



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken and the following City Council Members were present: Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, and Ric Dodd. Vanneriah Wynn later joined the call. Diane Howard was absent. City Attorney Valorri Jones and Zoning Administrator Bill Johnston joined the call as well.

II. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Agenda with an addition item under Other Business; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

III. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. April 6, 2020 – City Council and March 16, 2020 Work Session (combined) Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the April 6, 2020 City Council and March 16, 2020 Work Session (combined) Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

IV. Public Comments Response for April 6, 2020 City Council / Work Session Virtual Meeting (combined) – City Administrator

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated Interim Chief of Police Darren Newton contacted the agent of the abandoned home on Braswell Street, who agreed to clean-up the property, to follow-up within the next week for completion. The City Attorney has provided an opinion on the Reagin Street playground area. Situations Lounge is back on the agenda. City of Lithonia is still under quarantine.

V. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

a. Occasion's on Main – Ms. Dawn Massey

Ms. Dawn Massey thanked Mayor and Council for allowing her to speak. Born and raised in Lithonia, returned to the city to make Lithonia her home last April, and wants to be a contributing member to the community. Ms. Massey then provided clarity on the agenda item topic as the Lithonia Women's Club, that she and Maxine Baptiste (Occasion's) plan to work together to have events at the Women's Club. Stating that since May 2016 she now owns the Johnson house on Main Street and during the summer of 2019 purchased the Women's Club on Wiggins Street which includes the pocket-park history trail that the Arabia Alliance created. Both properties were purchased through the Georgia Trust. The Johnson house is probably the oldest building in the city, both the Johnson house and the Women's Club are cultural assets to the community. Her goal since 2014 was to save and restore both historic properties, create a home for herself, and to give these historic properties a new purpose that will allow them to survive. Her plans all along were to obtain

a business licenses to host events and have both properties as income producing. Wants to participate in the city for appropriate events or fund raisers. Dawn stated that she had been out of the loop in January for 8-weeks due to surgery, and was unaware that the city was working on or considering an event ordinance. She has since read the ordinance and understands the premise and importance of having a mix of businesses and not having an abundance of any one thing. Her dilemma is that she owns these two really great historic properties that she was planning to use as event places. Her desire with the community is to play by the rules, so eventually she will need a business license on both properties. Dawn is requesting that Council and City Administration commit to work with her and come up with a solution that will work for everyone. Ms. Massey asked if there were any questions; Councilman Dodd asked how long the property has operated without a license, Ms. Massey stated there had been 4 events since January. Mayor Reynolds acknowledged that Ms. Massey is working with the City Administrator.

b. 7027 Swift Street, exterior elevation revisions – Ms. Maxine Young

Maxine Young and her architect Mr. Washington provided presentation. Ms. Young has owned the building for 8-years and would like to improve its appearance. Mr. Washington indicated that he would protect the existing façade and use a granite rock faux type synthetic stone. Mayor Reynolds concluded this item would further be discussed as an Action Item.

VI. Action Items

a. Alcohol License – SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE FEE 6926 Main Street, Mr. Frank Redding “Situations Restaurant & Lounge”

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the alcohol license permit for Situations Restaurant & Lounge located at 6926 Main Street; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman. After discussion, council has decided to vote on waiving the fee during the Public Hearing on May 18, 2020. Councilman Honore withdrew the motion.

b. Lithonia Park Reservation FEE; Cricket Games – Ms. Mavis Johnson

Councilman Honore motioned to discuss the Lithonia Park Cricket Games; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman. Council is undecided on an established fee and will be in touch with Ms. Johnson.

c. 7027 Swift Street, exterior elevation revisions – Ms. Maxine Young

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the exterior elevation revisions for 7027 Swift Street; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Honore amended the approval of exterior elevation revisions pending review of materials that will be used in addition to Ms. Young providing another sketch; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

d. Budget Amendment

City Accountant Craig Lymburner was not on the call; item tabled.

e. Selection of City Clerk

Item tabled for Executive Session.

f. 2020 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

ARC is requesting email/name contact information, and a Public Hearing is required. Item tabled for further discussion.

