

City of High Point

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



Minutes

Thursday, October 23, 2014

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

City Council

*James C. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Foster L. Douglas, Jason P. Ewing,
Jeffrey J. Golden, Judith P. Mendenhall,
Britt W. Moore, Rebecca R. Smothers,
Jay W. Wagner*

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS****COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE - Council Member Smothers,
Chair**[140326](#)**Resolution - N. Main Street Road Diet - Kimley Horn Study**

Council is requested to consider a Resolution concerning the N. Main Street Road Diet Study as presented by Kimley-Horn to Council during a Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting held at 4:00 p.m. on October 21, 2014.

Attachments: [20141021 Kimley -Horne CityCouncilPresentation v9](#)
[RESOLUTION - Street Diet](#)

Mayor Davis: Good morning. This meeting is a continuation of our Monday, October 20, 2014 Council Meeting. **I need a motion to suspend the rules to add N. Main Street Road Diet Study to our agenda.**

Council Member Smothers: So moved.

Council Member Wagner: I'd like to speak to that motion please.

Council Member Ewing: Second.

Mayor Davis: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

Council Member Wagner: Yes. This will make the fourth time since May 19th that this Council has suspended the rules to consider something regarding either City Project or the IGNITE High Point Master Plan. The first time it happened, I got quite a bit irritated about it and the last two times; I sat quietly and took it. But, it is my feeling that the citizens of our city deserve to know what this Council is doing in advance. What you're doing is not against the rules, but it's not right. Things that are very important to the city, to other people on Council, and the people in our city deserve to know what business we're doing and they deserve to know in advance. These last three actions and this one you're about to take-these are important things to our citizens. They deserve to know. After the meeting yesterday, or on Tuesday, I spoke with two other immediate members of Council and they had no idea why the Monday meeting was continued until today. So there are some on this Council who are not only communicating with the public, they're not communicating with other people on Council about what's going on. And it's not right. If you want to do something that's important to the public, put it on the agenda so that everybody knows it's coming, so that everybody has time to contact their members of Council, so that everybody knows what's going on. To come in at the last minute and amend the agenda to do important things and make big decisions, is not right. It's just not right. Y'all ought to be ashamed of yourself for doing business this way. It's not the right way to do

business.

Mayor Davis: *Jay, I take exception to your comments and I'll tell you why. When we discussed that additional \$47,000 and this Council did not approve spending any additional money or time for this road diet study, we asked that this study be presented by the 21st and we would discuss it on the 23rd. Monday when I asked to continue this meeting, there was no objection by any member of this Council to do that and you had every opportunity to do it.*

Council Member Wagner: *Well, I'm doing it now.*

Mayor Davis: *You did not. Well, this is an official meeting of Council.*

Council Member Wagner: *There was no statement at that time saying we're going to continue the meeting to Thursday so that we can vote to kill the road diet.*

Mayor Davis: *Nobody said we were voting to kill the road diet.*

Council Member Wagner: *Well that's what you're going to do. Just go on and get it over with. Go ahead and get your wrecking ball out. Go on and do it. I mean you guys could have done it in May. You could have done it on Monday night. You knew what you were going to do Monday night before you set this meeting. You knew what you were going to do.*

Mayor Davis: *I'm going to call the question.*

Council Member Golden: *Let me say something. Regardless of what my stance is on this particular issue, I tend to agree with Mr. Wagner. You know, we need to be transparent in the things that we do and I struggled with this thing last night. I believe when the meeting was left open that we knew that this was going to be on the agenda. I didn't know personally, but there were those that knew this would be on the agenda. I think that was not only unfair to the citizens of High Point, but it was unfair to us sitting on the dais that we weren't able to prepare and get ourselves together. I do take exception to that part of it. I just wanted to say that for the record.*

Mayor Davis: *We have a motion and a second to suspend the rules. All in favor say Aye.*

Davis, Smothers, Mendenhall, Ewing: *Aye.*

Mayor Davis: *Any opposed? So, let me do that over by a show of hands. All in favor, raise your hand. One, two, three, four. [Davis, Smothers, Mendenhall, Ewing]*

