



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 16, 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: Diane Howard, Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, and Ric Dodd. Vanneriah Wynn joined the call during the Moment of Silence.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the November 16, 2020 Work Session Agenda with additions; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Additions to the Agenda; Other Business: letter d. Gambling at 7101 Swift Street, letter e. Facebook Account Cease and Assist, letter f. Hours of operation for restaurants and businesses.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. November 2, 2020 – City Council Virtual Meeting @ 5:30 pm

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the City Council Virtual Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 5-0.

V. Public Comments Response for November 2, 2020 City Council Virtual Meeting –City Adm. Lathaydra Sands

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that Ms. Debra Jackson received the financials by email as were posted on the website. Ms. Annette Radford: Mr. Monson Public Works Director will have the trees cut down in front of the business as they are breaking up the sidewalk and waiting on a return call from DeKalb regarding the drainage. Mr. Jhavaun Green: it is confirmed that the businesses were included in the Covid funding listing.

VI. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

a. Ms. Tiffany Roberson – Georgia Power Grid Investment Project-L1452 Zone B- 6726 R. Parkway Road

Ms. Roberson stated that Georgia Power needs to know the procedure for the execution of the easement on Parkway Road. The franchise agreement should include the procedure and a permit should be obtained from the City of Lithonia to perform the work.

b. Chief of Police Nathan Pollard – Fleet Presentation and Extra job permission for use of take-home vehicles

Chief Pollard is proposing to enhance the inventory of fleet (police vehicles); replace canine unit and 5 additional units at a total cost of \$221,000.00 equating to \$40,000.00 in payment per year. Councilwoman Howard expressed an interest in receiving an activity report; first report will be provided in December as a quarterly report. Councilman Honore also expressed an interest in reporting and asked if the budget was taken into consideration with the proposed equipment improvements and would like to additionally see a budget report. Councilwoman Inman had no questions at this time. Councilwoman Wynn and Councilman Dodd’s questions were in line with Councilman Honore. It was later stated by Councilwoman Howard that a monthly activity report is needed.

Chief Pollard stated that take-home vehicles provide an incentive to officers as motivation and allows for retention of staff.

c. Alcohol License – Ms. Maxine Young; 6972 Main Street, 7027 Swift Street

Ms. Young stated that a license is needed for her event centers to avoid renters of the facilities to provide their own alcohol which could result in a liability to the business.

d. Alcohol License – Ms. Sharma Nirupa; 6912 Main Street

Ms. Nirupa stated that the previous occupant of the convenience store had an alcohol license.

VII. Action Items

a. Hazard Mitigation Resolution No. 20-11-16

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Hazard Mitigation Resolution No. 20-11-16; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. GMA Ethics Resolution

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the GMA Ethics Resolution; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Georgia Power Grid Investment Project-L1452 Zone B- 6726 R. Parkway Road

Defer, pending additional information coming from Georgia Power and a better understanding of the franchise agreement.

d. FLOCK Contract Approval

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the FLOCK Contract funded through Splost Funds; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd and approved by a vote of 5-0.

e. Alcohol License – Ms. Maxine Young; 6972 Main Street, 7027 Swift Street

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the 6972 Main Street and 7027 Swift Street Alcohol License’s; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Dodd and Councilwoman Wynn were opposed.

- f. **Alcohol License – Ms. Sharma Nirupa; 6912 Main Street**
Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Ms. Sharma Nirupa for 6912 Main Street; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard and approved by a vote of 5-0.
- g. **Cares Act Funding Project**
Councilman Honore motioned to accept the current budget for the Cares Act Funding Project to include repairs for improvement of the Masonic Lodge as a distribution center for COVID-19; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

VIII. Other Business

- a. **“Lithonia Beautiful”**
Councilman Honore is working on quotes for items in the courtyard area at Main street. Councilwoman Howard met with the Roots Down organization and identified several locations for beautification: bridge underpass, Masonic Lodge, Conyers street, flower beds on Main street. Councilman Dodd recalled having a conversation with DeKalb Fire Marshall that the courtyard area at Main street is a fire lane and could not be blocked off; Mayor Reynolds requested that Chief Pollard contact the Fire Marshalls office to confirm.
- b. **Masonic Lodge**
Councilman Dodd indicated after meeting with the electrician that the building needs to be rewired. The main floor will fall under this phase to include repairs on floors, 4-bathrooms, paint, and any sheetrock that needs to be replaced.
- c. **Comprehensive Plan Update**
City Administrator Lathaydra Sands indicated that the report of accomplishments was provided, the project listing of unforeseen accomplishments needs to be provided and will be on the agenda during the second meeting in December.
- d. **Gambling at 7101 Swift Street**
Councilwoman Wynn received a letter from a citizen (Mr. Todd is a representative for others in the community) that the convenience store is known as an illegal gambling spot, cash is being disbursed and that pictures were available of money being exchanged, requesting the federal trade commission is contacted for investigation. Truck parking lot, underlying problems. Needs code enforcement to become involved. Chief Pollard confirmed involvement.
- e. **Facebook Accounts cease and assist**
Councilman Honore is requesting that the originator of the public safety account is contacted with a cease and assist order to remove the website. Chief Pollard and City Administrator Sands are trying all angles to assist.

f. Hours of Operation for Restaurants and Businesses

Councilman Honore indicated that some businesses are taking advantage and that noise is becoming an issue. Chief Pollard stated that enforcement would take place on the adherence of business operating hours and the event center' hours of operation should all be consistent and monitored when applying for the business license.

g. Mayors report COVID-19, Councilmember District Updates

Mayor Reynolds emphasized the continuance of practicing social distancing and mask wearing with another wave anticipated. Mayor Reynolds stated there would be a Car-Show/Can-Goods/Toy Drive on Saturday Nov 21 from 2:00-5:00pm in conjunction with the Farmers Market Pop-Up, blocking off the street on Main from Swift to Wiggins Streets'. Fifty (50) turkeys have been identified for purchase at Wayfield. Event Dates: December 5 Turkey Giveaway, November 29 Tree Lighting Ceremony at Kelly Park

Councilwoman Wynn stated that citizens are having an issue with construction trucks on Bruce Street relative to the Bruce Street Center project, additionally there will be blasting.

IX. Executive Session (NONE)

X. Adjournment

Councilman Honore motioned to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0 and adjourned at 7:47 pm.