MINUTES

City Council
Pre-Agenda Session
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Members Present: Bert Lance-Stone, Mayor; Roger Blackwell, Mayor Pro Tem; Council Members: Lewis Dorsett, John Glass, Robert (Trey) Gray, and Larry Warlick.

Members Absent: Tim Williams.

Others Present: Zeb Holden, City Manager; Chris Finan, Attorney; Shannon Craddock, Police Chief; Jason Miller, Planning Director; John Harrison, IT Director; Brian Clodfelter, P&R Director; Travis Snider, Community Resource Officer; and Susan Swaim, City Clerk.

Media Present: None.

Mayor Stone asked if there were any additions, deletions, or changes to the agenda as presented. City Manager Holden asked that an item be added to the Consent Agenda as Item C – Personnel Handbook Amendment of Section 1-2, Holiday Pay. He explained that this amendment outlines the updated manner in which shift police officers and telecommunicators will accrue and be paid for earned holiday hours.

Manager Holden shared that he had received several calls regarding short-term rentals of single-family homes within the City. He further shared that a home located in Parker Place is being rented by the week and the concern that been raised if this activity would be considered a "business" being operated within a residential district. Manager Holden advised that idea of short-term rentals is relatively new, and the issues associated with such are being addressed across the country. He further advised that it has not been determined by the courts whether renting your home in this manner is a protected personal right, such as renting private homes to Furniture Market attendees. Manager Holden mentioned that residents of that subdivision may be in attendance tonight to discuss this issue.

Manager Holden advised that repairs to the damaged basketball court will be made this week. He shared that the dog park continues to be a popular addition to Creekside Park and mentioned that the Sterling Ridge dog park (formerly a playground) renovation is moving forward.

Councilman Dorsett shared that the PTRWA Board adopted their 2020-2021 budget and further shared that 2024 is the tentative date for plant expansion which will be at a significant cost to members. He stated that the City needs to be aggressively pursuing avenues to sell allocated water.

With no further discussion, Mayor Stone adjourned the June 23, 2020 Pre-Agenda session.

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Media Present: None.

Item 1. Call to Order.

Mayor Stone called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked Chief Craddock to see that their attendance was registered.

Item 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Stone gave the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Item 3. Council Action to Accept or Amend the Agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell made a motion to dueamend the Consent Agenda to add Item C – Personnel Handbook Amendment of Section 1-2, Holiday Pay. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorsett and was approved unanimously.

Item 4. Consideration of Consent Agenda: These items are considered routine, non-controversial, and are considered and approved by a single motion and vote.

A. Approval of the Minutes for the May 26, 2020 City Council Meeting.
B. Financial Summary Report.
C. Personnel Handbook Amendment of Section 1-2, Holiday Pay.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorsett and was approved unanimously.

Item 5. Public Comment Time.

Virginia Eaton, 629 Liberty Road, Archdale, addressed Council. Ms. Eaton expressed her appreciation for being allowed to tap on to City water but is asking Council to consider charging her the inside water rate rather than the outside water rate she is currently being charged. She stated that she cannot afford to be annexed into the City at this time due to her financial situation. Ms. Eaton again, thanked Council for allowing her to tap onto to City water but would like them to consider charging her inside water rates.

Mayor Stone thanked Ms. Eaton for her comments.

Roger Sikes, 107 Gallop Way, Archdale, addressed Council. Mr. Sikes stated that he and other residents of Parker Place have concerns regarding a homeowner who has moved from his residence and is now offering that residence as a short-term rental property. He further stated that the residence is currently rented through July. Mr. Sikes indicated that some residents are concerned because numerous people are in and out of the property and neighborhood. He shared that the property owner is also running a business from the basement of the home. Mr. Sikes is asking Council for clarification if property owners are allowed to rent their homes for short-term rentals and/or conduct business within a residential district.

Mayor Stone thanked Mr. Sikes for his comments.

Mike Liner, 1401 Sagewood Lane, Archdale, addressed Council. Mr. Liner shared that he is here tonight to give his support and appreciation to all first responders for their efforts during these trying times. He also wanted to thank the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council. Mr. Liner shared that appreciates the decisions by City administration to provide additional efforts to protect the citizens of Archdale. He further shared that he was taught to respect law enforcement and is saddened with the current attitude towards law enforcement in society today. Mr. Liner again thanked Council and the APD for what they are doing for the citizens of Archdale.

Mayor Stone thanked Mr. Liner for his comments.

Item 6. Public Hearing: Speed Limit Reduction – Reducing Speed Limit on Greenhaven Drive from 35mph to 25mph.

Jason Miller, Planning Director addressed Council on this item. Mr. Miller stated that the petition received by the Planning Department asked for a speed limit reduction on Greenhaven Drive from 35mph to 25mph. He shared that the petition states that the posted speed limit of 35mph is too fast for the street's layout and that cars regularly cut though the neighborhood to get between Ashland Street and Aldridge Road.

Mayor Stone thanked Mr. Miller for his report and then opened the public hearing. She asked if there was anyone in attendance to speak in support or opposition of the proposed speed limit change.

With no one to speak, Mayor Stone closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to Council for discussion and possible action.

With no further discussion, Councilman Dorsett made a motion to reduce the speed limit on Greenhaven Drive from 35mph to 25mph. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell and was approved unanimously.

Item 7. Public Hearing: Dead End Sign on Dean Drive.

Jason Miller, Planning Director addressed Council on this item. Mr. Miller reported that a petition was received by the Planning Department for placing a dead end sign on Dean Drive, north of Playground Road. He stated that the petition states that the desire for the request is because it is perceived that cars regularly turnaround in driveways after an attempt to cut over to Swarthmore Avenue and Fairfield Road in High Point, not realizing that it is not possible to do so.

Mayor Stone thanked Mr. Miller for his report and then opened the public hearing. She asked if there was anyone in attendance to speak in support or opposition of the request for a dead end sign on Dean Drive.

With no one to speak, Mayor Stone closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to Council for discussion and possible action.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell made a motion to install a dead end sign on Dean Road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorsett and was approved unanimously.

Item 8. Public Hearing: FY2020-2021 Annual Budget.

Manager Holden addressed Council on this item. Manager Holden advised that it is a privilege to bring forward the FY2020-2021 Annual Budget. He thanked all City department heads for the time and effort taken in planning their departmental budgets and understanding the constraints of the upcoming year. Manager Holden also thanked the Finance Department for their efforts in preparing this budget. He stated that COVID-19 has caused an impact on everyone's budget and the City is anticipating an impact of approximately $500,000. Manager Holden further stated that he is hopeful that the economy will begin to turn around and that will lessen the impact. He reported that the recycling fee is proposed to be returned to the previous $4.00 per month fee from the current $3.00 per month due to a downturn in the recycling market. Manager Holden also reported that a 1.5% increase in water/sewer rates has been proposed in order to keep pace with expenditures in that fund. He advised that he is proposing the tax rate remain at 29 cents as it has been since 2008. Manager Holden further advised that it is his recommendation that Council adopt the proposed FY2020-2021 Annual Budget as presented.

Mayor Stone then opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone in attendance to speak in support or opposition of the proposed FY2020-2021 Annual Budget.

With no one to speak, Mayor Stone closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to Council for discussion and possible action.

Mayor Stone shared that the budget has been posted on the front door of City Hall for public viewing. She also thanked the City Manager and Department Heads for their efforts during such a challenging time. Manager Holden shared that the proposed budget was also placed on the City's website.

Councilman Warlick stated that one of the toughest items Council faces every year is looking at the components of the budget and making decision that are favorable for the citizens. He further stated that Council must consider the costs that are passed to the City from the City of High Point for providing sewer service, although the City does own its own water. Councilman Warlick shared that he didn't think every member of Council was 100% in agreement with every item in the budget but overall, he believes it is a very fair budget.

Councilman Dorsett stated that he reiterates Councilman Warlick's comments regarding water and sewer. He shared that the City owns 10% of the Eastside Treatment Plant but any costs associated with the plant are passed to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated that he is not a big fan of increasing the recycling fee and at some point, Council will need to re-evaluate the program and determine if the program will continue to be offered. He mentioned the need to determine if recycling was being done correctly. Mayor Stone suggested that educating citizens on proper recycling may be needed to ensure that acceptable items are being placed in recycling bins.

With no further discussion, Councilman Warlick made a motion of approve the proposed FY2020-2021 Annual Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorsett and was approved by a 4-1 vote with Councilman Gray voting Nay.

Item 9. Public Hearing: 2020-2021 Budget Appropriations for Economic Development.

Manager Holden addressed Council on this item. Manager Holden reminded Council that the City is required to advertised and hold a public hearing prior to approving appropriations for economic development purposes. He advised that the FY2020-2021 budget includes funding for two agencies falling under that umbrella which are the Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce and the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Manager Holden shared that the budget includes $7,000 for the A/T Chamber of Commerce and $20,000 for RCEDC. He also shared that the approved budget includes revenue and expenditures related to multiple Building Reuse Grants. However, public hearings have previously been held for each of those grants and they are not under consideration in this Public Hearing.

Mayor Stone then opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone in attendance to speak in support or opposition of the proposed FY2020-2021 Budget Appropriations for Economic Development.

With no one to speak, Mayor Stone closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to Council for discussion and possible action.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell made a motion to approve FY2020-2021 Budget Appropriations for Economic Development. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorsett and was approved unanimously.

Item 10. Additional Items.

Manager Holden thanked Council for their support in passing the FY2020-2021 budget. He also mentioned that the City's newly designed website will be available to the public tomorrow. He previewed the new website with Council and shared that changes will continue to be made to enhance the functionality of the site.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell shared that the City's annual 4th of July celebration was cancelled due to the restrictions placed on mass gatherings by order of the Governor. He further shared that the decision to cancel the celebration had to made in April. Manager Holden shared that staff is hoping that by the end of summer, restrictions will allow for the End of Summer Bash at which time a small display of fireworks may take place.

Councilman Dorsett stated that now is the time for citizens to contact their congressmen and senators regarding support for first responders. He shared that citizens cannot remain silent and must take a stand for their country and this goes further than just de-funding the police departments.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated that Council did not de-fund any item from the FY2020-2021 APD budget.

Item 11. Adjournment.

With no further business, Mayor Stone adjourned the Tuesday, June 23, 2020 City Council meeting.

ATTEST:

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Bert Lance-Stone, Mayor

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Susan T. Swaim, City Clerk