



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:03 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. Lenny Felgin with the City Attorney's Office later joined.

II. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Michael Minter, Exousia International Lighthouse Ministries led the prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the Agenda; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and the approved by a vote of 5-0.

IV. Approval of City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes

a. February 17, 2020 – City Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

V. Public Comments

Steve Paul, owner of Lithonia Arts Center regarding the mural that he does not consider to be a sign. He is also requesting to know the capacity of Deshon Cooper and the administration endorsing a social media go fund me page to raise funds for the permit sign, asking for a public apology based on the language that was posted.

Charles Anderson, Vista volunteer for the City of Lithonia regarding the Remembrance Program and Lithonia Racial Justice Memorial Activities.

Leo Morton, residing at 7073 Hammond Way needs help with a home across the street from where he lives that is causing problems with parking and drug activity. There is a concern that police are not patrolling the area effectively, also asking that code enforcement check on a home that caught fire that needs to be demolished.

Kim Purefoy, resident of Dekalb in support of the Lithonia Arts Center for unification, and resolution for the mural.

Ty Harper is requesting a copy of the sign ordinance.

Ms. Allene S. Harper, thank you greetings to the city for her street being cleaned!

Deshon Cooper, to clarify any misunderstanding that the city of Lithonia's administration was not involved with his go fund me page for the Lithonia Arts Center sign permit.

VI. Presentation

a. Request for Street Closure and to post Signage in parking lot at City Hall

Dr. Vickie Spencerberry – Exousia International Lighthouse Ministries "Health Fair / Blood Drive"

Dr. Spencerberry provided a presentation of the Health Fair event. Council body is in agreement to allow signage posting in the parking lot at City Hall, and blocking on Bond Street from 9 am until 3 pm. Additionally Dr. Spencerberry was asked to coordinate with the City Administrator and Public Safety.

b. ~~LDDA (Lithonia Downtown Development Authority)~~ Deferred for Work Session

- ~~e. **Rezoning** Mr. Cubell Bain (7238 Center Street) No Show~~
- d. **Facial Spa Use at 2520 Hollingsworth Street – Ms. Glynda Burson**
Glynda Burson provided a presentation of her facial spa services

VII. Action Items

a. Alcohol Beverage License Application

Bawani Grocery, LLC – Mr. Varinder Sharma

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Alcohol Beverage License Application for Bawani Grocery, LLC Mr. Varinder Sharma; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. Lithonia Park Reservation

May 24 – Ms. Ajima Witter: “Colorgasm”

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Ajima Witter Colorgasm Event for May 24; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

June 27 – Mr. Wayne Ranger: “Music Festival”

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Wayne Ranger Music Festival Event for June 27, hours for the event are from 5-10 pm; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

June 21 – Mr. Mickey Sparkle: “Family Fun Day”

Councilman Honore’ motioned to approve the Mickey Sparkle Family Fun Day Event for June 21; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Honore’ suggested that the City come together and schedule a date to meet at City Hall with the event sponsors to promote the theme of *“Lithonia Caribbean Summer”*.

c. Annexation Resolution

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the resolution (2020-03-001) requesting legislative and other related support for the annexation of property into the City of Lithonia Georgia; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

d. Chief of Police Selection Process

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands has been in contact with Mr. Whitaker, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. He has proposed to perform assessments for the top candidates, the assessments are 3.5 hours at \$600 each, or \$3,000 to perform assessments for 5 candidates. City Administrator Sands is suggesting that the council body perform the interviews during the week of March 9, and refer the top 3 candidates for assessments.

Councilman Dodd motioned to move forward with the chief selection process with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police to perform the assessments; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

e. City Clerk Candidate Selection

Councilman Honore motioned to perform background checks on the top 3 candidates; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VIII. Other Business

a. Mayors Report: Lorraine Cochran-Johnson inquiry of City Hall usage, Annexation Proposal Update, Creation of a Department of Community Relations, Council Member Districts, Bike Trail Update, Georgia Cities Week

Discussion opened up on City Hall usage for Lorraine Cochran-Johnson's financial wellness program for the Lithonia community and whether a fee should be charged.

Annexation Proposal Update; a meeting with Hansen Quarry will be held on March 13 at 11:00 am at City Hall.

Creation of a Department of Community Relations; Councilman Dodd wants to include Donald Blount, Mayor Reynolds wants to include Carlene Anderson and asked if others in the audience were interested. Ty Harper, Shon Sales, and Maxine Baptiste expressed an interest.

Council Member Districts; Councilwoman Wynn and Councilwoman Howard will work collectively on the area that comprises their district.

Bike Trail Update; Mayor Reynolds met with Ms. Calloway/Housing Authority and Ms. Dukes. The Path Foundation is requesting that City of Lithonia and Housing Authority work together and utilize Splost Funds to pave the parking lot. Path Foundation is suggesting that Housing Authority deed the property to the City so that Splost Funds can be used. Additional discussion with the Path Foundation should take place during the month of March.

Georgia Cities Week; Mayor Reynolds is asking that LBA and DDA each sponsor an event. The March 9 LBA/DDA is intended for discussion of their involvement, with the objective to finalize a calendar of all events for the week. Councilwoman Wynn is in contact with Georgia Work Source, and Georgia Gwinnett College who have expressed an interest in participation. Councilman Dodd indicated that Granite Crossing would like to be involved and suggested reaching out to the other apartment home complexes. Councilwoman Inman talked to T-Mobile and they can sponsor free food for the event and sponsor free android phones for seniors. Mayor Reynolds indicated that Greg Street of V-103 is affiliated with the car club and would like to be involved in future city events. Councilwoman Inman would like to revisit vendor fees which will be an action item for the work session or following city council meeting. Councilman Honore would like to see the return of bingo night.

Planning car club will take a vote to determine if they are available for the car show on that Saturday.

b. GMA Convention

Councilwoman Inman indicated that registration opens March 9th. It is encouraged that everyone completes their registration form and provide it to the City Clerk to register everyone.

c. Public Works Update: Crosswalks, Truck Signage

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands indicated that the work will commence on March 3rd.

IX. Executive Session (if needed)

Councilwoman Howard motioned to go into executive session for personnel matters at 8:30 pm; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 9:23 pm.

X. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the city council meeting, the motioned was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.