

City of High Point

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



Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2013

9:00 AM

Special Called Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

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

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sims called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the Rev. Dr. Tobias LeGrone to offer the invocation (see below). The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Present 9 - Mayor Bernita Sims, Mayor Pro Tem Britt Moore, Council Member James Davis, Council Member Foster Douglas, Council Member Jason Ewing, Council Member Jeffrey Golden, Council Member Judy Mendenhall, Council Member Rebecca Smothers, and Council Member Jay Wagner

[130262](#)

Special Called Meeting

Pursuant to Section 2-1-12 of the High Point City Code, Council Members Smothers and Mendenhall have called for a Special Meeting of the High Point City Council to be held on thursday, October 3, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, High Point Municipal Building, 211 S. Hamilton Street. The purpose of the meeting is to call for the resignation of Mayor Bernita Sims.

Attachments: [October 3 2013 Special Meeting Notice \(signed\)](#)
[October 3 2013 Special Meeting Notice](#)
[Statements from SIMS, DAVIS, EWING, MENDENHALL AND SMOTHERS](#)
[GOLDEN'S STATEMENT](#)
[MOORE'S STATEMENT](#)
[WAGNER'S STATEMENT](#)
[Letters Submitted by Citizens in Support of Mayor Sims](#)
[Minister's Conference October 3, 2013](#)

[Note: The statements made by Mayor Sims and Council Members Davis, Ewing, Mendenhall and Smothers appearing in the High Point Enterprise on September 21, 2013, as well as the statements made by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council Members Douglas, Golden and Wagner, and the letters presented at today's meeting will be attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Mayor Sims: *I'm going to call the meeting to order and ask that you please rise for an invocation given by Rev. Dr. LaGrone, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.*

Rev. Dr. Tobias LaGrone: *Let us pray. God of Mercy, God of Grace, we come before you today thanking you for the very breath that we have. Dear God we pray your blessings upon this Nation, upon the leaders of this Nation. We pray your wisdom and*

guidance upon the City of High Point and those elected officials who were democratically elected to represent us. Dear God as we gather today in 2013, have mercy upon us as a Nation-for we are divided along racial lines. We are divided among political parties. We are divided among the Socio-economic gap where the gap between the rich and the poor is greater than it's ever been. God, help us not to vilify each other, but give us a spirit of understanding. Give us a spirit of patience, dear God. Help us to understand that I don't have to expect people to see the world from my perspective, but give me the grace to respect others perspective and give them the grace to respect ours. God, we love you. Now send your peace into this place. Let the Spirit of Solomon and the Spirit of Wisdom come here that we may come to a meeting of the minds and that High Point would shine as the great city it is. It's in the name of our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.

[The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag]

Mayor Sims: *Good morning everyone. Thank you all for coming to the meeting this morning. Of course we all know the purpose for which we are gathered-a special called meeting requested by two members of Council. But prior to us proceeding with the business that was on the agenda and for which we were notified, Council Member Mendenhall has something that she wants to say.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Thank you. Again, I would also like to thank you all for coming. Typically at a meeting like this there is not time allowed for public comment, but we realize that this is an important and sensitive issue. And this Council would like to provide opportunity this morning for some public comment. I would also like to remind you that there are probably people who did not come today because they did not think they would be given an opportunity to speak and there is a short amount of time for public comment at our normal meeting which would be Monday night. Having said that, we have met and I have spoken with Mayor Sims and what we would like to propose is that five people be allowed to speak and you will be timed by Al, our Human Relations Director, for a minute and a half. Five who are in support of the motion that will be acted upon today and five people who are opposed to it. We realize that will not give everybody an opportunity to speak, but we hope with those five people speaking, at least your thoughts and comments will be expressed. It will be the first five who appear.*

Having said that, I move that this Council will allow public comments from five people who are supporting the motion and five people who are opposed to the motion for a minute and a half each to be timed. I so move.

Council Member Wagner: Second.

Mayor Sims: *I have a motion and a second to allow a limited public speaking from the floor regarding the issue that we are here to address today. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. Aye. Any opposed? [none] The motion PASSES. [9-0 vote]*

I guess we will start with those individuals who are in support of the motion, so if there are five individuals who would like to approach the podium or signal to Ms. Heggins that they are here opposed to.....in favor of the motion, I'm sorry. Please approach the podium.

