

City of High Point

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2011

4:45:00 PM

Council Chambers

*Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor
Latimer B. Alexander, IV, Mayor Pro Tem
James Corey, Foster Douglas, A.B. Henley, III,
Britt W. Moore, Michael D. Pugh,
Bernita Sims, M. Christopher Whitley*

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the roll call, Mayor Smothers shared the following prayer that can be found at the first Station on the St. Christopher's Episcopal Church's Exercise Path and Prayer Walk.

Look down from your throne Oh Lord and grant us protection within the walls of this city. Watch over our leaders and those in authority. Give them wisdom to make decisions which will positively impact those who live here. Give to all a true sense of true security and peace--those who protect and they who are protected. Let our city be a beacon of hope and prosperity to all and may we all work together toward improving our lives and always being mindful of all in acknowledging your everlasting love. Amen."

The Prayer of Allegiance followed.

Present: Mayor Smothers, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Moore, Council Member Sims, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Pugh, Council Member Henley, Council Member Whitley and Council Member Corey

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Upon motion by Council Member Council Member Sims, second by Mayor Pro Tem Alexander the minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved to include a couple of typos in the September 22nd Briefing Session Minutes as discovered by Council Member Corey.

Special Meeting on Redistricting; Monday, September 19th @ 3:00 p.m.
Combined Meeting; Monday, September 19th @ 4:45/5:30 p.m.
Manager's Briefing Session; Thursday, September 22nd @ 9:00 a.m.
Adjourned Session; Thursday, September 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.

FINAL ACTION TAKEN AT THIS MEETING

At the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole Session, and after all matters were heard by Council, **motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Moore to suspend the rules in order to take final action on these matters at tonight's meeting. [9-0 vote]**

Motion was then made by Council Member Sims, seconded by Council Member Moore that all Committee recommendations stand as final action regarding these matters. The motion carried unanimously. [9-0 vote]

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council Member Alexander, Chair
Committee Members: Whitley, Smothers and Corey

(all were present)

Contract - Bid No. 15 - Architectural Services for Broad Avenue Bus Terminal Renovations

110202

Council is requested to award a contract for Bid No. 15 for Architectural Services for the Broad Avenue Bus Terminal Renovations. Purchasing and the Transportation Department recommend that contract be awarded to Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates in the amount of \$85,000.00 as the best qualified candidate.

...Body

[Enter body here.]

Chairman Alexander explained this matter was discussed during a Finance Committee meeting held at 3:30 p.m. prior to this meeting and is being forwarded to the City Council with a 3-1 vote of the Finance Committee. Since Chairman Alexander was the dissenting vote on this matter, he entertained a motion for consideration.

Mayor Smothers explained the discussion centered around concerns by some of Council that staff recommended a Greensboro architectural firm. She noted that staff did review the fact there were criteria involved in selecting the firm to provide the professional service for this project and the firm that was recommended did have the highest score.

There being no further discussion, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for approval.

Approved contract with Moser Mayer Phoenix Associations in the amount of \$85,000 as the best qualified candidate for architectural services for the Broad Avenue Bus Terminal renovations.

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

Votes: Aye: Mayor Smothers, Council Member Sims, Council Member Douglas, Council Member Henley, Council Member Whitley and Council Member Corey
Nay: Council Member Alexander, Council Member Moore and Council Member Pugh

Contract - Engineering Services for a MRF Process Study

110203

Council is requested to award contract for Bid No. 30 for Engineer Selection for Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Process Study. Purchasing, Public Services and the Architect Selection Committee recommend that the contract be awarded to HDR Engineering, as the most qualified engineer, at a contract price of \$59,790.00.

This matter was discussed during a Finance Committee meeting held at 3:30 p.m. prior to this meeting.

The Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation.

Approved contract with HDR Engineering, as the most qualified engineer at a contract price of \$59,790.00 for engineer selection for the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Process Study.

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

Contract - Automated Side-Loading Refuse Trucks for Environmental Services

110208

Council is requested to award contract for the purchase of two (2) Automated Side-Loading Refuse Trucks (used) for Environmental Services from Amick Equipment Company in the total amount of \$474,840.00.

This matter was discussed during a Finance Committee meeting held at 3:30 p.m. prior to this meeting.

The Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for approval.

Approved contract with Amick Equipment Company in the total amount of \$474,840.00 for the purchase of two (2) used automated side-loading refuse trucks for Environmental Services.

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

Ordinance - Budget Ordinance Amendment - City Project

110207

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance amending the 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance to appropriate grant funds received from the Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$9,500 for the City Project.

This matter was discussed during a Finance Committee meeting held at 3:30 p.m. prior to this meeting.

The Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation.

Adopted ordinance amending the 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance to appropriate grant funds received from the Convention & Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$9,500 for the City Project.

Ordinance No. 6875/11-56

Introduced 10/3/2011

Adopted 10/3/2011

Ordinance Book Volume XVII, Page 56

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Council Member
Sims, Chair**

Committee Members Alexander, Douglas and Corey

(all were present)

Update- Lead Paint Grant

Mike McNair, Director of Community Development gave an update on a lead paint grant recently awarded to the city in the amount of \$2.475 million. He also reviewed steps taken regarding prior grants and shared some maps showing the actual remediations that took place as a result of what has been done over the last three years. The city has remediated 204 units (single and multi-family; 65 owner occupied units and 139 investor-owned properties). As a result of these remediations, the homes of 99 children were remediated and they are now living in safe homes.

