

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, November 3, 2025 - 4:00 PM  
Municipal Office Building  
211 S. Hamilton Street  
High Point, NC 27260**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Jefferson called the Special Meeting of the High Point City Council to order at 4:00 p.m. He stated all members were present except for Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council Member Johnson.*

***Present:*** Mayor Cyril Jefferson, Council Member; Amanda Cook, At-Large; Council Member Vickie McKiver, Ward 1; Council Member Monica Peters, Ward 3; Council Member Patrick Harman, Ward 4; Council Member Tim Andrew, Ward 5, and Council Member Michael Holmes, Ward 6.

***Absent:*** Mayor Pro Tempore Britt Moore, At-Large and Council Member Tyrone Johnson, Ward 2

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Andrew to adopt the agenda as presented.**

*The motion passed with the following vote:*

***Aye:*** Mayor Jefferson, Council Member Cook, Council Member McKiver, Council Member Peters, Council Member Harman, Council Member Andrew, and Council Member Holmes

***Nay:*** None

***Absent:*** Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council Members: Johnson

**PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**

2025-450     **Library Social Work Program Update**  
Staff will present an update on the High Point Library Social Work program.

*Libraries Director Mary Sizemore introduced Eric Foushee, Executive Director of Mental Health Associates of the Triad, and Emily Paparello, Social Worker at the High Point Public Library, to provide an update on the Library Social Work Program.*

*Mr. Foushee and Ms. Paparello explained that the partnership between Mental Health Associates and the Library was established to embed a social worker and peer navigator onsite to provide crisis response, referrals, and connections to long-term*

*community resources. The peer navigator, Eric Hector, (who was unable to attend the meeting) uses his lived experience to build rapport with patrons, while Ms. Paparello focuses on crisis intervention and complex case management.*

*During the startup phase (September–November 2024), the program logged 52 peer navigator interactions, many involving uninsured individuals or those without a primary care provider. The social worker's caseload, while smaller, involved more complex, multi-step cases. Since the program's formal launch in December 2024, over 1,000 residents have been served, 80% of whom had no prior link to healthcare or social service systems.*

*Common service needs include employment assistance, housing referrals, healthcare enrollment, and access to food and nutrition benefits. Employment remains the most requested service. The team also assists patrons with obtaining vital documents, such as IDs and birth certificates, and provides transportation support through bus passes.*

*Mr. Foushee emphasized that many clients are men who might not otherwise seek help in traditional clinical settings. The library's accessible environment has helped reduce stigma and improve engagement. He highlighted a success story of a woman fleeing domestic violence who, through the program, obtained housing and employment after living in her car.*

*Ms. Paparello and Mr. Foushee noted the program's impact on reducing emergency calls and crises, with each avoided emergency department visit saving approximately \$1,000–\$2,500. Stabilizing even 10% of clients can yield an estimated \$200,000–\$300,000 in annual public cost avoidance.*

*Council Member Holmes commended the program, noting the importance of reaching people who might not otherwise access care.*

*Council Member Harman asked about the average case duration; Ms. Paparello shared that some clients achieve stability within 3–6 months, while others require a year or more of support.*

*Mr. Foushee added that the program serves not only unhoused individuals but also working families struggling to maintain stability. When asked what resource could most improve the program, Ms. Paparello identified housing particularly transitional housing as the greatest unmet need.*

*Council Member Harman and Mayor Jefferson discussed measuring outcomes related to reduced 911 calls and disruptions at the library. Director Sizemore confirmed that incidents have declined due to early intervention by staff and the social work team. The Mayor requested follow-up data comparing calls before and after the program's implementation to better quantify cost avoidance and guide future collaboration with county human services.*

*City Manager Logan Ford agreed to compile the requested information. Mayor Jefferson concluded by commending the success of the program and reaffirming Council's commitment to supporting initiatives that improve community wellbeing.*

2025-445     **Closed Session**

Council is requested to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4) for Economic Development and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client privilege.

**A motion was made by Council Member Harman, seconded by Council Member Peters, to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4) for Economic Development and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client privilege.**

*The motion passed with the following vote:*

**Aye:** Mayor Jefferson, Council Member Cook, Council Member McKiver, Council Member Peters, Council Member Harman, Council Member Andrew, and Council Member Holmes

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council Members: Johnson

*Closed session began at 4:24 p.m.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Andrew, to end Closed Session and resume Regular Session.**

The motion passed with the following vote:

**Aye:** Mayor Jefferson, Council Member Cook, Council Member McKiver, Council Member Peters, Council Member Harman, Council Member Andrew, and Council Member Holmes

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Council Members: Johnson

*Closed Session ended at 5:19 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the Special Meeting of the High Point City Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Cyril Jefferson, Mayor

Attest:

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Sandra Keeney, City Clerk