

**HIGH POINT TRANSPARENCY, ENGAGEMENT, & COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 - 9:00 AM
Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260**

Transparency, Engagement, and Communications - Chair Michael Holmes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and stated all members were present with Council Member Cook participating virtually.

Present: Chair Michael Holmes, Council Member Amanda Cook (virtually), Council Member Dr. Patrick Harman, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2025-026 **Resilience High Point Compassion Presentation**
City Council will hear a presentation regarding Resilience High Point's Compassion Charter.

Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager, introduced Charlene Gladney, Founder and Executive Director of Operation Xcel.

Ms. Gladney provided a PowerPoint Presentation and explained that Resilience High Point was formed in 2019 to begin addressing childhood trauma. She spoke to the strategies that are utilized and provided stories that highlighted a lack of compassion by the general public. She stated this initiative has changed lives in other cities and expressed excitement regarding the City's interest in signing the Charter and becoming a part of the compassion movement. She explained the Charter is a commitment to become involved in the community and learn how to be a positive influence with a variety of issues particularly the underserved communities.

Council Member Harman stated he is on the Board of Resilience High Point and stated he confirmed with the City Attorney that there would be no conflicts because this initiative would not involve funding. He stated he was inspired by another organization in England and what a big difference compassion makes throughout the communities. He noted the Board is working very hard to make High Point a more compassionate City with a variety of strategies.

In response to Council Member Holmes, Ms. Gladney explained that if the City signs the Charter, it is a commitment to conduct business in a compassionate manner and would like the City to participate in the trainings. She noted there are no cost associated with the training or signing the Charter.

Council Member Cook thanked Ms. Gladney for the presentation and hopes this is one of many first steps to move forward with a new High Point which is more connected and compassionate.

Council Member Holmes asked that a further presentation be submitted to other members of Council and schedule this for a Manager's Briefing. He thanked Ms. Gladney for the presentation.

2025-027 **Revised Broadcast Policy**

City Council is requested to consider the revised Public Meeting Live Stream Policy to incorporate updated provisions enabling staff to implement video to record and stream approved meetings for public access.

Jeron Hollis, Managing Director, provided the staff report for this item. He stated this is a revision to the current broadcasting policy. In April of 2024, the City Council approved the installation of equipment and software to enable video broadcasting to enable streaming. The updated policy is the last step that would allow the meetings to be streamed in real time across our existing platforms. He stated if the Committee approves this action, it would then move forward to the next Council Meeting.

In response to Council Member Harman, Mr. Hollis stated there is staff in place and this policy is the final administrative step to begin streaming. Once approved by City Council, the target date for streaming is by the 2nd City Council meeting in March.

In response to Council Member Holmes, Mr. Hollis stated that using the standard platforms such as social media etc. would be the way the public would be able to be notified about the streaming. He noted this will not change how the meetings are conducted, it is just making them accessible visually.

A motion was made by Chair Michael Holmes, seconded by Council Member Patrick Harman, to approve the revised policy.

Motion Passed with the following vote:

Aye: Council Member Michael Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem Britt Moore, Council Member Patrick Harman

Council Member Cook did not vote because she was participating virtually.

2025-028 **Overview of Appointed Boards and Commissions**

Staff will provide an overview of the City's appointed Boards and Commissions.

Megan Maquire, City Attorney, explained that there are no differences between the words Boards or Commission as they both function as a body. She noted that City

Council is the only elected board within city government and is the ultimate governing board of the City. She stated it is the role of Council to appoint citizens to the Boards and Commissions and explained that some boards are created by state statute and some are created by city code and operate by bylaws and/or rules of procedure. She explained the Planning and Zoning Commission is a legislative board, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Board of Adjustment are Quasi-Judicial Boards, and all other boards are advisory boards. She explained the functions of each board and provided information regarding appointed task forces such as the Marketing and Branding Task Force which often times are time limited.

Sandra Keeney, City Clerk, highlighted the advisory boards as well as boards such as the High Point Housing Authority that Elected Officials appoint citizens to serve. She noted some of the advisory boards are ward specific meaning that it is preference to appoint citizens within a particular ward. She reviewed the appointment policies and reviewed examples of board reports that are submitted to the Elected Officials. She provided information regarding how citizens can apply for a Board and Commission and encouraged anyone wishing to serve to visit the website and/or to contact the Clerk's Office. She spoke to the Gender Equity Report that must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by September 1st of each year.

In response to Council Member Holmes, Attorney Maguire stated that there are some potential grey areas within the law regarding virtual meetings for the advisory boards and that research will be conducted and an update will be provided.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Moore, Attorney Maguire stated the Gender Equity Report is submitted to the Secretary of State and was enacted in 1999; she noted there are no hard requirements other than to share the data.

Mrs. Keeney explained a collaborative effort between the Clerk's Office and the Attorney's Office will be to visit the Boards, gather and review by-laws, research virtual meeting options, and work with staff to provide operational recommendations.

In response to Council Member Cook, Mrs. Keeney stated applications are kept for three years.

In response to Council Member Harmon, Jeron Hollis Managing Director, stated staff would review promotional materials for the Boards and Commissions

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Moore, Mrs. Keeney stated some Boards receive more applications than others noting there is more interest in serving on some Boards than others.

In response to Council Member Harman, Attorney Maguire stated some of the names of the Boards and Commission are derived from statute.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Transparency, Engagement, & Communication Committee, the meeting adjourned at

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Holmes, Chairman

Attest:

Sandra Keeney, City Clerk