Council Member Smothers: *A point of clarification....are we going to have comment before we have the motion and the statements by Council?*

Mayor Sims: *Well it would be sort of awkward to make the motion and then in the middle of the motion, well she's already made the motion to do that. So we can wait until the motion is made. It will work. I see what you are saying.*

Council Member Smothers: *It doesn't matter. Let them go ahead and talk. That's fine.*

Mayor Sims: *Would you rather do the motion?*

Council Member Smothers: *Well I was just asking for clarification.*

Mayor Sims: *Let's proceed with the motion and then we'll ask for discussion.*

Council Member Smothers: *But Council Members....I know some have comments they want to make that would come after that.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Yes. I think, Ms. Smothers, if you would like to go ahead and read the motion. I don't know that we can have two primary motions on the floor at the same time.*

Mayor Sims: *Well we've already acted on that.*

Council Member Smothers: *Yeah, we've already acted on the other. It's just some rules of order, I guess, for this meeting.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Alright, well why don't you go ahead and do that and we'll ask for public comment and then the Council can speak if that's okay with everybody.*

Council Member Smothers: *That's fine with me. Whatever the Mayor wants to do.*

Mayor Sims: *Ms. Smothers....*

Council Member Smothers: *I move that the High Point City Council number one, call for the resignation of Mayor Bernita Sims and number two, include in the minutes of today's meeting the statements submitted to the High Point Enterprise by Mayor Sims, Council Members Davis, Ewing, Mendenhall and Smothers which were published on September 21, 2013 and any written statements that may be*

offered by Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Council Members Douglas, Golden and Wagner for inclusion in the record of this special called meeting on October 3, 2013.

Mayor Sims: Is there a second?

Council Member Ewing: Second.

Mayor Sims: Are there copies of that motion available to the rest of Council?

Council Member Smothers: I think it was sent out to everybody, but we can get it. The Clerk will end up having to read it again I'm sure.

Mayor Sims: Okay, is there any discussion regarding that motion?

Council Member Mendenhall: Are we going to go ahead now and have the public comment and then have the Council Members comments?

Mayor Sims: We can proceed. If there are individuals here who are in support of the motion, please approach the dais or signal to Ms. Heggins and you will be allowed to speak for a minute and a half. Those in the audience that are in support of the motion as it has been presented by Council Member Smothers and seconded by Council Member Ewing.

Are there individuals here to speak in opposition to the motion?

Al Heggins: Please be sure to state your name and address please Sir.

Paul Morse: My name is Paul Morse. I live at 209 Edgedale Drive, High Point, NC. Good morning. I want to thank you, members of Council, first for your service. I know you're not doing it for the pay. Also I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak. There are several unusual things going on this morning and this is just one example of it. But thank you for this. I wanted to say that a week ago, you folks met with the purpose of evaluating the performance of the City Clerk and the City Manager as I understand. And that's within your responsibilities and I commend you for that. This morning, it appears that you're in a meeting to evaluate the performance of some of your own and I'm not sure that that's within your responsibility and I just wanted to bring that to your attention. Hiring and firing of the City Manager and City Clerk is within your responsibility I think. I'm not sure that dismissing your own is within your responsibility. I think that falls under the purview of a duly constituted scheduled election.

Al Heggins: Thank you, Sir. I'm sorry your time is up.

Please state your name and your address.

Martin Fitzgerald Harper, Sr.: *Martin Fitzgerald Harper, Sr., 2511 Suffolk in High Point. Good morning, esteemed members of Council. I'm Rev. Martin Fitzgerald Harper, Sr. and I've been a resident of the city since I was two years old when my father was discharged from the Air Force and became a proud High Point police officer. You must understand that we, as Black people, are really quite frankly skittish about the rights of poor and minorities to vote. First, because of wounds of our fathers and mothers who shed blood to secure this precious right, are still healing and are fresh relative to the age of our country and our Bill of Rights. Secondly, the Supreme Court delivered a hit to the Voting Rights Act, which our State House gleefully and derisively seized upon and began shredding many of the opportunities and protections which have been helpful toward the smooth, fair election process that resulted in record registration and turnout from the disenfranchised segments of our population. Many of us have watched with great chagrin as it seems that two speaks backwards for every three steps forward is once again the order of the day. With these threats to one of our most precious civil liberties, the last thing we need is another hit to our voting rights. I make no attempts at melodrama, nor do I wish to depend on hyperbole to make my point. But you, as elected officials, must understand the equilateral right of the existence of another elected official to hold office. Whether convenient towards ambitions are not, Democracy by its very nature shall not always be convenient, but by law should always be expedient. There is no reason for you all to lose a battle that you haven't been called upon to fight. But what you have been called upon to do is govern this city-not the personal affairs of our highest elected official. We feel that you have but one choice now. We demand that you exercise the right choice, right now. Park this absurd attempt to discredit the election and by extension of the 12,000 plus voices that voted for her....*

