

City of High Point

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 6, 2010

9:00:00 AM

Council Chambers, City Hall

*Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor
M. Christopher Whitley, Mayor Pro Tem
Latimer B. Alexander, IV, William S. Bencini,
Mary Lou Blakeney, Foster Douglas, John Faircloth,
Michael D. Pugh, Bernita Sims*

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Smothers offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Present: Council Member Whitley, Mayor Smothers, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Blakeney, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Faircloth and Council Member Pugh
Absent: Council Member Bencini and Council Member Sims

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Council Member Alexander and second by Council Member Blakeney.

Finance Committee; Monday, April 19th @ 3:30 p.m.
Combined Meeting; Monday, April 19th @ 4:45/5:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Council Member Whitley, second by Council Member Alexander, all matters on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved and/or adopted as recommended. The motion carried unanimously. [8-0 vote]

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

Finance Committee**Resolution - Issuance of 2010 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds****100104**

City Council is requested to approve the attached "Resolution Making Certain Findings and Determinations Authorizing the Filing of an Application with the Local Government Commission, Requesting the Local Government Commission to Sell Bonds at a Private Sale, Approving the Financing Team and Authorizing the Distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement in Connection With the Issuance of Revenue Bonds By the City of High Point."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Contract - Bid No. 24 - Additions to North Substation**100106**

Council is requested to approve contract for Bid No. 24 for additions to the North Substation to Peak Substation Services in the amount of \$281,900.00 which is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting specifications.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Purchase of Property - Irwin Avenue - Parks & Recreation Department

100107 Council is requested to authorize the City Attorney's office to proceed with the purchase of property located at 804, 806, 808, 810 and 812 Irwin Avenue in the amount of \$36,750.00. This property is being purchased for the Parks & Recreation Department for addition to a future park off of Burton Road.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

2010-2011 Retail Electric and Renewable Rider Rates

100111 Consideration of recommended 2010-2011 Retail Electric Rates and Renewable Energy Riders to be effective with utility billing statements after June 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution - Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZED)

100112 City Council is requested to approve the attached "Resolution Requesting Allocation of Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds" which makes a formal request of the NC Department of Commerce's Tax Reform Allocation Committee to allow the City to utilize RZED bonds and authorizes the City Manager and the Financial Services Director to execute any documents related to the issuance and acceptance of these bonds.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - Community Development & Housing Department - 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan

100096 Monday, April 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. is the date established to receive public comments on the Community Development and Housing Department 5-Year (2010-2014) Consolidated plan and 2010-2011 Annual Action Plan.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be acknowledge public hearing held. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Safety Committee

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 1220 Montlieu Avenue

100108 Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 1220 Montlieu Avenue belonging to Sammie Chess, Jr.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 2613 Woodruff Avenue

100109 Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the housing inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 2613 Woodruff Avenue belonging to Juan Hernandez - Gamez and Lexington State Bank.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Services Committee**Memorandum of Understanding for Water Quality - High Rock Lake**

100110 Council is requested to approve a Memorandum of Understanding concerning improving water quality conditions in the High Rock Lake.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**Appointment - Boards & Commissions - Library Board of Trustees**

100113 Council is requested to make the reappointment of Kay Anderson to the Library Board of Trustees. Appointment will be retroactive and will expire October 31, 2011.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment - Boards & Commissions - Theatre Advisory Board

100114 Approval of the appointment of Jamyle Katherine Acevedo to the Theatre Advisory Board. Appointment to be effective immediately and will expire 6/1/2012.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING ITEMS**FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council Member Whitley, Chair****Contract - S.H.A.R.E , Inc. - Neighborhood Stabilization Program**

100097 Approval of contract between the City of High Point and S.H.A.R.E. Inc. to repair foreclosed properties under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

A motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Smothers, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Blakeney, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Faircloth, Council Member Pugh and Council Member Sims

Nay: Council Member Whitley

Absent: Council Member Bencini

Roll Call: Present: Council Member Whitley, Mayor Smothers, Council Member Bencini, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Blakeney, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Faircloth, Council Member Pugh and Council Member Sims

Contract - Habitat for Humanity - Neighborhood Stabilization Program

100098 Approval of contract between the City of High Point and Habitat for Humanity to acquire vacant properties in the Graves Avenue area under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

A motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Aye: Mayor Smothers, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Blakeney, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Faircloth, Council Member Pugh and Council Member Sims
Nay: Council Member Whitley
Absent: Council Member Bencini

Resolution - Issuance of Two-Thirds Bonds Orders

100105

City Council is requested to conduct a public hearing on May 3, 2010 at 5:30 pm as required by state law on the issuance of the referenced 2/3 bond; and following the public hearing, City Council is requested to approve the bond orders authorizing \$3,200,000 Parks and Recreational Facilities Bonds, and \$2,415,000 Street and Sidewalk Improvement Bonds as presented at its April 19, 2010, meeting.

