

City of High Point

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



Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Adjourned Session

*William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor
James C. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Latimer B. Alexander, IV, Cynthia Y. Davis,
Jason P. Ewing, Jeffrey J. Golden,
Alyce E. Hill, Christopher Williams,
Jay W. Wagner*

Roll Call, Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bencini called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were present:

Mayor William S. Bencini, Jr.; Mayor Pro Tem James Davis (Ward 5); and Council Members Cynthia Y. Davis (At-Large); Latimer Alexander (At-Large); Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1); Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Alyce Hill (Ward 3); Jay Wagner (Ward 4); and Jason Ewing (Ward 6).

Present 9 - Council Member Alyce Hill, Mayor Bill Bencini, Council Member Christopher Williams, Mayor Pro Tem James Davis, Council Member Jason Ewing, Council Member Jay Wagner, Council Member Jeffrey Golden, Council Member Latimer Alexander, and Council Member Cynthia Davis

Regular Agenda Items**Finance Committee****[150202](#)****City of High Point 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance and Related Documents**

City Council is requested to adopt the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related ordinances and/or resolutions.

Mayor Pro Tem James Davis said he had a question about the fee structure for Planning and Development and that the Triad Real Estate & Building Industry Coalition (TREBIC) also had concerns. Mr. Davis wanted to clarify if it was correct that trade permits were going from \$40 to \$200. Lee Burnette, Director of Planning and Development said that was not correct and TREBIC's concerns had been addressed. He explained the minimum permit fee was raised from \$40 to \$50, \$65 or \$70 depending on the type of permit. Mayor Pro Tem Davis expressed concern contractors would have to charge more for simple jobs like installing a ceiling fan. Mr. Burnette said the City of High Point's fees were comparable to other jurisdictions and Council could lower the fees if they wanted to. He added the intent is to change the structure of the permitting process and get multiple trades on one permit and save costs for the user and the City. Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked if the new fees could be phased in over a period of time. Mr. Burnette said his desire was to look at the City's costs over a year and perhaps make adjustments at that point.

Council Member Cynthia Davis said she had some things she wanted to make sure got on the record. In regards to employee pay, she said she had no problem giving City employees a 1% cost-of-living increase and a 1% merit increase which would give the City a savings of \$448,333.34. She said she would like the four code enforcement office positions be limited to two this year and two next year within this budget the City would

save \$159,000 and the street sweeper position would save \$313,465. Ms. Davis said the three full-time and five seasonal positions for Public Services could be brought down to 2 full-time and three seasonal would save \$190,291.25. She added some people felt it was not the responsibility of the City to provide wi-fi at the recreation centers. Ms. Davis said she would rather see the City have one Assistant City Manager rather than two. That would save almost \$200,000. She said she was not in favor of budgeting \$13,500 for the youth white privilege conference and this is the type of thing that should be discussed in the home or church. Ms. Davis also noted there was \$200,000 for the Hi-Fest and said the festival was severely under-attended and perhaps could be combined with the Southside (SOSI) cultural arts event.

Mayor Bencini thanked Greg Demko and his staff for the hard work put into preparing the budget. Mr. Demko said he thought this was a budget that will start off the program to really make a difference and improve our community.

Adopted the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related documents.

A motion was made by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to adopt the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related documents, ordinances and/or resolutions. The motion carried by the following 8-1 vote:

Aye: 8 - Council Member Hill, Mayor Bencini, Council Member Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council Member Ewing, Council Member Wagner, Council Member Golden, and Council Member Alexander

Nay: 1 - Council Member Davis

Community Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee

A motion was made by Council Member Cynthia Davis, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to suspend the rules to consider West End Ministries garden lease. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

150213

West End Ministries Community Garden Lease

Council is requested to approve lease agreement with West End Ministries for the period of one year for the purpose of creating a community garden "Bountiful Harvest." Property is located across from the West End Ministries building on English Road.

A motion was made by Council Member Cynthia Davis, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to suspend the rules to consider a lease agreement with West Ministries for the period of one year for the purpose of creating a community garden. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle advised that the City has an opportunity to enter

into a lease with West End Ministries for a Community Garden. She then shared some of the terms of the lease before Council today:

It will be a one-year lease

WEM will provide their own tools. A shed will be onsite for storage of their tools, but they will be responsible for locking it; the City of High Point would not have any liability

WEM will be required to apply for water service and would be responsible for the usage

There would be an exchange for the one-year lease (i.e. \$1 - \$10)

An indemnification clause will be incorporated into the agreement

Mike McNair, Director of Community Housing & Development, noted this has been discussed at several of the committee meetings throughout the year. He explained that West End Ministries, along with a large number of supporters, want to establish a garden on this property. The City conveyed these properties (totaling approximately 1.1 acres) to SHARE for construction purposes, but since that time SHARE filed bankruptcy, so the City is currently in the process of regaining the properties. Mr. McNair informed Council that the closing is scheduled for June 19, 2015 and as soon as the property is back in the City's possession and officially recorded, the property could be officially leased to West End Ministries. Ms. Carlyle suggested that Council take this into consideration and advised that the effective date for the lease cannot be put into place before the property is transferred.

Approved a lease agreement with West End Ministries for a one-year period for a community garden and authorized the appropriate officials to execute documents associated with the lease. The lease would be effective following the transfer of the property.

A motion was made by Council Member Cynthia Davis, seconded by Council Member Golden, to approve the lease agreement with West End Ministries following the transfer of the property to the City. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Adjournment

