyone with tomorrow's election.

Councilwoman Howard really enjoyed trunk or treat, thanked all of her support group during the campaign and well wishes to everyone, extended an invitation for everyone to join her to celebrate watch night at Premiere Restaurant and Lounge starting at 6pm.

Councilman Dodd: “No one really realizes the amount of effort during annexation, enjoyed working alongside you Mayor during annexation, thank you to the citizens of the city for the 12 years of trust that you’ve put into me and all supporters, and to wish all the candidates’ good luck”.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.