All opposed? One, two, three. [Wagner, Golden, and Moore]. Motion carries. [4-3 vote]

Council Member Smothers: *Mr. Mayor, I'd like to present this resolution for consideration by the Council. Would you like for it to be read?*

Mayor Davis: *Yes, Please.*

[Start]

RESOLUTION

Whereas: At the request of the City Project leadership, the City Council awarded a contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates for \$113,000 to determine the feasibility of road dieting for a portion of North Main Street from Parkway to Lexington Avenue;

Whereas: The consultant made a presentation to the City Council in July prior to conducting focus groups for interested and/or potentially affected residents, which resulted in 50 citizens participating;

Whereas: The City Council declined to amend the contract for \$47,000 to cover issues raised during the study process because the Council had been told such issues as: traffic diversion impacts to adjacent streets and neighborhoods and High Point Market traffic volumes would be included in the original scope;

Whereas: The City Council received an overview of the results of the study on October 21, 2014;

AND, WHEREAS: Having received the results of North Main Road Diet Study, heard the concerns of property owners, listened to the City Project/Ignite High Point proponents of road dieting North Main and considered the comments of countless citizens in opposition, either by direct communication or petition, the City Council identifies its findings:

- The North Main Street Road Diet Study does not contain sufficient analysis to determine the impacts on adjacent streets and neighborhoods, nor does it contain Market data;
- No solutions and/or improvements were identified to ameliorate or address impacts of diverted traffic but concluded that further studies would be required to address such issues;
- If road dieting is considered in the future, the City Council recommends a different portion of Main Street or even a different street;
- The investment potential of the study area does not suggest that there would be a sufficient return to make the project economically viable when minimum improvements are estimated to cost \$1.0 million nor would \$5.0 million for the total project improvements yield significant economic benefits to justify the expenditure of public tax dollars;
- Good level of service (traffic movement) exists now and would not be improved by road dieting;
- While the passion and commitment of the City Project/Ignite High Point volunteers is acknowledged, this particular portion of North Main Street does not have a sufficient

parallel road network to accommodate diverted traffic without significant impact to businesses along Main Street and adjacent residential streets.

- The Council encourages examination by staff of the Main Street corridor to address streetscape design and amenities, lower speed limit and such safety improvements to assist UpTowne High Point Incorporated in its goal to promote pedestrian traffic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council rejects the dieting of North Main from Parkway to Lexington Avenue.

Adopted by the High Point City Council
this 23rd day of October, 2014

[end]

Council Member Smothers: I so move.

David Rosen (At-Large Candidate): Mayor, I'd like to comment.

Mayor Davis: No, you are out of order.

Council Member Mendenhall: You are out of order!

Mayor Davis: This is not for public comment.

David Rosen: You're not representing the citizens of this city.

Mayor Davis: You are out of order.

Council Member Smothers: I think you need a second, Mr. Mayor.

Council Member Mendenhall: I'll second the motion.

I would like to say, Mr. Wagner, if it would make you feel better if we handled this on the first meeting in November, that would be fine with me. I have no problem. I pretty much don't think that this is the proper place to do road dieting and I think the majority of the citizens in this community agree with that. I was a little.....maybe a month or so ago....in Hendersonville and they have about a two-block area that has parking and has restaurants and some small shops. But it is not a major thoroughfare through their community. You have to drive to it. It is not adjacent to residential areas, it's in the downtown-a portion of the downtown. You drive to it. You park and you get out and you walk. I think the idea of a section of a road in High Point that would be similar is a great idea. But I do not believe that this particular part of Main Street is the location that we should choose. What I hear from all kinds of citizens, from everywhere I go, is I hope you all are not going to do that because it makes no sense what-so-ever. I think it does make sense, but not here. I don't know whether it would be....whether the rest of Council wants to wait and make that decision. I think we voted to consider it right

now. But my vote will not be changed if we wait two weeks or one week or however long we wait. I don't think the study gave us any green light to go ahead and diet those particular three blocks of N. Main. It just doesn't make sense to me.

Council Member Smothers: I don't need the 700 people who signed the petition in opposition to show up and say again that they are against it. I don't need that. We have listened to various presentations by City Project and IGNITE High Point. I understand the passion, it's in here. I understand it, but I think it's the wrong place.

