

City of High Point

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2010

4:45:00 PM

Council Chambers

*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, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Council Member Sims, seconded by Council Member Blakeney.

Finance Committee; Monday, May 17th @ 3:30 p.m.
Combined Meeting; Monday, May 17th @ 4:45/5:30 p.m.
Budget Review Session #1; Wednesday, May 19th @ 3:00 p.m.
Budget Review Session #2; Thursday, May 20th @ 9:00 a.m.
Budget Review Session #3; Thursday, May 27th @ 3:00 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 Sims and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley to suspend the rules in order to take final action on these matters at tonight's meeting. The motion carried unanimously. [9-0 vote]**

Motion was then made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims 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 Whitley, Chair
Committee Members: Bencini, Douglas and Alexander**

(all were present)

Sale of City Property - 1200 Hoover Street - New Jerusalem Cathedral**100148**

Council is requested to authorize the City Attorney's office to proceed with the sale of city owned property located at 1200 Hoover Avenue to the New Jerusalem Cathedral in the amount of \$1,500.00.

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.

Authorized the City Attorney's office to proceed with the sale of city owned property located at 1200 Hoover Avenue to the New Jerusalem Cathedral in the amount of \$1,500.00

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

Condemnation Proceedings - 1201 Pearson Place - Wesley Branch Outfall Project

100149

Council is requested to authorize the City Attorney's office to begin condemnation proceedings on property located at 1201 Pearson Place, Estate of Dorothy T. Austin a/k/a Dorothy Lee Alston. This property is needed for the Wesley Branch Outfall 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 for approval.

Authorized the City Attorney's office to begin condemnation proceedings on property located at 1201 Pearson Place, Estate of Dorothy T. Austin a/k/a Dorothy Lee Alston.

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

Municipal Agreement - NCDOT - Reimbursement Schedule for Traffic Signal system Operations ("Schedule D")

100150

Council is requested to authorize staff to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the new Reimbursement Schedule for Traffic Signal system Operations ("Schedule D")

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 Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the new Reimbursement Schedule for Traffic Signal System Operations ("Schedule D") and authorized staff to execute same.

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

Contract - Bid No. 28 - Asphalt City Wide

100153

Council is requested to approve contract awarding Bid No. 28 to purchase asphalt materials to repair and replace existing asphalt in roadways after repairs are completed. Purchasing and the Streets Department recommend that contract be awarded to Thompson Arthur, Division of APAC Atlantic, Inc., and Larco. Usage is expected to be approximately \$575,000.00

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 Thompson Arthur, Division of APAC Atlantic, Inc., and Larco to purchase asphalt materials to repair and replace existing asphalt in roadways after repairs are completed.

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

Issuance of General Obligation Bonds - Public Improvement Bonds

100156 City Council to adopt resolution for sale of \$5,615,000 General Obligation Public Improvement (Two-Thirds) Bonds Series 2010A; \$16,580,000 General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds Series 2010B; and up to \$32,080,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2010C

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 adoption.

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

Capital Project Ordinances Series 2010 General Obligation Bond Projects

100155 City Council to approve capital project ordinances for the Series 2010A General Obligation Public Improvement (Two-Thirds) Bonds projects for street and sidewalk improvements (\$2,415,000) and parks and recreational facilities improvements (\$3,200,000).

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 adoption.

Council Member Bencini stated he would not offer his support for this matter due to concerns that Council rushed through the process without a real thorough conversation about either one of them (i.e. sidewalk improvements and parks and recreational facilities improvements). He felt it would be committing the citizens to increased debt and some increase of a tax burden without a lengthy dialogue with the public. Council Member Faircloth reported on staff's response to a question he asked in the Committee meeting regarding any impact from the 2/3 bonds as it relates to the tax rate and staff replied that it would not affect the tax rate.

Council Member Bencini reiterated his concerns were in regards to increasing debt. Mayor Smothers explained that the city could not issue the bonds unless they have retired debt. Council Member Bencini still felt the process was somewhat misleading to the citizens and this was not the right time to pursue increased debt. The Mayor explained that Council put a provision in place regarding the Parks & Recreational facilities improvements that no contracts would be let until Council has finished that particular project and has determined and identified where those investments will be made.

Mayor Pro Tem Whitley explained that although in the past he has been opposed to 2/3 bonds, he was well aware that there were two much needed items and without proceeding with 2/3 bonds this year, it might result in an increased tax rate and he preferred to take the alternative route of extending out the cost. Council Member Bencini stated he wanted to be very clear that he has no problem with spending money on Parks & Recreation; he felt the timing was not good for taking on

additional debt in the type of economical environment the city is currently facing. The Mayor explained the economic analysis done by staff on what the net effect would be and if this were not issued was significantly minimal.

