



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

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

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken and the following City Council Members were present: Ric Dodd, Vanerriah Wynn, Amelia Inman, and Diane Howard. Lenny Felgin with the City Attorney's Office was present as well. Darold Honore later joined during the budget adoption.

**II. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Lord's Prayer was recited in unison followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the agenda with additions. This motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a) January 6, 2020 – City Council Organizational at 7:00 pm**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the minutes for the city council organizational meeting on Monday January 6, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**V. Public Comment Response- City Administrator (N/A)**

**VI. Presentation**

**a. Lithonia Park Reservation**

**Mr. Wayne Ranger: June 17 Music Festival – NO SHOW**

**Mr. Leroux Duncan: July 4 Sandz Caribbean Music Festival**

Mr. Duncan provided presentation for this international entertainment event established in Jamaica and spanning to Canada with popular recording artists, promoting bring your own cooler and drink responsibly. Seeking to return to Lithonia Park with no prior incidents; entertaining a crowd of 2,200+.

**VII. Action Items**

**a. FY2020 Budget Adoption**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the FY2020 budget with amended changes of increased expenses; \$10,000.00 for a part-time code enforcement officer, and \$2,000.00 increase of court payments to DeKalb County. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**b. Commission Appointments**

Councilman Dodd motioned to remove Cindy Thomas' appointment from the LDDA. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Honore motioned to seat Fred Reynolds to the LDDA board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Dodd motioned to appoint Darold Honore as a LDDA member. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman and approved by a vote of 5-0.

## **VIII. Other Business**

### **a. Annexation Proposal Update**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that a RFP went out on December 31, 2019; the deadline for submittal is January 23, 2020. One (1) proposal was received by Tischler Bise, Inc. with a bid of \$21,000.00. No applicants have responded through GMAC or Georgia State Universities posting.

### **b. New Public Works Truck Quotes**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands provided 3 quotes. Mayor Reynolds recommended that all quotes are reviewed by council with a subsequent vote to take place at the City Council meeting on February 3, 2020.

### **c. Pot Hole Quotes**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands provided 3 quotes. Mayor Reynolds recommended that all quotes are reviewed by council with a subsequent vote to take place at the City Council meeting on February 3, 2020.

### **d. Tree Removal Quotes**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands provided 3 quotes, council and Mayor requesting to contact Don's Tree Service, and recommended going with the lowest bidder.

### **e. City Hall Rental Fee**

Councilman Dodd motioned to propose a facility rental fee of \$100.00 with a \$100.00 refundable deposit for the Kiwanis Club meeting to be held on February 1, 2020 and to revisit a vote for the City Council meeting on February 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **f. 6980 Main Street A/C Update**

City Administrator Sands stated that before duct work can take place, buckling of the floor must be remedied in addition to addressing mold upstairs in the building. There are boxes that must be inventoried to determine what can be salvaged. Mayor Reynolds recommended tabling for the City Council meeting on February 3, 2020 to provide proposals that address the mold.

### **g. Attorney Information Handouts – New Selection**

Handouts will be made available in the Mayor's Office during Executive Session.

### **h. Year 2020 Comp Plan Update**

City Administrator Sands spoke with ARC who sent over a MOA Agreement, that Agreement was sent to the Attorney who made changes, and ARC is now approving those changes. Once received at City Hall will be ready for vote on February 3, 2020.

### **i. Creation of a Department of Community Relations**

Mayor Reynolds is recommending the creation of a department, with a department head and committee that would deal with creating more community related events. Mayor Reynolds would like to appoint someone to head the department on a voluntary basis. The City Attorney will take a look at the ordinance to determine if a resolution must be created or not. Mayor Reynolds is asking that council think about it.

**j. Georgia Power Update**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands indicated the new past due balance as of January 21, 2020 is \$40,562.61. The city has agreed to pay the past due balance in installments of \$2,000.00 per month in addition to each current months bill. Georgia Power has agreed to remove the late fees of \$7,327.00. The new agreement will be entered into the billing system once approval is received, and the arrangement must be paid on time, otherwise the agreement is null and void.

Councilman Dodd motioned to accept the Georgia Power billing agreement to pay the outstanding electric bill. The motion was seconded by Councilman Honore and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**k. City Clerk Interviews**

City Administrator Sands indicated there are 14 applicants, she is requesting 3 dates/times in 3 hour increments to schedule interviews. Mayor Reynolds stated that Interim City Clerk, Robin Blount indicated an interest after the closing of the application. Councilman Honore made a motion to include Robin's resume for the City Clerk position. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman for discussion. The motion was withdrawn, and tabled for executive session.

**l. Bike Trail**

Mayor Reynolds stated that she met with Arabia Mountain Alliance and they are very excited to begin working on the bike trail which runs through Wiggins Street. The business owners are prepared to participate in paving of the parking lot. There have been conversations with Mr. Merriweather to clean-up the debris of vehicles before this project can ensue.

Mayor Reynolds introduced the newest VISTA, Gladys Pruitt who is a community liaison for entrepreneurship development.

**IX. Executive Session (if needed)**

- a. Personnel**
- b. Potential Litigation**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0. The council entered executive session at 9:00 pm.

The work session meeting reconvened at 10:14 pm. Councilman Honore motioned to re-open the City Clerk position until February 11, 2020. This motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**X. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Howard 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 10:18 pm.