Mayor Davis: I looked at the study and took the time to review it again after the presentation. You know they say that traffic is not an issue and is not going to be because you're reducing the number of cars 20%. You're just increasing the amount of drive time. But what they also said was what we have now works the best. What bothers me is that there was no member of Council that sat on the committee with Kimley-Horn that selected the engineering firm, nor defined the scope of the study. That was board members from City Project and the staff that did that. To not study the impact of the traffic on the side streets, nor the market....we did not get a true traffic study. That's what bothers me about this whole process. How can you make a decision without having everything you need to know to make the decision.

Council Member Moore: Well, I guess I better chime in here. I was the one at the meeting that brought up your point, which I concur with. I was disappointed in the study and I'm frankly surprised that what they gave us would pass the muster of the State on a state road. It's been no secret, as I've shared face-to-face with several members of the City Project, that I had concerns about the location. Actually I'm in print in an insert stating that. So while it's no secret that I feel the location's troublesome, I think that some of the things, some of the things that came out of the Duany study could hold some merit. As much as I would like to go back to some things that we've had in the past that we no longer have, that's not going to happen in short order. I do, however, feel that....and I found myself, it must be my personality....on issues that I end up in the middle quite a bit. But the resolution as it's written. It makes sense to me. The procedures that we have used to get here don't. The procedures that we were faced with on the Enterprise situation we just voted on, I think that could have been handled much better. So I think it casts a controversial, if not negative, light on a very good Council and that's unfortunate.

Council Member Golden: I just want to say this one last thing because I want to be perfectly clear so that nobody does not misunderstand. I, along with Britt, I don't have a problem with the resolution, but I just have a major problem with how we got here and I don't know that we got adequate feedback from the citizens to arrive at this point. But dealing with what I have in front of me and what we've had over the last four weeks, I will probably support the resolution.

Council Member Smothers: I think one of the defining things that the consultants did tell us on Tuesday had to do with economic viability. That is a very important part of making the public investment and focusing the private dollars. They could not conclude

that that particular area would generate that type of economic return and when you couple that with....

Council Member Wagner: *It was a traffic study, not an economic study. It's not their job to tell us what the economic benefit would be.*

Council Member Smothers: *Well did you object to him saying that?*

Council Member Wagner: *I asked him about it specifically. I asked for his confirmation. I said I wanted to confirm....you know why I asked it? Because I knew you would say what you're saying right now. I wanted confirmation from him saying....*

Council Member Smothers: *Then I won't bore you further.*

Council Member Wagner: *Good. Okay, well I want to speak.*

Council Member Smothers: *I thought you had.*

Council Member Wagner: *No, not on this. I spoke on the last motion. Now, first of all, the traffic study is not even done yet. All we got was the presentation. The traffic study hasn't even been finalized and given to Mark yet, so we're voting before we've actually even received the study and the public has not had the opportunity-those 700 or so people may change their mind when they see that an actual professional traffic study has occurred that says that traffic is not going to be an issue. And the lies out there that it was going to cost \$15 million and you're misquoting the traffic study. They said that....initially, they said that 20% would come off, but they added back in roughly the same amount for future development. So basically what they were saying was that traffic as far as numbers would be a wash-that it would handle the same amount of traffic in the future as it does today. We have a traffic study that says you can do it for a million dollars and we have an economic study that says you're going to get a \$2.5 million economic benefit to the City of High Point in terms of new tax dollars. Now that's an economic benefit of 2.5 to 1-a return on the investment to this city of 2.5 to 1. Now if I could make an investment and I'm going to more than double my money-that's a pretty darn good investment if you ask me.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Well, I asked specifically, Mr. Wagner, if the \$1 million was the total project and the response I got was no. The total project was \$5 million. I asked that specifically on Tuesday afternoon.*

Council Member Wagner: *They said if you do all the burying of the lines.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *He didn't go into all that, he simply said....because I said does that include streetscaping, does that include the total project and he said no.*