City Manager Strib Boynton pointed out there would be a downfall if Council does not proceed with the process and asked staff to elaborate on the consequences if the process was modified or dropped at this point. Jeff Moore, Director of Financial Services, explained if Council chooses to modify or change the issuance process at this point, the process would start over. He noted the city has already invested approximately \$250,000 in the issuance process and encouraged Council to proceed. He explained the next opportunity to issue 2/3 bonds would be approximately October.

Adopted Capital Project Ordinances for the Series 2010A General Obligation Public Improvement (Two-Thirds) Bonds projects for street and sidewalk improvements (\$2,415,000) and parks and recreational facilities improvements (\$3,200,000).

Ordinance No. 6706/10-54

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 191

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

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

Resolution - Sale of Combined Enterprise System Revenue Bonds

100158

· City Council to adopt resolution for sale of \$27,500,000 Combined Enterprise System Revenue Bonds Series 2010A (tax-exempt) and Series 2010B (taxable); and up to \$17,755,000 Combined Enterprise System Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2010B

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 adoption.

Adopted resolution for sale of \$27,500,000 Combined Enterprise System Revenue Bonds Series 2010A (tax-exempt) and Series 2010B (taxable); and up to \$17,755,000 Combined Enterprise System Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2010B.

Resolution No. 1616/10-44

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Resolution Book Volume XVI, Page 258

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

Capital Project Ordinances - Series 2010 Revenue Bond Projects

100159 City Council to approve capital project ordinances for the Series 2010 Revenue Bond projects

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 adoption.

Adopted Capital Project ordinances for the Series 2010 Revenue Bond for the above referenced projects.

Ordinance Numbers: 6708/10-56 page 193; 6709/10-57 page 194; 6710/10-58 page 195; 6711/10-59 page 196; 6712/10-60 page 197; 6713/10-61 page 198; 6714/10-62 page 199; 6715/10-63 page 200

(Ordinance Book Volume XVI)

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

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

Pending Items

Revised Economic Incentive Policy

090050 Council is requested to adopt a revised economic incentive policy redirecting incentive dollars to the Core City and south High Point.

This matter has been pending since March 5, 2009.

Resolution - Filing Fees for 2010 Municipal Election

100135 Pursuant to NCGS 163-294.2(e), Council must set the filing fees for the upcoming municipal election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. The filing fee must be set no later than the day before candidates are permitted to begin filing notices of candidacy. The filing period will begin at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 2, 2010 and will end at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 16, 2010. The filing fee for the 2008 municipal election was \$96.00.

This matter was introduced on May 17, 2010. At that time, it was placed in the Finance Committee for further discussion. Chairman Whitley noted this matter would be on the June 10, 2010 Agenda for further discussion/action.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Council Member Faircloth, Chair
Committee Members Douglas, Pugh and Alexander**

(all were present)

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 329 Montlieu Avenue

100140

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 329 Montlieu Avenue belonging to Austin O'Quinn, LLC.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 329 Montlieu Avenue.

Ordinance No. 6716/10-64

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 201

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 1406 Furlough Avenue

100141

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 1406 Furlough Avenue, belonging to Adebayo Oshiyemi.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 1406 Furlough Avenue.

Ordinance No. 6717/10-65

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 202

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 505-B Cable Street

100142

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 505-B Cable Street, belonging to M Z Real Estate, LLC (Joe Coggins).

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 505-B Cable Street.

Ordinance No. 6718/10-66

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 203

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 109 Lawndale Avenue

100143

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 109 Lawndale Avenue belonging to John A. Bracia and Michael W. Dunnigan.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 109 Lawndale Avenue.

Ordinance No. 6719/10-67

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, page 204

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 619 Spring Garden Circle

100144

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 619 Spring Garden Circle belonging to John A. Braica and Michael W. Dunnigan.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 619 Spring Garden Circle.

Ordinance No. 6720/10-68**Introduced 06/07/2010****Adopted 06/07/2010****Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 205**

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 905 Granby Avenue**100145**

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 905 Granby Avenue belonging to Schwarz Properties, LLC.

Staff is requesting that this matter be removed from the Agenda at this time due to reviewing the housing case again which may result in a change on the actual order. Katherine Bossi, Local Code Enforcement Supervisor reported that the matter would come back to Council in a couple of weeks.

The Committee recommended this matter be removed from the Agenda as requested by staff.

