



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 2, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council Virtual Meeting was called to order at 5:33 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. Attorney Max Cheng later joined the call.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the November 2, 2020 City Council Agenda; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Additions: Councilwoman Howard; Action Items (letter c.): Enforcement of No-Parking area behind and beside City Hall Annex. Councilwoman Wynn; Other Business: included with Lithonia Beautiful the discussion of the sidewalks on Conyers Street.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. October 15, 2020 – Special Called Movie Production “Heels” Virtual Meeting @ 3:00 PM

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Special Called Movie Production “Heels” Virtual Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. October 19, 2020 – City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. October 22, 2020 – Special Called Lithonia Roundtable Virtual Meeting @5:00 PM

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Special Called Lithonia Roundtable Virtual Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

V. Public Comments (Limit 2-minutes per person)

Ms. Deborah Jackson stated that Arabia Alliance is currently conducting a survey located on their website, and are seeking recommendations as to the vision of the preservation of Bruce Street School. Ms. Jackson personally has a continued interest in the Lithonia Park Recreation Center and stated the county has not identified specific funding or plans. Additionally requesting that a current financial statement copy is posted on the website in addition to a listing of the various projects for the Cares Acts.

Ms. Annette Radford is requesting that the trees outside of her business are removed; reporting an issue with her plumbing; the roots of the trees are causing the bricks and concrete to shift and there have been citing’s of people tripping and falling. Public Works Director Quinton Monson will follow up with Ms. Radford by the end

of the week and recommended that Ms. Radford contact the county to come out and make an assessment and snake from the road to determine where the issue is stemming from. Additionally Mr. Monson will stop by Ms. Radford's building tomorrow morning to assess the bricks that are coming up.

Jhavaun Green on behalf of LDDA and LBA expressed acknowledgement that the Lithonia Businesses Matters Fund document was received by Mayor and Council regarding covid funding to support businesses.

VI. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

a. Mr. Jamie Rosenthal; Roots Down www.rootsdownga.com

Jamie Rosenthal presented Roots Down as an organization that provides urban landscapes with a focus on providing better landscape alternatives that promote healthy ecology, bio-diversity, food security, and soil health and regeneration, involving the community. The organization works with Public Works Departments to provide training to develop and maintain the landscapes through their mow/blow budget. Councilwoman Howard proposed a Showcase Project for the bridge area on Max Cleland to show intention and recommended that a meeting take place with Mr. Rosenthal and Public Works Director Quinton Monson. Councilman Dodd stated that CSX should be contacted as their property represents the right of way; Mr. Rosenthal has previously worked with CSX in the Clarkston area and has familiarity to forgo any issues.

b. Chief of Police Nathan Pollard; Lithonia Police Department Accreditation - CALEA

Chief of Police Nathan Pollard and Major Donald Ferguson (Accreditation Manager) provided presentation on CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.). The program focuses on standards for a law enforcement agency's life, health, and safety procedures. It addresses high-risk issues in contemporary environments, basic community service expectations, and critical event management.

Accreditation will promote:

- Innovative community-oriented policing strategies city-wide
- Neighborhood watch program/building trust & legitimacy
- Senior citizen community crime prevention programs & services
- Foot patrol officers in business districts & neighborhoods
- Diversified recruitment, promotional & selection process
- Critical incident management emergency evacuation preparedness (tornadoes & hurricane's)
- Enhance courthouse security
- Mentally ill & autistic person's recognition training
- Covid-19 officer safety equipment & community preparedness
- Ability to obtain additional law enforcement grants (i.e. community oriented-policing [cops] grant) & faith-based programs
- Breaking community language barriers among all ethnic groups
- Youth & anti bullying programs

There are three payment options available: lump-sum payment \$8,475, two installment payments of \$4,355, or three installment payments of \$2,900. Annual continuation fee is \$3,470.

The presentation thereafter shifted to purchasing new police cars.

VIII. Action Items

a. Alcohol Ordinance; Amendment for State Alcohol Legislation – HB 879

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Amendment for State Alcohol Legislation-HB 879; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Max Cheng, City Attorney provided clarification that the Alcohol Ordinance will remain as is with no changes; for future reference the changes could be drafted into the ordinance.

b. Cares Act Funding Project

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the Cares Act Funding Project; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore.

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands will work on the continuance of obtaining additional quotes. Council is in agreement to schedule a Special Called Meeting on Monday November 9, 2020 for further discussion and conclusion.

Councilwoman Howard rescinded her motion to approve the Cares Act Funding Project.

c. Enforcement of No-Parking Area behind and beside City Hall Annex

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the enforcement of No-Parking Area behind or beside the City Annex; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Councilwoman Howard indicated that Chief Pollard suggested enforcement. Councilman Honore talked to all the business owners in the area, specifically to Blackdot concluding an expression of agreement for the beautification efforts. Councilman Dodd asked if cars could park on both sides of the street entering the parking lot area; Mayor Reynolds suggested speaking with Chief of Police Nathan Pollard.

IX. Other Business

a. Randall Avenue; traffic calming devices

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands indicated that of 26 survey petitions mailed, 6 responses were returned; 2 yes, 2 no, and 2 incomplete.

Councilman Dodd suggested that the residents who are requesting the calming devices knock door-to-door and obtain responses from the remaining residents who have not responded.

b. Masonic Lodge Bathroom

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that the insurance provider was contacted, and a claim was filed. All quotes for the bathroom should be in by Friday to include the wiring on the ground floor for electricity.

c. Rebuilding of Luscious Sanders Center and Lithonia Park

Councilwoman Howard stated that Commissioner Johnson should be contacted regarding possibility of funding, Mayor Reynolds will reach out to Commissioner Johnson this week.

d. City Hall Annex Blinds and HVAC System/Ductwork

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that quotes were provided electronically on Friday for council.

Councilman Honore motioned to approve Vickers' Heating & Air proposal with a cost estimate for adding the UV equipment not to exceed \$8,500; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

e. Lithonia Beautiful

Councilman Honore is working on the courtyard project and suggested purchasing 5 additional tables and flowerpots. Councilwoman Howard suggested that another area for beautification would be the masonic lodge building. Councilwoman Wynn indicated that sidewalks on Conyers Street need to be more handicap accessible. Another area of discussion is the tractor trailer truck that is parking on Swift Street and the land has been graded and graveled.

f. Lithonia Roundtable

Mayor Pro Tempore Inman acknowledged the success of the meeting held on October 22 in discussion of the Façade Grant, Splost Funds, and Cares Act Funds, and provided an update on the scheduling of the next meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 5:00 pm.

g. Mayors Report: COVID-19 Update, Council Member District Update

Mayor Reynolds is continuing to encourage the enforcement of social distancing, sanitizing, and wearing a mask and acknowledged gratitude for all council members for their hard work and diligence on different projects. There were no Council Member District Updates outside of topics of discussion during the meeting.

X. Executive Session (None)

XI. Adjournment

Councilwoman Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inman; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.