Mr. McNair explained the city had a very competitive application and was the only municipality to get awarded a grant for this purpose. There were 222 applicants with only 39 grants awarded. The City of High Point applied for \$3.1 million and was awarded \$2.475 million.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked staff how decisions are made as to the homes that are remediated. Mr. McNair explained the first priorities are referrals from the Health Department involving children with documented blood levels for lead poisoning. Mayor Pro Tem Alexander pointed out there are a large number of home day cares in High Point and he wanted to make sure these were being considered as well. Mr. McNair explained the grant is very performance driven with the objective of where there is a known presence of lead.

He explained staff was looking at the possibility of going into neighborhoods and places that older homes exist such as Washington Street, East Central, Highland Mills area, etc....and looking at having a community event to raise awareness by possibly targeting whole areas. This would not eliminate walk-ins or referrals, but would give staff the opportunity to hit some of the neighborhoods they've not been in yet.

Mayor Smothers thanked staff for being successful in pursuing these grants.

**PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE - Council Member Whitley, Chair**

Pending Items

Part 150 Assessment Report

110038

Consideration of a report from the Planning and Development Department that assesses the PTIA Part 150 Airport Noise Compatibility Study including a recommendation to amend the Airport Overlay District.

2011. A presentation was made by staff and the Piedmont Triad International Airport Authority and this matter was discussed during a Briefing Session held on Thursday, September 22nd. At that time a recommendation was made to remove Area "A" from consideration of change (leave existing Airport Overlay as currently zoned as identified on Map 1 of the Part 150 Assessment) and to initiate a zoning map amendment process for Areas "B" and "C".

A motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved To remove Area "A" from consideration of change (leave existing Airport Overlay as currently zoned as identified on Map 1 of the Part 150 Assessment) and to initiate a zoning map amendment process for Areas "B" and "C".

The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Appointment - Library Board of Trustees

110209

Council is requested to confirm the appointment of Forrest Littleton to the Library Board of Trustees as Council Member Douglas' appointment. Appointment to be effective immediately and will expire October 31, 2013.

Approved the appointment of Forrest Littleton to the Library Board of Trustees.

A motion was made by Council Member Douglas, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments - Heritage Pont Steering Committee

110211

The High Point Historical Society is requesting that City Council appoint the following persons to serve on the Heritage Point Steering Committee:

Mr. Penn Wood

Ms. Kay Anderson

Ms. Suzie Phipps

Ms. Mary Powell DeLille

Mr. Terri Aiken

Since this matter did not originally appear on tonight's Agenda, motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Moore to suspend the rules relative to placing this matter on the Agenda for consideration.

Approved the appointments of Mr. Penn Wood, Ms. Kay Anderson, Ms. Suzie Phipps, Ms. Mary Powell DeLille, and Mr. Terry Aiken to the Heritage Point Steering Committee.

A motion was made by Council Member Corey, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment - Member of City Council to the Guilford County Gang Commission

110212

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council is requesting a member of the High Point City Council serve on the Guilford County Gang Commission.

Since this matter did not originally appear on tonight's Agenda, motion was made by Council Member Whitley, seconded by Council Member Moore to suspend the rules relative to placing this matter on the Agenda for consideration.

Approved the appointment of Council Member Pugh to serve as liaison to the Guilford County Gang Commission.

A motion was made by Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Henley, that this matter be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Traffic Concerns- Laurel Oak Ranch

Rochelle Hicks, a Laurel Oak Ranch resident, addressed Council regarding excessive speeding on Old Plank Road. She and other residents have been working with Mayor Pro Tem Alexander and the City of High Point for a few years in trying to reduce traffic on Old Plank Road. Ms. Hicks explained that motorists were using the road as a major cut-thru and totally ignoring the posted 25 mph speed limits. She shared some statistics she obtained from the High Point Police Department that showed an average of 65 speeding tickets were written per year on this road in the Laurel Oak Ranch area alone. She felt the openness and appearance of the road promotes speeding and asked Council if anything could be done to provide them some much needed relief.

She noted that previously speed bumps/humps had been discussed and reported that they are now interested in pursuing speed bumps/humps with the realization they would need 70% of the neighborhood to agree and sign a petition to this effect. Ms. Hicks explained the Police Department was patrolling the area when possible and were writing tickets.

Council Member Pugh asked staff to elaborate on what might be the most practical application to slow traffic in this area and asked if speed bumps would be an option and if a round-about might be more effective.

Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation, reported the studies done in this area show that the speeds are consistent with the geometry of the road and typically speed bumps or speed humps would not be used on collector type streets such as Laurel Oak Ranch. He explained that staff also looked at the possibility of doing something more horizontal traffic shifting and were looking at something more like changing the horizontal alignment as opposed to putting in speed humps or something of that nature. He noted that they would not rule them out at this point and reiterated that a petition process is in place to enable the city to work with the neighborhood if they choose to go through that process to see what the different alternatives or options might be. He pointed out that although roundabouts could be an effective tool, they were very costly to construct and would require a workable place to put them.

