



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 15, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council 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: Diane Howard, Amelia Inman, and Ric Dodd. Vanneriah Wynn later joined during presentations. Darold Honore was absent. Bill Johnston Zoning Administrator was on the call.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the Work Session meeting agenda for Monday, November 15, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0.

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

Business Owner(s)

Maxine Young – On behalf of herself and her business regarding a letter that was sent out regarding her event space, noise coming from her clients' guests, that is false information, there were cars in the neighborhood and not her clients who gave a sweet 16 party, recording studio is where the noise came from, she informed Mr. Honore, Magnolia/Johnston Street has a shop where cars are being repaired in the yard. Not fair to judge her and making the accusation that she is running a dance hall; the area is zoned for entertainment.

Annette Radford – Owner of Luxor Lounge regarding the proposed mandate for entertainment businesses to close at 12 am, her business is designed for late night entertainment, would be a financial decrement for her business, city issued a license 7-years ago and she has always stayed open past 12 am.

Resident(s) M1 M2 Concerns

Genetha Woods – Tax amendment for M1& M2, why is it necessary, asking council not to allow.

Robert Scott – This zoning restructure is new and needs to look at the pros and cons, defer and suggesting council ask the community for more involvement.

Ozelyer Jackson – Same concern as Genetha Woods, asking to defer.

Tonya Kilgore – Consider deferment, Pine Street issues.

Revella Kilgore Moses – Asking that council defer.

James Fluellen – City of Lithonia is landlocked, single-family dwellings better option, asking for deferment.

Joyce McKibbin – On behalf of Patrilla Arrington regarding M1 and M2 DeKalb County ordinance to defer the adoption of the M1 and M2 zoning districts at this time, review the current bill to look at pros and cons, asking that citizens are appointed to the planning commission to become a part of the process.

Leo Morton – Trucks in his backdoor.

Mrs. Aileen Harper – In agreement with others to defer.

V. Presentation

a. Pastor Michael Minter, Morning Star Givers

Fed over 150 families at Exousia Church this past weekend. Second Chance Initiative Program helps individuals who are seeking employment, looking for a building in the city to operate as a

nonprofit for training and office space.

Response from Council: Councilwoman Howard, no questions. Councilwoman Inman, no comments. Councilman Dodd asked if any buildings were identified, response, no-seeking your help to provide options. Mayor Reynolds will be in touch.

b. Mr. Larry Long, Peace Gardens

Provided presentation (provided narrative to council). Interested in providing Peace Gardens throughout the city.

Response from Council: Councilwoman Howard, no questions. Councilwoman Inman, no comments. Councilwoman Wynn, no questions. Councilman Dodd, Asked if any arrangements have been made with the Farmer's Market for a community garden, how many acres are needed. Response: garden size is determined by availability, to start 4-5 rows.

c. Ms. Da'Maara Davidson, Lithonia High School

Da'Maara introduced herself as the Cadet Commanding Chief for Lithonia High School's ROTC program, offering volunteer services for community service hours from the ROTC Program, Football Team, and Mean of Distinction. Additionally, a powerpoint presentation entitled "Fun Day Pitch" was shared as a fund-raiser event idea for families to include activities for children and snack sales, further planning of the event has been delayed due to covid.

Response from Council: Councilwoman Howard asked Da'Maara what she needs from the city to bring Fun Day forward. Da'Maara reiterated that for now she'd like to extend any volunteer opportunities. Councilwoman Inman expressed a thank you for presenting, mentioned the quarterly clean-up, upcoming turkey drive, and other opportunities in the city. Councilwoman Wynn excellent job and look forward to working with you. Councilman Dodd thank you for the presentation, would like to see involvement during Cities Week.

VI. Action Item

a. Ordinance 2021-11-01 M1 & M2 Zoning Districts

Bill Johnston Zoning Administrator stated that the list was edited and provided to council for further edits, for the parcels being annexed in and could be revisited should the city decide future annexation.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to defer the M1 and M2 Zoning Districts, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 3-0.

VII. New Business

No new business

VIII. Old Business

a. Police Officer Job Description Draft

City Administrator Sands indicated that both job descriptions have been updated and will be placed on the December City Council agenda.

b. Code Enforcement Job Description Draft

Councilwoman Inman asked if its possible to place parameters on taking home the car. Major DeJarnett replied if an officer lives within 30 miles of the county line with the other DeKalb jurisdictions. Councilwoman Wynn asked when officers are working another job are they wearing Lithonia Police Department uniform. Major DeJarnett replied yes, police officers are required by the state to wear their departmental patches, an officer can act whether off or on duty and the city

would not incur liability if working at an off-site location. Councilman Dodd had no questions.

c. Police Fleet Vehicle

Major DeJarnett received a few quotes, there is a shortage on police vehicles due to covid. Councilmembers had no questions.

d. Acceptance of Motorcycle from County and Insurance

Major DeJarnett stated the titles have been transferred and await signature from Chief, the insurance cost is \$755.00 per year, per bike, one officer has volunteered to assist with the insurance payment. The bikes have been used for a number of funerals thus far and a few community events. Revenue could be generated when the motorcycles are in use, 2 of the bikes were donated by CEO Thurman. Certification is a requirement to drive the motorcycles.

e. Purchasing Policy

City Administrator Sands stated the purchasing policy was provided during the October Work Session and asked if council had an opportunity to review, asking for volunteers to review. Councilwoman Inman and Councilwoman Howard volunteered.

f. Tax Occupational Certificate

City Clerk Blount stated that a few councilmembers expressed a need to make a few changes on the application, Lathaydra provided council with a suggested fee class schedule from City of Decatur based on the same structure as City of Lithonia, additionally indicating that a Public Hearing must take place in order to make changes. Asking that council discuss any proposed amendments. Councilwoman Howard would like to see fees from another city with a similar population. Councilwoman Inman feels that a 5% increase would be reasonable and fair for 2023. City Attorney Alecia Thompson stated that any amendments relating to the tax occupational certificate require a change to the ordinance through a public hearing prior to adoption. Councilwoman Wynn and Councilman Dodd had no questions.

g. Masonic Lodge Repairs

Public Works Director Monson stated the power was turned on today with completion of installing the meter tomorrow. Provided quotes on the AC Unit, asking council if he should move forward, recommending Omega Heating and Air who provided more detail for scope of work.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve Omega Heating and Air in the amount of \$25,832.00, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IX. Other Business

a. City Administrator Report

Covid digital sign will be installed tomorrow, mental health wellness class reminder on 11/19 at 10am, city flag has been ordered, working on 2 additional quotes for entrance signs, in conversation with Attorney Danielle moving forward on annexation looking at trying the 100% method and asked that Councilman Dodd to assist with the initiative, Councilman Dodd accepted. Councilwoman Howard would like to have 2 additional council members participate with the annexation initiative. Councilwoman Inman expressed an interest to participate as well.

b. Police Department Report

Major DeJarnett provided stats; safety check conducted at 2 major points in the city, it was very productive for the city, assisting several motorists in properly restraining children, conducted investigations on certain cars coming through and tested out the flock system, which was very helpful, looking to do this once per month. Looking to initiative a safety seat belt program at city hall. Confiscated 5-8 weapons off the streets that were involved in crimes, narcotics taken off the

streets, domestic situation occurred with a traveler from NYC who was located, addressed a few complaints in community curtailing the problem.

Councilwoman Inman asked about Code Enforcement Officer Roseberry, response still in place. Councilwoman Howard, and Councilwoman Wynn had no questions. Councilman Dodd expressed congratulations to Chief Pollard, kudos to the department and Code Enforcement.

c. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds expressed concern regarding tax occupation fee increase on behalf of business owners who want to know what the city will offer with the increase. There will be a free turkey give away at Tri Cities Funeral Home on Saturday from 10am-2pm, sponsored by NFL Player Andrew Thomas, and city partners PowerHouse and Give Moore Foundation. Asked that council attend Self-Care Friday at 10am. Senator Max Cleland passed away with a private visitation on Sunday, a proclamation was presented, flag lowered today for his burial at the Georgia National Cemetery. Progress going, grateful for all the public comments and attendance for tonight's meeting. Christmas Tree Lighting date was established for Sunday November 28, Councilwoman Inman introduced the inclusion of a new element to include a movie viewing depending on the weather, and a tent covering. Bring your own blanket and chair.

Councilman Dodd, Str8 N-Natural needs 2-3 very large boxes to decorate for the toy drive, additionally having a turkey raffle to purchase toys and tickets are \$5.00. Mayor Reynolds will have Mr. Monson check with Walmart on the boxes.

Councilwoman Inman Lithonia Roundtable reminder on Thursday at 5:30 pm, publicly thanked everyone for coming out to vote and for being engaged.

Councilwoman Wynn attended the Bruce Street event and expressed having a good time.

Councilwoman Howard stated the Historic Bruce Street community engagement event was exciting and very informative, looking forward to more sessions with Arabia Mountain.

VIII. Executive Session (NONE)

IX. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.