Council Member Wagner: *No, that's right.*

Mayor Davis: *That doesn't include the side streets....any of the impact on that and the improvements that would need to be made there, and the signalization and the intersection improvements. That's not included in there either.*

Council Member Wagner: *The side streets are not a big deal. I'm telling you. Okay. The point of all this is we're having this discussion and it's been less than 48 hours since we got it. The public hasn't had time to digest it and comment on it or anything. You guys just want to ram this through. I mean what else do you all want to take the wrecking ball to before Becky's term's up? What else do y'all want to destroy? Because people say this Council has been dysfunctional, but it's been very functional. Y'all have been functional about destroying things for months.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Mr. Wagner, I think your remarks are totally out of line.*

Mayor Davis: *I do too.*

Council Member Wagner: *I don't think so at all.*

Mayor Davis: *I think they are too.*

Council Member Wagner: *You've got 700 signatures, but you're ignoring the fact that back in the spring, I brought you guys a stack of petitions this high signed by nearly 700 people, individually and every business group in this city supporting the Duany plan and supporting the IGNITE High Point issues. Y'all are ignoring all that. Just go on and do what you're going to do. This is pre-determined. This ain't nothing but an old-fashion abuse of power. Okay. You guys, you got this thing on Tuesday and y'all had already decided on Monday you were going to kill it. Go on and kill it. Just go on and do it and the citizens of this city.....Pat, the citizens of this city need to know about this abuse of power. Okay. They come in here and this is the fourth time they've come in here and amended the agenda to do something that the citizens don't know about that they've had no advance notice about that the Council's going to vote on and they're going to ram this thing through today and it's nothing but a straight up abuse of power.*

Council Member Smothers: *How many years have we been talking about this?*

Mayor Davis: *I call the question.*

Council Member Wagner: *Go on and do it.*

Council Member Moore: *Can I ask the attorney a question or not?*

Council Member Wagner: *I've got places to be.*

Council Member Smothers: *Jay's got better things to do than sit here.*

Council Member Moore: *I agree. Mark or Joanne, regardless of where this goes, there was a study commissioned-is there a finalization still coming to you Mark?*

Mark McDonald: *Yes.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Will it contain data that was not in the summary that we were given to any great extent?*

Mark McDonald: *No.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Thank you.*

Mayor Davis: *Okay, the question has been called. We have a motion and a second.*

Council Member Ewing: *If I can make a quick comment squeezed in between the heat of everything else. I didn't support the study originally because we didn't have a willingness on Council I believe to do a diet in the first place. So I didn't see it fit to spend \$113,000 to study something that we weren't willing to do. So now we have information before us and I'm going to support the resolution for a couple of reasons. One, we've had an overwhelming amount of people contact us saying that they're opposed to the diet. That the petitions via different on-line sources, phone calls, running into people. Second, I spoke with another local traffic engineer a few weeks ago and he said in plain terms that it's crazy to diet that section of Main Street. And in comparison to Oakridge....how many people have been stuck in traffic on Highway 68 in Oakridge, a two-lane road. Their traffic count is 17,000 in that section, whereas ours is 21,000-23,000 in that section. Safety is certainly an issue. I think we can address that. Besides narrowing a road and restraining traffic flow. Councilman Wagner brought up abuse of power. I had a conversation with Andres Duany when he was here last time and we talked about the road diet study. He said that whatever core group originally talked to him, he recommended other areas and he was told that this is the area where a road diet should be and will be looked at. So we can say a lot of things back and forth, but this is where we're at. I'm going to support the resolution.*

Mayor Davis: *We have a motion and a second to adopt the resolution rejecting the dieting of N. Main from Parkway to Lexington Avenue. All in favor, say Aye.*

Davis, Smothers, Golden, Moore, Mendenhall, and Ewing: *Aye. [6]*

Mayor Davis: *Any opposed?*

Wagner: *No. [1]*

Mayor Davis: *Motion carries. [6-1 vote]*

[end of transcript]

Adopted Resolution rejecting the dieting of N. Main Street from Parkway to Lexington Avenue.

Resolution No. 1415/14-55

Introduced 10/23/2014; Adopted 10/23/2014

Resolution Book, Volume XVIII, Page 137

ADJOURNMENT