Council Member Faircloth stated that he has some concerns about the economic environment that we are in now, and it gives pause when they start thinking about the budget they are about to go into and the need to be concerned about what are the things that have to be provided for the citizens as opposed to those things that are a quality of life matters that are great to have when the money is flowing more freely. Council Member Blakeney conquered with these concerns.

Council Member Whitley stated that the intent would be to set the dollar amounts for those particular categories, and the Council will still have in the future the ability to decide what the money is spent on.

Council Member Pugh stated that he felt they have more immediate needs with regards to sidewalks and areas of transportation and that this money would be better served to the public of being spent in transportation than the greenway.

Council Member Douglas had concerns for his ward and the many areas there that could use a lot of work, sidewalks in particular and the Montessori School. I talked to the principal. Council Member Pugh felt that there is a better need or better usage of that money to be used in that area than on a greenway and also felt that it was a safety issue as well.

Mayor Smothers cautioned Council that the Manager has put this before Council months ago, and had asked for input. That it had been discussed, there has been a public hearing, and while they all have some questions about specific projects within those, she believed that there is a tremendous value in looking at our inventory of public facilities, particularly in Parks & Recreation, and finding out conditions and what needs actually exist right now in the way of upgrades.

A motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Whitley to adopt a resolution issuing bond orders authorizing \$3,200,000 Parks and Recreational Facilities Bonds, and \$2,415,000 Street and Sidewalk Improvement Bonds. Motion failed by a vote of four to four.

Ayes: Mayor Smothers, Council Members, Whitley, Alexander, and Faircloth

Noes: Council Members Blakeney, Pugh, Douglas, and Sims

Absent: Council Member Bencini

Following the vote Mayor Smothers asked Council Member Douglas what had changed his mind since Monday's vote when he voted in approval of the bond package. Council Member Douglas stated that he felt there were more pressing things that need to be done other than just greenways.

Council Member Alexander stated that by not approving the bonds it only delays these projects until the next bond package, and priorities will still remain as they are now.

Council Member Sims asked who determines the priority for the bond project, and felt that they needed more information leading into what we are being asked to vote for.

Pat Pate clarified that the bond orders are written as such that there are two categories; Parks & Recreation and a Transportation category, and the numbers have been established for those. There are suggested projects, but if Council rules on the transportation side there is a list of seven or eight possibilities, all of any of which in and of itself could be used for that whole \$2.4 million. Mr. Pate further explained that that Council has the same opportunity with either of those to come back and direct staff as to their priorities and how to spend the funds within these categories on whichever project council chooses. Mr. Pate stated if Council is comfortable with the transportation piece, they can pass a bond order to be just the transportation piece.

~~Council Member Whitley stated that since the motion failed he would make a motion-~~
Council Member Sims made a motion to reconsider the issuance of the two-thirds bonds orders and separate these two items for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Council Member Blakeney. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ayes: Mayor Smothers, Council Members, Whitley, Alexander, and Faircloth,
Council Members Blakeney, Pugh, Douglas, and Sims**

Absent: Council Member Bencini

A motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, to adopt a resolution for bond orders authorizing \$2,415,000 in Street and Sidewalk Improvement Bonds. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ayes: Mayor Smothers, Council Members, Whitley, Alexander, and Faircloth,
Council Members Blakeney, Pugh, Douglas, and Sims**

Absent: Council Member Bencini

Pate Pate explained that Parks & Recreation is actively seeking additional grants for the greenway, just as the money they had sought from Howard Coble that was able to help

them to do the planning for that next stage of the greenway. If they are able to get those grants that obviously would reduce the amount of money that would be needed for greenways and would allow some of those funds to be reallocated as Council desired.

Council Member Alexander stated that they need to remember the improvements that are going to be made out adjacent to Simeon Stadium and the conditions of the parking lot, restrooms, concessions and those things that are ritically needed for our students who participate and attend those events.

Mayor Smothers asked if Council would be comfortable considering going ahead and authorizing these bond orders as has been suggested by staff, and following that vote on an action directing staff to put a hold on any commitment for extension of the greenway until there has been ample discussion both by staff with the commission and with the council, and in fact some of the community in general to get more input into where we need to make these valuable connectors.

The Council was in agreement to consider the Parks and Recreational bonds provided they were followed by a vote that no monies would be spent without approval of Council.

A motion was then made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to adopt a resolution for bond orders authorizing \$3,200,000 in Parks and Recreational Facilities Bonds. Motion passed by a vote of 7-1. Council Member Pugh voting no.

Ayes: Mayor Smothers, Council Members, Whitley, Alexander, and Faircloth, Blakeney, Douglas and Sims

Noes: Council Member Pugh

Absent: Council Member Bencini

A motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, to withhold the spending of the \$2 million until such time that Council meets with Parks & Recreation Commission to evaluate the list of priorities for the bond projects. Motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mayor Smothers, Council Members, Whitley, Alexander, and Faircloth, Council Members Blakeney, Pugh, Douglas, and Sims

Absent: Council Member Bencini

ADJOURNMENT