



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2021 @ 5:30 PM**

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

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 joined the call during the approval of the agenda.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the council meeting agenda for Tuesday, September 7, 2021; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a. July 19, 2021, Work Session Meeting (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the July 19, 2021, Work Session meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**b. July 26, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the July 26, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**c. July 29, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters and Litigation (12:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the July 29, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters and Litigation meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**d. August 2, 2021, City Council Meeting (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the August 2, 2021, City Council meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**e. August 3, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters (2:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the August 3, 2021, Special Called Personnel Matters meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**f. August 16, 2021, Work Session Meeting (5:30 pm)**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the August 16, 2021, Work Session meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**g. August 18, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing Special Exception Use that would allow a pawnshop at 2618 Max Cleland Blvd., Suite C (3:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the August 18, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing Special Exception Use meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**h. August 26, 2021, Special Called 20<sup>th</sup> Century Filming and Business License Renewals and Fees (5:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the August 26, 2021, Special Called 20<sup>th</sup> Century Filming and Business License Renewals and Fees meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**i. September 1, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing for Text Amendments to the City of Lithonia Zoning Ordinance (3:00 pm)**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the September 1, 2021, Zoning Public Hearing for Text Amendments to the City of Lithonia Zoning Ordinance meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilwoman Inman and Councilman Dodd abstained as they were not present during the public hearing.

**V. Public Comments Response**

City Administrator Sands stated there were no public comments made during the August 16, 2021, meeting.

**VI. Presentation**

**a. MJ Smith: Atlanta Cigar Experience Event**

Proposing an annual event date for a festival called the Atlanta Cigar Experience that takes place annually across the metro area, this year 9/20-9/26. Requesting to host his event on Tuesday September 21 from 6:00 pm until midnight. Selected the City of Lithonia as an honorary sponsor to highlight Lithonia, the event will be set up similar to the Cinco de Mayo event, staged outside, block off the area until 11-11:30 pm, resume in the cigar lounge, outdoor vendors, music with a DJ, a mobile cigar lounge, 200 people expected in attendance, will provide a flyer. Council unanimously in favor.

**b. Jonathan Bartlett, Economic Development Director: Freight Cluster Study**

Jonathan Bartlett and George Turner, Mayor Pro Temp, City of Stonecrest were present on the call. Asking for support in their pursuit of a grant (initiated May 2021) through ARC as part of its transportation program to secure federal/state funding up to \$250 thousand to include the City of Lithonia and some unincorporated areas on the application. Asking for a letter of support to participate as a stakeholder for transportation studies for proposed projects and improvements for safety in the industrial and residential areas. Studies would include a review of existing traffic conditions, visual assessment of different intersections, land use review of any conflicts between residential and industrial areas. Thereafter, an extensive engagement process with stakeholders, to include govt, private, have been working with Piedmont Tech, concluding with a list of project improvements, and identifying ways to get the projects implemented. Council unanimously in favor of the study.

**VII. Action Item**

**a. FY2022 Budget Approval**

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the FY2022 Budget; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Howard are opposed.

Councilwoman Inman is asking for a brief discussion regarding Robinette Blount's concern about the \$.34 cent raise, and what does council think about raising Robin to \$1.00, look at the budget one more time. Councilman Honore asked if the payroll for the police department had been finalized, and to look at it one more time. Councilman Dodd feels that all city employees should receive a pay raise across the board, look at it one more time, approve the budget and amend after the approval as the new fiscal year has already started. Councilwoman Howard feels that pay raises should be reviewed according to performance which did not include Robinette Blount. Mayor Reynolds requesting another budget meeting to include the city accountant and defer approval.

**b. Resolution for Wildcat Paving Contract**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Wildcat Paving Contract Resolution; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**c. Lithonia Police Department Motorcycle Lease**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to approve the motorcycle lease; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**d. MJ Smith: Atlanta Cigar Experience**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Atlanta Cigar Experience event; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

~~VI. New Business~~

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Revised Contract for 3 Police Cars**

Councilman Honore and Councilwoman Howard are unclear on the invoice for each car, and if 3 bids were obtained, City Administrator Sands indicated that there were a total of 5 bids submitted. Mayor Reynolds has decided not to sign without first consulting with the attorney. All agree to have one more meeting to look at the numbers and figure it out.

**IX. Other Business**

**a. City Administrator Report**

Lathaydra Sands: Census data from DMA is in, City of Lithonia's current population is 2,662. Truck Route: city may not be able to bypass trucks completely except for deliveries within the city limits as per Bill Johnston. Met with Fast Signs last week regarding business directories and point directions throughout the downtown area, awaiting a quote. Social media engaged 96 people, page views 4,147. Requesting to know which council members would like to meet with the judge, court clerk, and solicitor to discuss court procedures. Councilwoman Howard, Councilwoman Inman, Councilman Honore, and Councilwoman Wynn would like to attend.

**b. Police Department Report**

Chief Pollard: October 10 has been approved for the Faith In Blue weekend to hold a gospel concert from 3-5 pm requesting churches to provide a hymn selection at the Amphitheatre. On stand-by for trunk or treat pending covid. Code enforcement has started her rounds. Councilwoman Inman is asking for the code enforcement schedule and requesting a running list of updates. Chief Pollard indicated that the schedule would be made available off-line.

**c. Mayors Report, Annexation Update, Councilmember District Update**

Mayor Reynolds asked that everyone exercise caution with covid procedures.

Annexation Update: Councilman Dodd had no updates to share, however Mayor Reynolds indicated there would be a city hall operational meeting on annexation.

Councilwoman Inman announced a new LBA President, Urandu Brown. Encouraging everyone to be on the Roundtable call which promotes collaboration and manifesting good things in the community, reminder of the next meeting on September 16 with time change 5:30-6:30 pm, would be good to have council present. Carlene Anderson came up with an idea to look into a community garden, finding resources and grants.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that a few people would like to speak with Councilman Dodd personally and acknowledged a thank you for the hand sanitizer the city recently provided to extended professional members of the community.

Councilman Dodd stated that STR8-N-Natural is requesting to be on the Work Session agenda to present working with the city on her 14<sup>th</sup> annual toy drive.

Councilman Honore had no updates.

Councilwoman Howard met the new code enforcement officer Ms. Roseberry and acknowledged sentiment that she will do a good job for the city.

**VIII. Executive Session (NONE)**

**IX. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Howard 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 7:03 pm.