Al Heggins: *Time is up, Sir. I apologize.*

Martin Fitzgerald Harper, Sr.: *.....statewide to spend your time [inaudible]
[applause]*

Al Heggins: *Please state your name and your address.*

Dan Reynolds: *My name is Dan Reynolds and I live at 3353 Tadmore Court in Jamestown, an annexed area of High Point. I bring you greetings from the Black Leadership Round Table. This is the second time in about a month that I have come before Council. Thank you for a job well done. For some time, the Black Leadership Round Table has been trying to revive itself and get back to addressing the issues that still plague our community. And then, booya..... y'all decide to pick on our Mayor and thanks be to God that you called this meeting and woke up the sleeping giant in our community. We could not have planned this better. As a Christian, a citizen of High Point, and a member of the Black Leadership Round Table, I urge you to withdraw your motion or motions and let our community handle our business at the ballot box. I would also like to remind those trying to get elected, reelected, or running for a higher office that the ballot box works both ways. Again, thank you for awakening our community and I truly believe that God has a strange sense of humor. [laughter and*

applause]

Al Heggins: *Please state your name and address.*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *My name is Rev. Maurice Bolden and my address is 2292 Rockwood Acre Road. I ask permission to read this letter. This is not a part of my comment. I do have a comment, but I have a letter on behalf of the constituents who support the honorable Mayor Bernita Sims.*

“For the record, we live in a wonderful city. However, I believe we have a lot of work to do to see High Point realize its full potential. That is why it is profoundly disappointing and unacceptable to find our City Council focusing so much of its time and its energy on the Mayor’s personal matters. These issues do not involve public business and have no place in the Council’s discourse.

Consequently, as a concerned citizen, I must insist that you prioritize your efforts and focus your attention the pressing issues of our community. Unemployment, affordable and suitable housing, business and economic development, and public safety are just some of the areas I feel would be better served if more time was spent on them. I implore you, as our elected officials, to devote your time and energy on creating ways to make sure that the opportunities afforded in this great land extend to all citizens of our city.”

Al Heggins: *I’m sorry, Sir. Your time is up. [applause]*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *I asked for permission to read the letter.*

Unidentified individual in audience: *Your time is up.*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *Alright.*

Council Member Smothers: *Perhaps Madam Mayor, we can ask the Reverend if he would provide the letter to the clerk so that it can all be included in the record. [clerk received copies of the letter read by Rev. Maurice Bolden containing containing 236 signatures. All of which will be attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *One copy or all of them?*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Once copy of the letter you read.*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *It’s the same letter signed by individuals sitting here. These are signed.*

Mayor Sims: *We can enter them all in the record. Take them all Lisa.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *They are being entered.*

Rev. Maurice Bolden: *Thank you. [applause]*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *My name is Rev. Frank Thomas. I'm the President of the Minister's Conference here in High Point and also the Pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 753 E. Washington. I invite all the ministers and members of the Minister's Conference to stand if you are in attendance. [applause] As you well know, our Federal Government is shut down because of demigods in Congress who would rather see people go hungry than to agree with a budget that includes the Affordable Health Care Act. Many see this reprehensible behavior as a personal attack on our President and his policies that they too often disagree with. It's been said, it's fine to disagree, just don't be disagreeable. Whether you agree or not with the Mayor's approach to leadership or with her decisions on how to govern or even if you don't like her as a person, her personal issues should also be private issues. Unless there is some evidence of illegal activity, we ask that you concentrate your time on more pressing issues that affect our community. One item in particular comes to mind that the Council could spend more time and energy. With our current unemployment rate in the city being 9.7, more time could easily be spent on creating jobs and seeking community development opportunities [applause] that would assist in providing for the health and welfare for all citizens. I also would remind you of the story of the woman who was caught in the act of adultery and Jesus asked, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone." [applause and shouting].*

Council Member Mendenhall: *That is five speakers.*

Larry Diggs: *I do understand that. Could I.....I have one little.....*

Council Member Mendenhall: *No, please come Monday night, Mr. Diggs. Thank you.*

Unidentified individual in audience: *Could I speak in support?*

Council Member Mendenhall: *The time for speaking in support has already passed, but again there will [applause] be opportunities on Monday night. Thank you all.*

Unidentified individual in audience: *Is it too late to speak to Council directly?*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Yes. At this meeting we allowed public comment for five in favor and five who opposed it. That was the motion.*

Unidentified individual in audience: *It's concerning the members up there.*

Council Member Mendenhall: *Monday night, please Ma'am. I'm sorry, we have to abide by the decisions that were made.*

Mayor Sims: *Let me say this. When this meeting notice was first put out, at that point there was not going to be an opportunity to speak from the floor at all. So we did speak with members of Council and they agreed that we would take public comment. I would suggest to anybody in this room that wants their voice to be heard....we do public speaking the first meeting of every month. And I would ask that all of you who have something that you feel that you just have to say....that there's this burning desire to speak, come back on Monday. You will get three minutes to speak. So any other time that you feel that you need to come and speak, we do this the first Monday of every month. So at this point, I do, again, appreciate Council allowing the opportunity to speak because I think it would have been a great disservice to this community to have the number of people who are present and who are here, come and not be able to voice their concerns and voice their opinions around what is happening today in this room. This is the people's house. This is your Council Chambers. We all work for you. We were elected by individuals who are sitting in this room. Some of us....all of you voted for or against, but you were part of the political process. So I would ask that at this point, you all would allow us to proceed with the comments coming from each member of Council that has been outlined in the motion and after we are done with that...I'm not sure....we will adjourn the meeting, but we can still sit here and have a conversation if that's what you'd like to do. And I'm sure the media would love to be able to hear from everybody here sitting in this room. [applause] I'm sure they would love to. So I would ask at this point, if you all will allow us to continue with the process of what we're doing with this meeting so that we can move forward with doing the business of this Council and the reason why the meeting was called.*

Unidentified citizen in audience: *I'm sort of hard of hearing. Did you say...*

Mayor Sims: *I'm saying that after this meeting is over, if you all would like to stay in these chambers and have a conversation around what is happening in our community and even to address your Council Members who choose to stay and be addressed.....*

Unidentified citizen in audience: *I got out of my bed to come back and want to say two words and I don't see why I can't say it.*

Mayor Sims: *I would say, Sir, that at the end of this meeting you are free to stay and for those Council Members who want to hear what you have to say that can stay, they will be here to hear it. If not, Monday night and they all will be here.*

Unidentified citizen in audience: *Is everybody going to be here or are they going to go to Greensboro because the Mayor in Greensboro has got financial problems too? [laughter and applause]*

Mayor Sims: *I can't answer that for you, Sir, but I know that our Council will be present on Monday night.*

Bruce Ashley: *Your Honor....if I may, the purpose of the meeting is the motion that's on the floor and in light of that, several of the comments are starting to leak out.*

Mayor Sims: *We're done. There is a motion on the floor, seconded by Council Member Ewing. There was an opportunity for several other Council Members to read into the record their statements. So we'll start with Council Member Golden.*

Council Member Golden: *Good afternoon, I mean good morning everybody. I'm going to be reading this because I didn't want to be all over the place with my speaking because I have been wrestling with this for a long time. But after considering everything that's been said and written, the reason why I am against a vote to remove the Mayor from office....I am against a vote to remove the Mayor from office. I am opposing this vote for several reasons. First and foremost, it would not remove the Mayor from office, it could only serve to divide this Council and this community. I'm opposed to voting on issues for the sake of public record. I prefer to vote when there is an action to be taken and I understand that everyone on this Council has received pressure from their constituents to address the private affairs of the Mayor. Every one of us has had the chance to make private and public statements and most of us have taken the opportunity to do so. This makes it perfectly clear for the citizens where we stand. It is my opinion that this vote will only fuel the media frenzy and bring into question this Council's ability to handle affairs in which we were elected. I'm against any procedure that would remove an elected official without direct input from the public and the people who elected them to office. I recently read a quote from one of my co-Council that said "the decision to call for a motion to remove the Mayor was in response to a statement made by the Mayor in closed session." Am I to believe that this motion is driven by the citizens of High Point or because someone felt insulted? If we can gather support to vote and have elected officials removed from office, every time we're insulted then we have created another set of problems. It is not our position to use mock votes to change and sway public opinion. These issues should be settled at the polls during the election period. We, as Council, need not to attempt to change who the citizens want to serve on their behalf. I am by no means saying that is what happened, but I do believe that some may perceive it that way. I also believe that this opens doors for Council to use public meetings to address private issues and plants seeds for removal of elected officials. This is a practice that we should and cannot afford at all cost. Council Member Smothers, who made the motion, stated previously that public statements have already been made and the vote would serve no purpose and I agree.....the vote would serve no purpose. I am by no means condoning the way that the Mayor handles her personal affairs. I feel that she could have been more forthcoming with information. I think the mayor could have been more transparent even though there was nothing in place to require her to do so. This may have lessened this media frenzy and allowed Council to focus on issues that we were elected to address. This is why I am against a vote that will not produce any positive and has the potential to create more problems. I cannot and will not support a motion to remove the Mayor from office.*