The recommendation from the High Point Transportation Department was to consider on-street parking on Old Plank Road because it was felt this could act as a traffic calmer requiring drivers to focus more due to the obstructions (parked cars). Mr. McDonald noted that while there may be restrictive covenants in place, there are no ordinances on public streets that would restrict this as an option. City Manager Strib Boynton mentioned the possibility of "Children at Play" signs and Mr. McDonald explained that traditionally the city has not used these types of signs because they give

the wrong message and could encourage children to play in the streets.

Mr. McDonald mentioned there was a single car fatality in this area last month and it was determined that speed was a factor, but it was also suspected that alcohol or drugs might have been involved. Council Member Sims asked if there was any way to know if the speeding tickets have been issued to individuals living in Laurel Oak Ranch or motorists just passing through. Ms. Hicks replied that the specific names were not provided to her due to confidentiality, but she had a car speed by her on a couple of occasions and got the description/tag information and she felt it was someone who has moved into the apartments.

Council Member Corey suggested another way to possibly slow traffic might be through a stop sign or a traffic light. Mayor Pro Tem Alexander noted this was something the community had mentioned and the Transportation Department shared with them that this might prove to be dangerous--especially if a stop sign was placed in an area where it would be least expected. Mr. McDonald advised against this and noted it would only work where warranted. He noted that a stop sign in conjunction with some other physical improvements along Old Plank Road that would narrow the cross-section might be a feasible option to look out, but just to stick it out to the side in the wide section of the street would probably be very ineffective.

Ms. Hicks informed Council that they would like to take the information on speed humps to the community to see how they might feel about it. Mayor Smothers thanked her for coming.

Valerie Ruth Lewis Wallace (208 Vail)

Valerie Ruth Lewis Wallace, who owns property at 208 Vail (an occupied boarding house), addressed Council regarding the following issues:

Requested assistance from the city to help her improve this property

Requested assistance (a payment plan) for a \$304 past due utility bill. She reported that she had met with staff on several occasions, but staff would not work with her.

Requested her electric meter be updated with a digital meter.

Ms. Wallace explained that she would like to keep her business (boarding house) going and keep it maintained so she could possibly sell it. Mayor Smothers asked Ms. Wallace if she had paid the past due utility bill yet and Ms. Wallace noted that she had not because staff wanted to add an additional unrealistic charge. The Mayor wished Ms. Wallace well and suggested there wouldn't be an issue if the past due utility bill was paid.

Larry Diggs (1127 Biltmore Avenue)

Larry Diggs, who resides at 1127 Biltmore Avenue, addressed Council regarding the following concerns:

Job vacancies (specifically mentioned he has talked with several parks and recreation

employees about this). He asked that the city be more mindful and more considerate of the extra work and stress this is putting on the employees.

Transportation issue (he didn't want to address this issue publicly, so he was encouraged to share his concern with Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation).

Council Member Moore thanked Mr. Diggs for coming and sharing and noted the financial stresses and pressures, overwork/doublework Mr. Diggs referred to have been issues facing the private sector for nearly 20 years and was just finding its way very quickly into the public sector.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS - 5:30 P.M.

There were no public hearings scheduled for tonight's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION- PROPERTY ACQUISITION

At 5:51 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Alexander moved to enter into closed session to discuss a property acquisition pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318(a)(5). Council Member Whitley made a second to the motion which carried unanimously. [9-0 vote]

Council reconvened into open session at 6:15 p.m. with an announcement that there was no action taken as a result of the closed session.

For Information Only:

Special Recognition- Boy Scout Chase Sheffield

Council Member Henley recognized a young boy scout in the audience, Chase Sheffield and his dad, Charlie. Chase is working on his communications badge and is currently an 8th grader at Westchester Country Day School.

Jeff Golden- 2011 High Point Housing Authority Pillars of Fame Awardee

Council Member Sims acknowledged Jeff Golden who was recently recognized by the High Point Housing Authority as their 2011 Pillars of Fame awardee.

Redistricting Concerns

Council Members Douglas and Pugh expressed concerns regarding the redistricting maps that have been drawn by the consultants, Bailey & Dixon and asked about the possibility of the creation of a new map. They were asked to share their ideas and concerns with City Attorney Fred Baggett so the information could be considered and forwarded to the consultants.

Survey Conducted by Karen McNeill for the Chamber of Commerce

Council Member Henley stated he would like to invite Ms. McNeill to do a presentation on the survey information she compiled at the direction of the Chamber

of Commerce. He suggested it could possibly be done during a Thursday morning Briefing Session. Mr. Boynton noted he would work out a convenient time with Ms. McNeill and explained it could possibly be scheduled for October 20th since a Briefing has already been scheduled for this date for a presentation by the Police Department on domestic violence.

Meeting Reminders

There will be a Briefing Session on Thursday, October 6th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the Fairway Signs and to receive an update from staff on the 9-1-1 radio system.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk