



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, October 19, 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: Darold Honore, Amelia Inman, Vanneriah Wynn, and Ric Dodd. Diane Howard joined the call during the approval of the agenda.

II. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

III. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the October 19, 2020 Work Session Agenda; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

a. October 2, 2020 – Special Called Lithonia Cities Week Activities and Film Permit Starz Heels Production Virtual Meeting @ 3:00 PM

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the Special Called Lithonia Cities Week Activities and Film Permit Starz Heels Production Virtual Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. October 5, 2020 – Zoning Public Hearing Virtual Meeting @ 3:00 PM

Councilman Dodd motioned to approve the Zoning Public Hearing Virtual Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2020; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. October 5, 2020 – City Council Virtual Meeting @ 5:30 PM

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

V. Public Comments Response for October 5, 2020 City Council Virtual Meeting –City Adm. Lathaydra Sands

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that for 2601 Johnson Street, shoes on the power lines were removed by Public Works Director Quinton Monson.

VI. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

a. “Flock” – Chief of Police Nathan Pollard

Chief of Police Nathan Pollard introduced a program application that provides footage tracking on automobile tags, with different capabilities for crime reduction, currently being used in Cobb County; five (5) cameras are needed. The web site is www.flocksafety.com. Council is unanimously in favor of the application.

VII. Action Items

a. Comcast Franchise Fee Renewal

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Comcast Franchise Fee Renewal for discussion; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

City Attorney Valorri Jones was not available to provide follow-up response from the October 5 City Council Meeting on the discussion of the terms.

Councilman Dodd motioned to renew the Comcast Franchise Fee Renewal Contract; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

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

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

Councilman Dodd motioned to table the matter pending City Attorney Valorri Jones' response; the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

c. Halloween Street Closure for October 31 Farmers Market

Councilwoman Inman motioned to approve the Halloween Street Closure for October 31 Farmers Market; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Reynolds stated that payment for Police Coverage will be covered under Community Event Funds.

d. Cares Act Project Listing and Budget

Councilman Honore motioned to approve the Cares Act Project Listing; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor asked Council for consideration of an incentive for essential workers and business owners. Electronic signage, RFP for a new website for council review and approval, care packages for the citizens, camera door entry, digital thermometers and stands, robocall system, mailer, plastic dividers for city hall, every door direct mail, touchless sinks and toilets for city hall and public works building, touchless water fountain device, updating the Police Departments website. The list is to be publicized as per Mayor Reynolds.

VIII. Other Business

a. Code Enforcement Reclassification

Chief of Police Nathan Pollard stated that the position will be realigned and regulated to code enforcement duties only; removed from law enforcement responsibilities.

b. Parking for Business Owners behind City Annex

Mayor Reynolds stated that a business owner is concerned about being disallowed to park behind the annex on the slab and asked Council if a vote had taken place to disallow parking behind the annex on the slab; no vote had taken place. Council is in agreement to visit the radius area before drawing a final conclusion.

c. Masonic Lodge Bathroom

Updates; City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that 2 quotes have been received thus far for 3 bathrooms, however the quotes have not been turned in by Public Works Director Quinton Monson.

d. Comprehensive Plan Update

Updates; City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated the future land use portion has been forwarded to Bill. No responses have been received from the business plan survey and will return to the agenda during the December 21 Work Session Meeting.

e. Rebuilding of Luscious Sanders Center and Lithonia Park

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she had not spoken to Mr. Allen, however plans to give him a call.

f. Randall Avenue; Traffic Calming Devices

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that letters were mailed to all residents to include the yearly maintenance cost, to respond by October 30. Public Works Director Quinton Monson is still working on providing quotes for the speed bumps.

g. City Hall Annex Blinds and HVAC System/Ductwork

City Administrator Lathaydra Sands stated that 2 companies are coming out to accurately measure the windows for the blinds before providing final quotes. Public Works Director Quinton Monson is waiting on one (1) final quote. Chief of Police Nathan Pollard asked if the ductwork could be tied into Covid Funds because of the air-quality; Mayor Reynolds stated that it would be reviewed.

h. City Accountant Position

Councilman Honore motioned to approve Platinum Financial Services for the accounting position; the motion was seconded by Councilman Dodd, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

i. Lithonia Round Table – Team Building Initiative

Update; everyone has responded to confirm the Special Called meeting date with the exception of LDDA President Dexter Johnigan, general consensus for the October 22 date at 5:00 pm.

j. Business License Renewal – Zoning Guidelines

Councilman Honore stated that there is an issue with car lots/junk yards, suggesting that guidelines are changed for Business License Requirements; that all fees and violations must be resolved before receiving a license. Council had no remarks.

k. Charter for the City of Lithonia; Regular and Special Called Meetings

Councilwoman Howard stated that City Attorney Valorri Jones indicated the need to change the Charter so that it reflects the State. (To address immediately so that it is congruent with state law which prevails, it would only become an issue if someone were to challenge it). Mayor Reynolds has requested to table this item for the November 2 City Council Meeting Agenda.

l. Mayors Report: COVID-19 Update, Councilmember District Update

Mayor Reynolds stated that masking and distancing are still in effect within the City of Lithonia. Councilwoman Howard and Councilman Honore are working diligently with the beautification project. Councilwoman Inman is optimistic about the Lithonia Round Table and Covid funding efforts. Councilwoman Wynn expressed sensitivity that we touch base with everyone in the city during the pandemic and to take every precaution that we can. Councilman Dodd recognized Chief of Police Pollard's visibility during the farmers market, further stating an issue with a truck that is parking on Swift Street causing damage to the street/sidewalk. Chief Nathan Pollard will look at the ordinance in review of the issue.

VII. Executive Session (None)

VIII. Adjournment

Councilman Dodd motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore; the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.