VII. Other Business

a. MOU, The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Council has decided to move forward with the agreement, and table as an action item for the May 4, 2020 City Council meeting.

b. TAN

City Accountant Craig Lymburner was not available. Administrator Lathaydra Sands provided an update that based on the audit of 2018, that 75% of the previous year's tax collection can be borrowed up to \$600,000.00. Councilman Dodd recommended a Special Called Meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

Councilman Honore made a motion to pursue quotes for the tax anticipation note; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

c. Storm Water Application

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands is recommending that council review the Dude App and will schedule a zoom meeting.

d. Bike Trail Update

Mr. Kelly Jordan with the Arabia Mountain Board, 20-year relationship with the City of Lithonia, announced that Arabia Mountain will look for a source of funding to help fund the parking lot. Mayor Reynolds indicated that she has been in conversation with the housing authority regarding the city's possible ownership of the parking lot; pending the housing authority's board meeting that was cancelled end of March. Also had a conversation with Mr. Robert Merriweather and he ensured having the parking lot cleaned up in 3-4 months. Rawonda Cosby, Executive Director echoed that they look forward to looking at ways to make this happen.

e. Code Enforcement – Adoption of International Property Maintenance Code

Councilwoman Inman indicated that Officer Stephens informed her that the city does not have an existing code to enforce the law. City Attorney Valorri Jones will look into the adoption of a uniform maintenance code.

- f. Ordinance Research – Engagement of city attorney to research regulations on allowable number of cars stored or parked on private property and businesses**
Councilman Honore stated there are areas on Swift, Main, Conyers, and Main/Jenkins Street that need to be addressed and is asking the City Attorney to establish a certain number of allowable cars. City Attorney Valorri Jones will include this information in the code enforcement adoption that she will be working on.
- g. 7268 Center Street – Sign Permit**
City Attorney Valorri Jones confirmed that in her memo she has provided options that the city can take based on the actions taken to resolve the issue. Zoning Administrator Bill Johnston with the City Attorney will revisit the letter issued to Mr. Miner, resend it certified mail, moving forward with the notice of violation without paying a fine.
- h. 2602 Reagin Street – Child Day Care subject to approval of a Special Land Use Permit**
City Attorney Valorri Jones is recommending that the playground and sign in the front yard as a home based business is not in compliance, furthermore the Bright Start state license expired December 31, 2019. City Attorney and Zoning Administrator Bill Johnston will work together to prepare the notices.
- i. Mayors Report: COVID-19 Update, Rescheduling of Municipal Court Dates from May 1 and 8 to June 5, 12, and 22, Annexation Proposal Update, Council Member District COVID-19 Update;** the governor announced the opening of barber shops, hair, and nail salons on Friday with additional types of businesses opening up on Monday. Mayor asked that council think about the direction that city of Lithonia should go in, and the city attorney will read the order to compare the contrast for city of Lithonia. For the annexation proposal update acknowledgement was made of the council moving forward to approve the MOU through Board of Regents. Mayor Reynolds thanked Councilwoman Inman for setting up the districts to have conversations with citizens and for providing the senior citizens and residents with care packages.
- j. Old City Hall Truck**
Councilman Ric Dodd on behalf of Mr. Jahvan Green has inquired about purchase of the public works truck. The City Attorney indicated the truck is considered surplus property and procedurally pursuant to the Georgia state code section 37-6, must be advertised through Public Notice and can only be sold by sealed bid or auction to the highest bidder.

VIII. Executive Session (if needed)

Councilman Honore motioned to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0. The council entered executive session at 8:54 pm.

The work session meeting reconvened at 9:36 pm. Councilwoman Inman motioned to appoint Ms. Robinette Blount as City Clerk; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Dodd abstained.

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Honore motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd; the motion was approved by a vote 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.