



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**MINUTES—CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, June 1, 2020 @ 5:30 PM**

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

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:35 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, Vanerriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. City Attorney Valorri Jones joined the call. Vanerriah Wynn joined the call later.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**I. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a. May 18, 2020 – Zoning Public Hearing Virtual Meeting @ 4:00 PM**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Zoning Public Hearing Virtual Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**b. May 18, 2020 – City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting @ 5:30 PM**

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

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

There were no public comments.

**III. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)**

**a. DDA Façade Grant Program**

Mr. Dexter Johnigan, President Lithonia Downtown Development Authority provided an overview of the Historic Preservation to develop economic development and create a façade program. The Steering committee will spearhead the planning and design of the program. The following persons are on the Steering Committee; Dexter Johnigan, Dawn Massey, Fred Reynolds, Jhavon Green, Deshon Cooper, Lindsey Brown, David McCoy, Darold Honore, and Robert Merriweather.

**IV. Action Items**

**a. 2020 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands indicated that Councilwoman Inman has presented two additional names that were forwarded to ARC. No vote was taken.

**b. Tax Anticipation Note**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$180,000.00 at the 3% interest rate; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**c. TAN Authorizing Ordinance**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the TAN Authorizing Ordinance for the principle amount not to exceed \$180,000.00 at the interest rate of 3%; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

**d. Street Sweeper Lease**

Three (3) quotes were provided as agenda items. Mayor and Council agreed that more research is needed in addition to having Mr. Quinton Monson Public Works Director on the call to answer questions.

**e. DeKalb Urban County Community Development Block Grant Agreement**

Councilwoman Inman motioned to renew the DeKalb Urban County Community Development Block Grant Agreement for fiscal year 2021-2023; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**f. Surplus of Police Vehicle-Charger**

Councilwoman Howard motioned to move the 2012 Dodge Charger to surplus; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

**V. Other Business**

**a. Ordinance Amendment to Revise Licensing Eligibility – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

City Attorney Valorri Jones indicated that a section was added to include the language that county taxes are paid if behind.

**b. Mural Ordinance – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

City Attorney Valorri Jones proposed to adopt an amendment of resolution to grand-father all existing murals, with a condition that Mr. Miner “seals” his mural to prevent erosion and maintain the integrity of the mural for a period of 5-years.

**c. Parking Ordinance – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Council agreed to remove provision “C”; subsection clause for a variance or exception.

**d. Speed/Road Bumps**

Interim Chief Darren Newton provided insight on existing speed bumps and asked for street names to monitor traffic activity. Councilwoman Inman stated that she will move forward with the petition process.

**e. Old City Hall: 6980 Main Street**

Councilwoman Inman stated that there is a commercial broker that has an interest in purchasing or leasing the building. City Attorney Valorri Jones indicated there needs to be clarity on ownership; City of Lithonia or The Housing Authority; she will speak with Attorney Denmark regarding previous decisions that were made.

**f. Mayors Report: COVID-19 Update, Informational sign on Main Street, GMA 2020 Virtual Convention**

COVID numbers are still increasing on a daily basis, the Plexiglas for the courtroom has been installed and court resumes on June 19, Election Day is June 9, the GMA 2020 virtual convention registration will be facilitated by City Clerk Robinette Blount.

**g. Council Member District Update**

Councilwoman Howard stated that LBA previously made a commitment to pay for directional signs and would like to revisit that option. Councilman Honore wants to defer his update to the June 15 Work Session. Councilwoman Wynn received an email of concern that football is being practiced at Lithonia Middle School, Interim Chief of Police Darren Newton indicated that he has reached out to officials within DeKalb County government and learned that the City of Lithonia does not have jurisdiction on county school property. Councilman Dodd is requesting an update on the CDBG for the Masons Lodge.

Mayor Reynolds stated that all residents who require police involvement must always dial 911 and not the officer personally on duty so that there is a paper-trail. Interim Chief Newton's last day is Friday June 5, 2020, recommending that captain Minafee step into that position for the time-being. The police chief association is nearly complete with their assessments.

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

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn for executive session to discuss personnel matters; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0. The council entered executive session at 8:00 pm.

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn executive session; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session reconvened at 9:04 pm.

After discussion on personnel matters, council is requesting to interview additional officers within the department, interviews to take place via video conference within the next few days and to schedule an Executive Session on Thursday to render a decision.

**VII. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard; the motion was approved by a vote 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.