



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES—WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, September 20, 2021 @ 5:30 PM**

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

The Work Session 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, Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the agenda for the September 20, 2021, Work Session meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

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

Pastor Michael Minter, Co-Pastor at Exousia Light House, and founder of Morning Star Givers an outreach and evangelism organization; addiction program called Live Again will begin meeting in October every third Thursday of the month at 6pm, will ensure that the city gets more information to circulate the information, developed a program for first time offenders to learn trades such as electrical, plumbing, and welding, looking for a building or resource that is not being utilized to start a welding program to give people a second chance under the second chance initiative program, a mentorship type program leading people to include veterans in the right direction to receive good pay, would like to connect with the chief of police and probation officer, and the judge if possible. Web site is [www.morningstargivers.com](http://www.morningstargivers.com). Additionally participating in feed the homeless to include the prison system, seeking a partnership with the City of Lithonia. Councilman Honore expressed agreement and in favor. Councilwoman Inman expressed agreement and in favor, hopes council can be involved in future discussion on a location in the city to host mentorship programs. Councilwoman Wynn expressed agreement and favor and would like Pastor Minter to meet with Mr. Cooper. Councilman Dodd expressed an acknowledgement of thank you, would like Pastor Minter to provide a presentation at the next work session meeting, and obtain additional facts, Mayor Reynolds agreed.

**V. Presentation (Limit 3-minutes per person)**

**a. David Allen: MGM Till Productions filming**

Emmett Till movie, set in 1955, tells the story of Emmett and the journey that his mother took which impacted the civil rights movement, filming on Tuesday October 5, a few days of prep, and 1-2 days of strike, using a few support locations; Occasions on Main, Lithonia Park, interior and exterior scenes at the Women's Club. Councilman Dodd asked about street closure, Wiggins Street to Bond Street, talked to everyone on the block, asked about reaching out to the businesses on Hollingsworth near the base camp to contact those businesses.

**b. Mrs. Carlene Anderson: Historic Preservation Committee**

Provided an update on behalf of members Dawn Massey, Lindsey Brown, and herself. HPC meets monthly every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, current focus finalizing a draft on a certificate of appropriateness and defining design standards for the residential and commercial historic areas to ensure compliance. Performing research on other cities such as Monroe, Norcross, Decatur that are comparable to educate the Lithonia community from a cultural aspect, looking at practical ways such as a welcome center/museum for having information on display. An invitation will be extended to the public (public notice) once the certificate of appropriateness is fully prepared to allow for further discussion.

- c. **Ms. Christine Cooley-Str8N Natural: 2021 Toy Drive**  
Councilman Ric Dodd spoke on Christine's behalf as she was experiencing technical difficulty. Would like to partner with the City of Lithonia
- d. **Mr. Jarvis Broughton: Black Oak Commercial**  
Jarvis is the Founder and Managing Principle of Black Oak Commercial, a commercial real estate brokerage firm specializing in investment sales, landlord representative, and pre-development services. He and The Montalto Group (Joe and Dennis), a development company with offices in Massachusetts, South Carolina, New York, and Florida, have partnered on a neighborhood project called Westwood21 on the West End. This project could be advantageous to more than one submarket, such as the City of Lithonia. Touching on 4 capabilities; renewable energy project to build a solar farm using any unused land for sublease of property, residual income per megawatt, possible job creation to bring in end-users for a data center, and housing/infrastructure. Open to a follow up Zoom Meeting for a one-on-one presentation specifically with Council. Mayor Reynolds and Council agree.

## **VI. Action Item**

### **a. MGM Till Productions Filming**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the MGM Till Productions Filming, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **b. Budget Amendment**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the budget with the salary increase and the purchase of one vehicle, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, for discussion.

Lathaydra stated the City Accountant needs to know how to handle the salary and vehicle allocation to the budget. Councilman Dodd witnessed one of the police cars entering the city hall parking lot over the weekend, it was smoking and had recently been serviced. Chief Pollard indicated the vehicle purchase would come out of SPLOST. Councilman Honore recognized that the motion is to move forward on the bidding process to obtain a police vehicle (3 bids).

Councilwoman Inman motioned to amend the City of Lithonia budget to include and purchase one police vehicle out of SPLOST funds, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **e. One Police Vehicle**

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Lowe's Engineering – Sidewalk Assessment**

City Administrator Sands stated the information shared in today's packets is for informational purposes and a presentation would be provided during the October Work Session Meeting.

### **b. Law Enforcement Training Grant Award**

Chief Pollard stated there was a misunderstanding between the City Accountant, City Administrator and himself regarding the reimbursement clause, and a voided check was provided by the City Administrator. Councilman Honore expressed concern that council did not vote to approve obtaining the software, and the purchase order was not approved. City Administrator Sands stated a voided check was provided with the assumption that funds would be received into the city's bank account. Councilwoman Inman asked if the equipment is returned, what standing would the city be in. City Administrator Sands will check with the attorney for review. Mayor Reynolds suggested to table for the October City Council Meeting.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **a. Lithonia Possession Ordinance No. 2021-07-19**

City Administrator Sands stated that at the suggestion of Judge Tunde the recommendation is one set fine, currently at \$300 if under 1 ounce, per ticket. Councilwoman Howard recalled \$75 per ticket.

Councilman Honore motioned to amend the Lithonia Possession Ordinance No. 2021-07-19 to a flat fine of \$75, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **b. Business License Fees and Compliance**

Councilman Honore would like to continue the discussion of the fee tier schedule and the alcohol licensing process. Councilwoman Inman recalled updating the rental fees for filming. Councilwoman Howard recalled looking at businesses that are not in compliance before the new year, and an increase in business licenses. Mayor Reynolds stated that council should be mindful of what the city can offer businesses with the increase. Councilman Honore suggested setting up a committee and scheduling a meeting.

## **VIII. Other Business**

### **a. City Administrator Report**

The proposed purchasing policy will be ready for review during the October 18 Work Session Meeting. Working with Harry/Lowe's Engineering on a solution for the billboard in the Family Dollar parking lot. A walk-thru was performed with Harry/Lowe's to develop a scope of work for the CDBG street scapes project. Plans in place to contact Marta to request shelter coverings for bus stops. Received drawings and designs, obtained 2 additional quotes for the signs to be presented during the October 18 Work Session Meeting. Annexation: Bill Johnston stated the census tract may change.

### **b. Police Department Report**

Chief Pollard stated the Faith and Blue gospel concert at the Amphitheatre will be on Sunday from 3-5 pm.

### **c. Annexation Update**

Councilman Dodd stated the next town hall is scheduled for September 22 from 7-8pm.

### **d. Mayors Report, Councilmember District Update**

**Mayor Reynolds** expressed sentiment, asking that all citizens continue to be mindful of the pandemic. **Councilman Dodd** on behalf of Str8N-Natural asked if the city would like to partner with her on the toy drive, she'd like to reach out to as many children as she can, all council members are in favor to partner with Str8N-Natural on the Toys for Tots campaign.

**Councilwoman Inman** expressed a thank you to everyone for attending the Lithonia Roundtable each month, and thanked Mrs. Sands and Mrs. Blount for helping the city to run smoothly, reminder of the next Roundtable on Thursday October 21 at the new time, 5:30 pm. Upcoming Fundraiser and first annual Halloween Party on October 28—details forthcoming. **Councilwoman Howard** would like the city to sponsor a bingo event for cities week.

## **VI. 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 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.