

# **City of High Point**

*Municipal Office Building  
211 South Hamilton Street  
High Point, NC 27261*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 9, 2010**

**9:00:00 AM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

*Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor  
Latimer B. Alexander, IV, Mayor Pro Tem  
James Corey, Foster Douglas, A.B. Henley, III,  
Britt W. Moore, Michael D. Pugh,  
Bernita Sims, M. Christopher Whitley*

**ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present: Mayor Smothers, Council Member Moore, Council Member Sims, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Henley, Council Member Whitley and Council Member Corey  
Absent: Council Member Alexander and Council Member Pugh

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Council Member Whitley and second by Council Member Sims. The motion carried unanimously. [9-0 vote]

Adjourned Session held on Monday, November 29th @ 5:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Council Member Whitley, second by Council Member Sims, all matters on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved and/or adopted as recommended. The motion carried unanimously. [9-0 vote]

Action will be reflected throughout these minutes as being made and seconded by the same persons.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE****Contract Extension - American Process Group - Alum Sludge Dewatering at WWTP****100340**

Council is requested to approve a contract extension to the American Process Group in the amount of \$188,013.00 for alum Sludge Dewatering at the Ward Water Treatment Plant.

Approved a contract extension to the American Process Group in the amount of \$188,013.00 for Alum Sludge Dewatering at the Ward Water Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Safety Committee****Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 341-A Ennis Street****100341**

Adoption of an ordinance ordering the housing inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 341-A Ennis Street belonging to Justin N. Shaw.

Adopted Ordinance ordering the housing inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 341-A Ennis Street.

**Ordinance No. 6782/10-130**

**Introduced 12/6/2010**

**Adopted 12/9/2010**

**Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 267**

A motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business****Overview**

Each Council Member was given an opportunity to articulate and identify their priorities to give staff some guidance as to what may be some key issues. Staff will plan to provide several briefings for Council in January to review the city's finances; ElectriCities update; and tour of city facilities. City Manager Boynton informed Council that staff was assembling information regarding an update on the use of stimulus money; '04 Bond Projects status; 2/3 Bonds and in particular Parks & Rec; Renewable Energy policies. Additionally, he reported that EDC is currently going through a review of the Incentives program and pointed out there would be some changes on the horizon with the State Retirement System that would have a huge dollar impact on the city.

Mayor Smothers asked the Chairs of the various Committees to plan a meeting in an effort to give some overview of department services that report under the specific Committees.

**Retreat**

Mayor Smothers asked each Council Member to look at their calendars as to what dates they might have available for a Council Retreat. Council Member Sims suggested that time be set aside to allow the City Council an opportunity to talk things out without the presence of staff. Several locations to hold the Retreat locally were discussed (High Point University, Parks & Recreation Administrative Offices). The Mayor noted school would be back in session then and it could be problematic for them to try to arrange parking. She suggested the Parks & Recreation Administrative Office Building located at 136 Northpoint possibly Friday afternoon with staff and Saturday morning just for Council.

**Priorities**

Prior to each Council Member giving an overview of their priorities, copies of Council Member Alexander's list of priorities were distributed since he wasn't able to make the meeting due to a prior commitment. [a copy of Council Member Alexander's list of priorities will be attached as a permanent part of these proceedings]

**Council Member Whitley**

Streets/Infrastructure (paving, maintenance)

Committee priorities (streamlining what the Planning Department does in an effort to resolve the issue of getting things through; Economic Development (Incentives Review Policy); City Project updates; IT updates/goals/changes on the new website Cable Channel (have HPU intern get involved in redesigning and redeveloping- felt the city should have ability to stream videos)

Use more interns

**Council Member Sims**

More interaction in the Committees

Focus on City Project (keeping momentum)

Need for Council to give clear, concise directives to the city manager

Rename a facility to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy (prefers a major artery)

**Council Member Douglas**

Transportation (i.e. sidewalks, rerouting buses and times-may need to go to smaller buses)

Abandoned structures within the Core City- need to expedite process

More Defined Markings @ School Crossings (i.e. Triangle Lake needs flashing lights-marking not sufficient because of the hill)

**Council Member Corey**

Economic Development & Small Business (need incubators)

Cleanest, Greenest City in North Carolina (i.e. city should use more hybrids, modify new construction to require use of heat pumps, streets/trash dumps (expand program already in place)

Sidewalks on major thoroughfares (no continuation of sidewalks on either side of the street)

**Council Member Henley**

Understand what people think about High Point (i.e. according to the Public Opinion Poll, the impression of High Point as a place to work has been increasing, but the impression of High Point as a place to live has been declining)

Do more to boost High Point's identity and image (i.e. city not good at telling its story, advancing a more positive image for the city)

Do more to encourage residents to want to live in High Point (know what the priorities are- most are related to the quality of life, advancing the quality of life)

Has no specific agenda items (finds it easier to vote on strategies vs. specific issues)

Stresses him out for Council to be undivided on issues (be in agreement on direction)

Need to build critical mass in the city to increase revenues or cut, prioritize programs

**Council Member Moore**

Business Friendly High Point

Look at the Revenue side of the balance sheet (this is where the problems lie)

Maintain infrastructure as efficiently as possible

Get message out to the citizens that the city has no control over the loss of massive revenue sources

Distributed a handout "Securing America's Future- The Case for a Strong Manufacturing Base"- he asked Council to read it to understand him better (charity begins at home)

**Mayor Smothers**

Need for a Community Congress

Ask residents to identify priorities since economic times have changed

Time to look at programs to see what is working (i.e. Workforce, etc...)

Suggested Council listen to presentation on the CRAFT program (using existing business to create a workforce that will feed into them because they didn't have the resources)

Annual report card from departments

Examination of the city's communication issue with its citizens (i.e. information on services, changes in the city's 3111 customer service number to save money, how to effectively communicate, etc...)

Review who the population is

Development of an Arts Center combined with a Senior Center (look at the role the city government plays; no venue for talent in High Point; explore to see if there's an interest and willingness; public-private partnership)

At the conclusion of the meeting, Council Member Moore mentioned an issue at the last meeting where someone could not hear what was going on and asked about availability/provisions for hearing aides. He also asked if it would be possible to change the meeting time to allow working people to attend.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa B. Vierling, MMC  
City Clerk