Mayor Sims: *Council Member Moore.*

Council Member Moore: *Thank you Madam Mayor. Dear fellow citizens, our city*

and this Council find ourselves in an unfortunate and difficult position. I take no joy in actions we are having to take. Over the past weeks and months, there has been a lot of coverage concerning some personal issues involving two members of this Council. And these issues are personal, which I believe we all understand. I also believe that those who are following these circumstances closely understand there are legal limits to the actions that this Council can undertake. It is difficult for me to go anywhere without our Mayor's circumstances and her handling of them being a topic of conversation and I fully understand that. It has become a distraction and a disruption to the constructive governing that we need to face the issues running our city. People are concerned and frustrated. I have received large amounts of emails and phone calls and have had numerous face-to-face discussions with citizens from all over our city. Overwhelmingly, they have expressed their displeasure. It is very clear to me that their grievance is not personal, partisan or racial... [mumbling in the audience]. It is principle. Many of the good people of High Point feel that the highest office has been compromised. We live in a time when there's little faith and trust in our Federal Government. Although there is a sentiment that there is very little that we, as individuals, can do about that. I think that we want to believe that on a local level, it can be different. Inasmuch, there is now a lack of credibility and trust in this Council and many are asking for a resolution and a change. My take on being an elected official may differ from some. I think we, on Council, agree that we vote and make decisions concerning our city. We do it individually, but we also know that we do it representing those that put us here. We also realize that our decisions have a collective consequence to all citizens. There are expectations that come with being in this position. Now here's where I may differ. I believe that it's fair and reasonable for citizens to judge my actions, both professionally and yes, personally. And they certainly reserve the right to express their feelings whether I agree with them or not. It is that judgment that is a basic tenant for a civil society. Over the past weeks, there have been several occasions where unfounded accusations have been made against the majority of this Council. To date, there has been no proof, further discussion or reconciliation to these allegations. This hangs heavy when we are together and undermines the integrity, respect and confidence of the Council as a whole. Today a motion is being presented asking for the resignation of our Mayor and by far, it is the toughest decision I have had to make as a member of this Council. But based on all that has transpired and the fact that much is left to be resolved, I believe it is my responsibility to the citizens of the City of High Point and those who have reached out to me to support this motion. It will put this Council on record in accordance with what I believe most citizens want and bring some closure as far as the Council is concerned. After it is done, hopefully we can move forward together in these very serious and challenging times and do the business we were elected to do in a fashion with which the majority of the citizens of High Point will be pleased. And I intend to do just that.

Respectfully, Britt W. Moore, City Council At-Large [applause]

Mayor Sims: Mr. Wagner:

Council Member Wagner: Thank you. It's with great concern and apprehension that I