Removed matter from the Agenda.

A motion was made by Member Faircloth, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this matter be removed. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance - Vacate/Close Dwelling - 1217 RC Baldwin Avenue**100146**

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 1217 RC Baldwin Avenue, belonging to James and Shirley Blackwell.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case.

Mr. Albert Blackwell, who resides at 1610 Deep River Road, addressed Council and

explained that he had planned on making the repairs to the property, but got stalled due to trying to get his son out of college.

Katherine Bossi, Local Codes Enforcement Supervisor, updated Council on this case and noted the complaint was initiated by the tenant. She proceeded to give an overview of the staff report. She explained the tenants did vacate the property on March 19th. [a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Chairman Faircloth explained to Mr. Blackwell that since there was no one living in the house, this action would have no effect on him and he should go ahead and apply for the proper permits to do the repairs.

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 1217 R C Baldwin Avenue.

Ordinance No. 6721/10-69

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 206

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

Ordinance -Vacate/Close Dwelling - 505-D Meredith Street

100147

Council is requested to adopt an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 505-D Meredith Street belonging to Schwarz Properties, LLC.

Someone was present to speak regarding 507 Meredith Street. Staff explained the case on the agenda was for 505-D Meredith and not 507. The tenant informed Council that she did receive a notice that there would be a meeting today at 4:45 p.m. According to staff, that could have possibly been the in-house hearing meeting. Staff will check on this matter.

Chairman Faircloth asked if the property owner was present and if there were any comments regarding this housing case. There being no comments, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for adoption.

[a copy of the staff report for this housing case will be attached to Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]

Adopted ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing of a dwelling located at 505-D Meredith Street.

Ordinance No. 6722/10-70

Introduced 06/07/2010

Adopted 06/07/2010

Ordinance Book Volume XVI, Page 207

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

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE - Council Member Sims, Chair
Members: Blakeney, Faircloth, Whitley and Alexander

(all were present)

There were no matters appearing on tonight's Agenda for consideration by the Public Services Committee.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Council Member Bencini, Chair
Members: Blakeney, Pugh, Sims and Faircloth

(all were present)

There were no matters appearing on tonight's Agenda for consideration by the Planning & Development Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Request to Cancel City Council Meetings Scheduled for July 5-9, 2010

100157 Due to the Fourth of July holiday week and a lack of agenda of items, City Council is requested to cancel meetings scheduled for Monday, July 5th and Thursday, July 8th.

Cancelled meetings scheduled for Monday, July 5th and Thursday, July 8th due to the July 4th holiday.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 5:15 P.M.

The Mayor asked if there was anyone present who would like to address Council during the Public Comment period on matters not appearing on the Agenda.

No one was present to offer any comments at this time.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council Member Whitley, Chair

Public Hearing - 2010 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

100154 Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. is the date and time established to receive public comments on the 2010 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

Chairman Whitley opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present

who would like to comment regarding the 2010 JAG grant.

City Manager Strib Boynton explained this was a \$400,000 grant that's divided between the Guilford County Sheriff's Office, Greensboro Police Department and High Point Police Department with High Point's portion being \$76,569.60. Council Member Bencini questioned procedure for distribution of the grant monies. Mr. Boynton explained it is distributed according to a set formula. Council Member Sims asked if there was an administrative fee that the city receives for taking the lead on administration/reporting and Mr. Boynton replied the city receives no extra money for administration.

There being no one to speak on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed. Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation.

Acknowledgement that the required public hearing was held.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley, seconded by Council Member Sims, that this matter be acknowledged as public hearing held and placed on consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution - Expenditures for Economic Development Purposes - Apixir Pharma

100152

Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. is the date and time established to receive public comment concerning Economic Development Incentives in the amount of \$35,000 for Apixir Pharma.

Apixir Pharma Sciences is considering opening in the Premier Office & Technology Park in High Point at 4050 and/or 4090 Premier Drive and are seeking up to \$35,0000 in incentives.

Loren Hill, President of the High Point Economic Development Corporation, pointed out that High Point is the leading contender for the project and gave Council an overview of Apixir and the incentives they are requesting. [a copy of Mr. Hill's comments will be attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings]. Following Mr Hill's comments, he introduced Dr. Sreenivasa Eturi, Director of Strategy with Apixir who in turn introduced his two partners: Dr. Ashok Bhandari, Director of Business Development and Dr. Murty Arimilli, Director of Research & Development for the company.

Chairman Whitley opened the public hearing and asked if anyone was present to comment.

Dr. Sreenivasa Eturi addressed Council and explained that the first three letters in Apixir represent "active pharmaceutical ingredients" and they were looking for a good location where people can be happy and he felt the High Point location was a quality location for them. He further explained they although the work force would be chemistry based, they would also create technical jobs and support staff such as Human Resources, accounting, finance and a small manufacturing area. He also indicated their willingness to collaborate with local communities, local government, and local educational institutions.

Council Member Pugh encouraged Apixir to consider High Point residents for the positions if possible. Mayor Pro Tem Whitley noted that others on Council also share the same view. Council Member Faircloth encouraged employees coming in from outside to be residents of High Point.

Chairman Whitley asked if there were any additional comments. There being none, the public hearing was declared closed. Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Committee recommended this matter be placed on Thursday's Agenda with a favorable recommendation for approval.

Council Member Bencini inquired about the last time the city approved economic development incentives for a start-up company. Mr. Hill replied that incentives were given to Transportation Solutions and to QuarTek Corporation and QuarTek was still in operation. Council Member Bencini also asked if the \$35,000 was consistent with the city's current guidelines for incentives and Mr. Hill replied in the affirmative based on a provision that the amount of investment for any high tech, emerging technology research and development company so their \$2,000,000 proposed investment would qualify. Mayor Smothers commented that with all the competition with Biotech companies, High Point was very fortunate to be considered.

Adopted resolution approving up to \$35,000 in economic development incentives to Apixir Pharma Sciences.

Resolution No. 1617/10-45 Introduced 06/07/2010
Adopted 06/07/2010
Resolution Book Volume XVI, Page 259

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

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

Public Hearing - City of High Point Proposed Annual Budget FY 2010/2011

100151

Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. are the dates and times established to receive public comments on the proposed City of High Point annual budget for FY 2010/2011.

Chairman Whitley announced this is the first public hearing for the 2010-2011 proposed Annual Budget and asked if there was anyone in the audience to make comments.

Kitty Montgomery, who resides at 1506 Davidson Court in High Point and is a member of the the N.C. Shakespeare Festival (NCSF) Board of Trustees, thanked Council for their past support to the NCSF and on behalf of their board, she asked

Council to sustain the same level of in-kind support in the 2010-2011 budget that is currently being prepared. She stressed the importance of the NCSF in serving the community with distinction and informed Council they were striving to develop a more diverse board of trustees to represent the community and the region (currently have 29; 5 minorities; 16 women; 13 men and 6 senior citizens). She stated the board remains passionate in making their programs as accessible as possible to the community and to its diverse population. Ms. Montgomery shared that they are also planning on implementing a new program, Fest for All in honor of Ron Wilkins, who is now deceased and was a former councilman.

Debbie Lumpkins, with the High Point Area Arts Council at 305 N. Main Street, addressed Council on behalf of the Arts Council. She also thanked the City Council for their on-going support for the arts in High Point. According to a recent survey that was conducted in the community, residents want more programs with more diversity, but the lack of funding was an obstacle in making this happen. She noted that Guilford County reduced their funding by \$25,000. The Mayor commended the Arts Council for following the city manager's directive to reduce their request to the city in recognition of the economic times. Council Member Blakeney asked about the diverse make-up of their board and Ms. Lumpkins replied that it is currently 25% minority and are striving for other ethnic groups to be involved. Council Member Faircloth commented that folks interested in coming to High Point often ask about the arts programs that are offered. He also pointed out that he has heard strong arguments that the arts are a vital part of economic development and more and more this is becoming apparent.

Michael McKinney, who resides at 4404 Peaceford Glen Drive, and a member of the NC Shakespeare Festival (NCSF) Board, addressed Council in support of continued funding for the NCSF. He expressed gratitude to the City Council for the funding they provided to them in 2009-2010 budget and reiterated that they are continuing their efforts to broaden their cultural diversity in programming and in their outreach to touch as many lives as they could for the underprivileged. He asked Council to reconsider the in-kind commitment to the NCSF again for 2010-2011.

Council Member Pugh expressed appreciation to the NCSF for the investment they have made in their facility in High Point and asked for more police presence in the area and for staff to stay on top of things to make sure the surrounding buildings are in compliance with the code so as not to distract from their facility.

Council Member Blakeney commended both boards on their efforts in making the boards as diverse as possible because it must continue to be reflective of the city.

There being no further comments on the budget at this time, Chairman Whitley closed the first public hearing and announced the second and final public hearing on the budget would be held on Thursday, June 10th at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council entered into Closed Session at 6:20 p.m. pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for the purpose of discussion of matters relating to the location or expansion of industry in the city upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Whitley and second by Council Member Alexander.

Upon reconvening into Open Session at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Smothers announced there would be no action as a result of the closed session.

For Information Only:

Comments from Merle Green, Director of Guilford County Public Health

Department

Merle Green, Director of the Guilford County Public Health Department, addressed Council. She updated Council on various issues involving the Health Department, etc (i.e. various initiatives; health care reform; services they offer; new smoking legislation;

Council Member Pugh asked if there were any plans by Guilford County to make any cuts in services for High Point and Dr. Green explained citizens in High Point should see no difference in services offered by the Guilford County Health Department in High Point. She noted that the county funding in the proposed budget was reduced by \$2 million, but they absorbed this by delaying capital projects, hiring, etc....and no services or programs were cut.

Mayor Smothers commended Dr. Green on the way she handled the whole issue regarding the adult health and child health and the assurance that they would take care of it. She thanked Dr. Green for coming to High Point to give an update.

Proclamation- "HOME OWNERSHIP MONTH"

A proclamation was presented to Mr. Steve Key declaring the month of June as "HOME OWNERSHIP MONTH" in the City of High Point. Mr. Key shared some of the upcoming activities in recognition of this event: workshops throughout the city (lender certification and creditor lending). He issued a personal invitation to the City Council members to join the High Point Housing Coalition- Healthy Homes & Affordable Housing Bus Tour scheduled for Wednesday, June 30th from 10-12 and will tour different sites (Macedonia, Habitat, Lead Safe sites, etc...). Mr. Key reported that High Point University has graciously allowed them to use their bus for the tour.

"H.W. Keefner Award"

Keith Pugh, representing the NC Chapter of the American Public Works Association presented the "H.W. Keefner" Award to Katherine R. Blake, Construction Inspector, on behalf of the APWA. Ms. Blake would also be recognized at the APWA Conference in Winston Salem on June 14th.

Employee Awards

Strib Boynton, City Manager, presented awards to the following employees and gave a brief synopsis of the reasons they were being recognized for the awards.

Above & Beyond (\$500, Shirt & Plaque & Name on permanent plaque)

Andy Stroud (Parks & Recreation)

Anthony Garris, Tim Clinard and Michael Allen (Environmental Services Div.)

Extra Mile (\$100, Shirt and Plaque)

Charles Smith & Lee Trivette (Transportation- Signs & Signal Shop)

Dan Krawiec (Parks & Recreation)

Randy Surratt (911 Telecommunicator)

Gloria Bostic (Electric Utilities)

Patrick Martin (Water & Sewer Dispatcher)

Portia Clowdis (911 Telecommunicator)

Travis Thompson and Derek Way (Fire Department)

Kathy Blake (Engineering Services)

Working Together (Shirt and Plaque)

Marianne Janiszewski (Transportation);

Lorrie Russell (Library)

Kelly Latham (Financial Services Manager)

Christina Vanderzee (Hi tran)

Lisa Joseph (Water/Sewer Maintenance)

Andrea Penn (Library)

Debbie Boston (Accounting Clerk)

Mark Lawson (Customer Service)

Otis Foster (Electric Operations)

Josh Baker (Customer Service)

Deardre Coe (Customer Service)

April Jones (Community Development & Housing)

Greg Nance (Environmental Services)

Amy Blankenship (Customer Service)

Kim Jackson (Engineering Services)

Bobby Fletcher (Electric Operations)

David Johnson (Electric Operations)

John Whisner (Customer Service)

Ray Davis (Environmental Services)

Ricky Shelton, Mike Evans, Maurice Jamison, Randy Putman, Andy Steed, Jared

Jewett and Clark Carter (Fire Department)

Glen Hasteadt, Vee Nance, Brianna Azzara, Ed Brown, Heather Herbert, Brooke

Nagy, Claire Robinson, Steve Lingerfelt, Tim Brown, Kim Hilton, Greg Riddle,

Russell Johnson, Lee Stanley, Ken Leonard, Tony Hamrick, Greg Dupke, Vince

Harris, Lou Hedrick, Jim Hedrick, Dawn Sparks, Jim Gwyn (Various Departments-

NC Special Olympics Fall Games volunteers and Miracle League)

Meeting Reminders

Public Safety Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 9th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss "Susie's Law" and hear concerns from the group, "Laws for Paws."

Planning & Development Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 8th at 2:30 p.m. to continue discussion on conditional zoning process and.....

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B Vierling, MMC
City Clerk