



**CITY OF LITHONIA  
MINUTES– WORK SESSION MEETING  
Monday, May 15, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

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

The meeting began at 5:36 pm. Roll call was done by Mayor Shemeka Reynolds. Councilmembers Amelia Inman, Darold Honoré, Vanerriah Wynn and Diane Howard were all present. Councilmembers Yolanda Sheppard was absent at the time of roll call but arrived at 5:49 pm.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Reynolds stated that the Lithonia High School Alumni event should be added to the agenda as item d on behalf of Councilmember Sheppard.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Honoré to approve the May 15, 2023 Work Session agenda with the addition of the Lithonia High School alumni event. Councilmember Inman seconded.

The motion passed 4-0.

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

Approval of the March 1, 2023 council meeting minutes were tabled until the June 5, 2023 Council meeting.

**V. Discussion Items**

**a. Community Involvement for Signage**

Councilmember Sheppard stated that she would like to get together with the council for a beautification event and that it would be a great opportunity for community engagement as well. She would like to plant flowers around the new city signage on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Inman suggested the use of rubber mulch to avoid blocking the signage. Councilmember Howard agreed and added that the mulch would be low maintenance. Council recommended adding the event to the LED sign on main street and posting in the Champion newspaper to ensure that the community is aware. Chief Dejarnette stated that he would ask public works to prepare the supplies and prep the areas around the signage ahead of the event. City Clerk, Ashley Waters, will ensure that the event is advertised in the manner that Council suggested.

**b. Resource Center**

Councilmember Sheppard asked that this item be tabled until the June 5, 2023, Council meeting.

**c. Blight Ordinance**

There was much discussion about the Blight Ordinance and changes that should be included. There were concerns about the current ordinance and the lack of the inclusion of a fee structure, concerns that the city could be more restrictive in terms of public health and wishing the city had more control. Councilmember Inman expressed concerns over language and uncertainty about who the “public authority” is defined to be in the city. Councilmembers Howard and Sheppard suggested that the Council look at DeKalb County’s ordinance and tailor it to fit the needs of the city of Lithonia. Councilmember Inman suggested that a fee structure be included that explains vacant properties would be charged after a certain number of days if not in compliance with the ordinance. There was some discussion about what version of the ordinance is current and which version of the ordinance was in front of the council currently. The city clerk agreed to reach out to the City Attorney’s office and request the latest version of the ordinance as well as their attendance at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Work Session meeting to further discuss changes.

**d. Lithonia High School Alumni Event**

Councilmember Sheppard requested the use of the Lithonia Park for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Lithonia High School Alumni Event. She stated that she is only requesting the use of the top portion of the park that day and that they will be using Lithonia police as security. She stated that she expects about 120 people to attend the event and that they have never had any issues during this event. She encouraged council members to attend and network with the community and different business owners that will be in attendance. Councilmember Sheppard clarified that the event is free and is paid for via donations from the past graduation classes that will attend. Councilmember Honoré asked how the public was notified of the event and Councilmember Sheppard stated that it is organized via Facebook. Councilmember Honoré stated he would like to see some advertisements from the city for this event. This item will be on the agenda for approval on June 5, 2023.

**VI. Other Business**

**a) Police Department Report**

Chief Dejarnette said Trucks and Tunes was a great event and the officers did amazing. He also asked that councilmembers make themselves available for budget discussions with the City’s Accountant on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. He stated that these meetings would be held virtually and would take about an hour. He stated that he needed councilmembers to forward all GMA invoices to his attention and if anyone needed help, to please give him a call. He stated that the banner poles for Bruce Street had arrived and that the banners should be arriving next week. Councilmember Inman asked Chief Dejarnette about Regan Street and Chief informed her that he had already spoken with them.

**b) Mayor's Report, Councilmember District Update**

The mayor stated that Bruce Street park repairs to be completed by this July and that she is looking to do a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Howard asked if there was any update on the parking lot on Wiggins. Chief Dejarnette stated that there has been a plan adjustment for cost efficiency and that he has a call scheduled with Hari Karikaran tomorrow about the options and possible connection to the existing pipe.

Dawn Massey with the LDDA gave a brief update on some of the cleaning at the amphitheater as well as the pesticide treatments.

A citizen expressed concerns about tree limbs and roots growing into the street as well as the limbs covering the speed limit signs on Max Cleland.

Councilmember Inman stated that she will be hosting a roundtable on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm for less than an hour. She stated she will also mention the community involvement event.

Councilmember Wynn expressed concerns about loud music and partying that can be heard on Braswell and Stone Street at three (3) am. She expressed concerns as that neighborhood has some elderly people and the music is so loud at times that it shakes their windows. She asked that people get involved and call the police to file a report if they notice something. She also expressed the importance of annexation so that neighborhood could have Lithonia's Police to respond as they have not gotten much help from DeKalb County Police.

**VII. Executive Session**

**VIII. Adjournment**

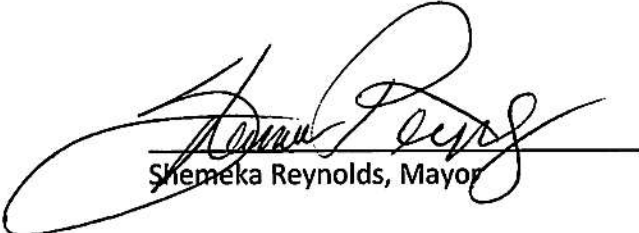
**Motion** – made by Councilmember Howard to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

The meeting ended at 7:20 pm.

Attest:

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Ashley Waters, City Clerk

  
Shemeka Reynolds, Mayor