address my remarks to not just the Mayor, but all of my colleagues on City Council today. It is regrettable that events have placed us in the position of sitting in judgment of another member of this body. However, it is the responsibility of leadership that requires us to do so. Some may question the necessity of Council's action today or even its usefulness. It has been said that it is "much ado about nothing" and that the events that brought us to this point are purely personal and should be ignored. In assessing these statements and their effect on our need for action today, I think it would be wise to note that we are not mere employees hired to do a job. We are public servants who were chosen by our fellow citizens and placed in a position of leadership. We act as their proxy. We sought these positions and being held up as an example to our citizens is both our reward and our burden. Our job performance is not only judged by our public actions and our ability to make decisions affecting the public, but also by the example we set as we carry out our duties and responsibilities as citizens. Not being able to make ends meet, which is a difficulty familiar to many of our citizens, is a purely personal problem, but particularly when that difficulty involves an elected official and is manifested through alleged illegality, not paying utility bills to the city in a timely manner, and not paying taxes, it is no longer purely personal. To accomplish this mission, its mission, our city government relies on our citizens to pay their taxes and utility bills on time. The Mayor's failure to do so over an extended period of time violates the public's trust, shows a failure to lead by example, and creates an impression among many citizens that a double standard exists. This situation now overshadows nearly all of the work we do as a Council, as well as our ability to effectively act as representatives of the city. It is literally the first thing I get asked about everywhere I go in our city. The citizens of my ward from all walks of life take this matter very seriously. The overwhelming majority of those that I've had contact with are embarrassed by it and are worried about its effect on the public perception of our city. Nearly all of them have told me that they think the Mayor should resign. For all of these reasons, I must support the resolution asking for the Mayor's resignation. However I do not relish the opportunity because I know that this issue has the potential to divide our community and therefore, it's a sad day for High Point. Lastly, I would like to speak briefly about how we move forward as a Council after this vote. I understand, Madam Mayor, that it's your intention to continue as Mayor despite this resolution and that's your decision to make. I'm already receiving calls from people seeing to use this controversy to fan the flames of racial unrest and class envy. That sort of talk has no place in our city, in my opinion, [outbursts from audience] and does not reflect the sensibilities and belief of the vast majority of our citizens. Civility is a trait all too lacking in the political discourse of our time. One needs only to look to Raleigh or Washington for endless examples of hyperbole and the politics of personal destruction. Moving forward, we have an opportunity and an obligation to be an example to our citizens of civility in our dealings with one another. We can disagree without being disagreeable, and deal with each other as individuals.

Mayor Sims: *Mr. Douglas.*

Council Member Douglas: *First of all, I would like to say good morning to everyone that's here. I'm glad you could make it out today. Madam Mayor, I would like to ask*

that the signed petitions by the public be placed in the minutes.

Mayor Sims: *She has them.*

Council Member Douglas: *Okay. Also, I would like to say that I'm opposed to removing the Mayor from the position she was elected by the citizens-not by our colleagues. This is a democratic society and we had a plurality of the vote and that's what was taken. We chose some time ago to go away from the primary process to the plurality of the vote. That purpose was intended to get more people involved into the voting process. I think....but over the course of time over the past couple of years or so, I think that some of my colleagues have been trying to get back to the primary portion of the vote where we have a primary to eliminate some of the people out of the field [outbursts from audience and applause]. I think that the process that we have now is working. We have more participants in the voting process. I think we would set a precedent in our city by asking our Mayor to resign or even trying to go through with the motion. I do not support this by no means. It would appear with the number of phone calls claimed to have been made to my colleagues, yet you have very few from the floor in support of your motion. [outbursts from audience]. I find that very ironic with your motion to ask the Mayor to resign. I do not believe any elected officials personal lives is that of any business of their colleagues or anyone else. [outbursts from audience]. I also believe this is another failed attempt to change the outcome of an election you didn't agree with. [outbursts from audience and applause]. And in my opinion, the focus should not be on the personal or private information that was somehow released to begin with. I think some of my colleagues have been chasing rabbits during deer season [laughter]. I also think that the focus should be on where the information was released from and what was the purpose of the release of the information to start with. [outbursts from audience and applause]. Is this a form of electioneering trying to disgrace a community.*

Unidentified gentleman in the audience: *That's what it is. It's a lynch mobbing. [applause]*

Mayor Sims: *Sir, sir.*

Council Member Douglas: *I would ask that question because to me, I don't think you have any basis for what is going on here today. There has been no crimes committed. None of these council members handled any money of the city. That's what we have the city manager for. Our job is to create policies that would be fair to everyone throughout the city. Sometimes we make it to that and sometimes we don't. S*

Council Member Smothers moved to:

1. **Call for the resignation of Mayor Bernita Sims; and**
2. **Include in the minutes of today's meeting the statements submitted to the High Point Enterprise by Mayor Sims, Council members Davis, Ewing, Mendenhall and Smothers which were published on September 21, 2013; and, any written statements that may be offered by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council members Douglas, Golden and Wagner for inclusion in the record of this Special Called meeting on October 3, 2013.**

Council Member Ewing made a second to the motion which carried by a 6-3 vote as follows:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Mendenhall and second by Council Member Smothers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bernita Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk