

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 1, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
211 S. Hamilton Street**

ROLL CALL, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jay W. Wagner; Mayor Pro Tem S. Wesley Hudson, Ward 4; Council Member Britt W. Moore, At Large; Council Member Tyrone E. Johnson, At Large; Council Member Cyril A. Jefferson, Ward 1; Council Member Christopher Williams, Ward 2; Council Member Council Member Monica Peters, Ward 3; Victor A. Jones, Ward 5; and Council Member Michael A. Holmes, Ward 6.

Mayor Wagner called for a Moment of Silence; the Pledge of allegiance followed.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2023-191 Proclamation Commemorating The Civil Rights Act of 1968

Mayor Jay W. Wagner will present a proclamation commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Mayor Wagner read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Dr. Elma Hairston and Bernita Sims of the NAACP. Dr. Hairston asked all the NAACP Members in attendance to stand and be recognized.

2023-192 Proclamation - Recognizing the 100th Anniversary High Point Regional Association of Realtors (HPRAR) & Real Estate Professionals Day May 2023

Mayor Jay W. Wagner will present a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of High Point Regional Association of Realtors (HPRAR) and Thursday, May 4, 2023, as Real Estate Professionals Day in the City of High Point.

Mayor Wagner read the proclamation into the record and presented it to the High Point Realtors Association.

2023-207 Proclamation - Public Service Week May 8-12, 2023

Mayor Jay W. Wagner will present a proclamation recognizing the week of May 8-12, 2023 as Public Service Week in the City of High Point.

Mayor Wagner read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager.

2023-193 Proclamation - Municipal Clerks Week- April 30-May 6, 2023

Mayor Jay W. Wagner will present a proclamation recognizing April 30-May 6, 2023, as Municipal Clerks Week in the City of High Point.

Mayor Wagner read the Proclamation into the record and presented it to Sandra Keeney, City Clerk and Mary Brooks, Deputy City Clerk.

2023-194 United Way of Greater High Point - Spirit of North Carolina Award Recognition

United Way of Greater High Point will recognize the City of High Point for the Spirit of North Carolina Award in the category of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Gart Evans with United Way stated every year the United Way of Greater High Point gets the opportunity to nominate certain groups from the community that exemplifies tremendous experiences and efforts towards the United way as well as the community. He spoke to various programs designed to reduce obstacles for the historically marginalized communities that the city has implemented and then introduced Jane Liebscher.

Jane Liebscher, President United Way Greater High Point, presented the 2022 Spirit of North Carolina Award to the City of High Point. Mayor Jay Wagner accepted the award on behalf of the city.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE- Blight Reduction and Marketing & Branding Initiative**2023-189 Strategic Plan Update**

Council Member Chris Williams, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, will recognize staff to provide an update on the Strategic Plan regarding Blight Reduction.

Council Member Chris Williams provided the local code enforcement activities for the month of April which included:

Minimum Housing

9 New Citizen Complaints

7 City-initiated Cases

Demolition Ordinances

8 properties out for bid for asbestos abatement

2 Owner-initiated demolitions (1107 Welborn St. and 2315 E. Green Dr.)

6 Units pending repairs (1205 Filbert St, 613 Manley St, 524 Cross St. 1222 Carter St, 1004 Prospect St., and 337 Wingo St.)

Public Nuisance

34 New citizen complaints

106 New City-initiated cases

43 Cases abated

8 City abated

35 Owner abated

Zoning

3 New citizen complaints

14 City-initiated cases

Total Active Cases (535)

245 Minimum Housing

196 Public Nuisance

94 Zoning

Lori Loosemore, Code Enforcement Manager provided photos of properties at 105 Old South Ct and 1402 Furlough Ave which were in disrepair and have since been brought into compliance.

2023-205 CivicBrand Marketing & Branding Implementation Strategy

Council Member Michael Holmes will recognize staff to provide an update regarding Marketing and Branding Initiatives.

City Council is requested to approve CivicBrand brand strategy and direct staff to move forward with implementation.

Council Member Holmes thanked Staff, the Marketing and Branding Taskforce, citizens that completed the survey, and those that attended the pop-up events for the new Marketing and Branding campaign. He introduced Ryan Short.

Ryan Short with CivicBrand, provided a presentation which show cased the new Marketing and Branding design.

Council Member Holmes stated the work was exhausting and a lot of public input was received, and noted he is very pleased with the new brand.

Council Member Jefferson thanked all the teams that worked on this project noting it is very impressive the work that was done to bring people together. He reiterated his appreciation of the message "what we do here inspires things across the entire world" noting this instills pride and appreciation for the city. He stated how proud and how much he appreciated the diligent work that was done regarding the new brand strategy.

Council Member Peter commended everyone involved in this initiative, noting her appreciation of the new brand being inclusive not just to furniture market creativity, but how expansive and far-reaching creativity is to include such things as running a household.

Council Member Hudson thanked Council Member Holmes for a job well done.

Mayor Wagner thanked the staff and everyone that worked on this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Jefferson, that the City Council approve the brand strategy and direct staff to move forward with implementation.

Aye: Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Hudson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Jones, and Member Holmes

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

2023-190 Public Comment Period

A Public Comment Period will be held on the first Monday of the regular City Council meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible following recognitions, awards, and presentations. Our policy states people may speak on any item not on the agenda.

- * Persons who have signed the register to speak shall be taken in the order in which they are listed. Others who wish to speak and have not signed in will be taken after those who have registered.
- * Persons addressing City Council are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.
- * Citizens will be asked to come to the podium, state their name and address and the subject(s) on which they will comment.
- * If a large number of people are present to register concerns about the same subject, it is suggested that they might be acknowledged as a unified group while a designated speaker covers the various points. This helps to avoid repetition while giving an opportunity for people present with the same concerns to be recognized.

Thanks to everyone in the audience for respecting the meeting by refraining from speaking from the audience, applauding speakers, or other actions that distract the meeting.

Amy Purcell, 416 Gray Lane, Colfax, NC spoke against the proposed zoning for the Katherine G. Johnson School noting concerns for family farms, traffic issues, and environmental impacts. She invited the City Council to visit the proposed site.

James Martin, 611 Arlington St. spoke to excessive speeding on the various streets surrounding his home, the bad conditions and poor quality of speed bumps that were put in, honoring the United States Flag, and having continuity regarding citizens requests and concerns throughout the entire city.

Ryan Sims, 2800 Westchester Drive, stated he was lead Pastor for what is formally known as First Wesley Church which is now rebranded to One Church. He spoke to the intent of the church and how they would like to collaborate with City of High Point to make positive changes in the community and noted the launch of their website to help undocumented immigrants.

Kenneth Orms, 3525 Sainsbury Lane Greensboro, (lives in High Point) spoke to city finances and referenced a High Point Enterprise article regarding a report by Davenport, the city's financial advisor, regarding current and future debts and request that Council not increase taxes.

Jennifer Ayers, 804 Westbourne Grove Ct. requested the City Council deny the upcoming request for proposed zoning for the Katherine G. Johnson School. She noted she is the HOA President of the neighborhood association, and the neighborhood is less than 300 feet from a 90-degree turn. She spoke about current speeding issues, and noted she has witnessed several wrecks and is concerned for the safety of the neighborhood.

Teagan Ayer's, 804 Westbourne Grove Ct., spoke against the proposed zoning for the Katherine G. Johnson School, noting his concerns with current speeding and wrecks. He stated he currently has perfect attendance at school and does not want the traffic issues to interfere with his ability to get to and from school. He shared concerns about the noise levels that he perceives would be associated with a school.

Patricia Derrick, Bolyston Road, spoke against the proposed zoning for the Katherine G. Johnson School noting she is a current farm owner and has concerns regarding traffic, the school being in harmony with the adjacent land surrounding the property, and environmental impacts.

Anne Blankenship, 8826 Bolston Road, spoke of her love for her community and stated concerns about the Katherine G. Johnson School not being in harmony with the current agriculture land. She explained the proposed site is not in line with the Heart of the Triad Plan that notes resources such as water quality, air quality, habitats, wetlands, flood plains, watersheds, agriculture land, and open spaces should be protected. She asked the City Council not to approve the rezoning request.

Julie Eshweiler, 423 Gray Lane, stated her family is pro-education, but opposes the current proposed site for the Katherine G. Johnson School. She noted concerns with a school being in harmony with current neighborhoods and farmlands, traffic issues, and noted anxiety among the citizens regarding this potential rezoning.

Chris Eshweiler, 423 Gray Lane, stated he owns two properties on Gray Lane which will border the proposed site for the Katherine G. Johnson School. He stated he opposes this site as it will require moving the road. He spoke about safety concerns and stated the site was chosen because of the low price as it was originally 14th on the list of proposed sites. He spoke about the environmental impacts as well as traffic issues at other schools.

Robin Sowell, 815 Bunker Hill Road, spoke against the rezoning for the Katherine G. Johnson School. She cited concerns with traffic, conditions of current roads, and provided photos of other traffic issues at various other schools. She noted conversations with NCDOT regarding what the requirements would be if a school was built at the proposed site.

Council Member Jones noted a public meeting will be held in Colfax on Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. He explained the zoning process noting that the Planning and Zoning Commission would hear the case first and then it would come to City Council. He invited all concerned citizens to go out and voice their concerns.

Council Member Holmes stated the next School Board Meeting will be held in High Point at City Hall and invited the citizens to come and be heard.

Dr. Elma Hairston, President of High Point NAACP, thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing the earlier reflection of a moment that defines history which was the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 which officially was placed into law on April 11, 1968. She stated the lives lost and the blood shed would not be forgotten and equally important are the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and 1965 which were impactful in shaping policy on voter registration, racial segregation, employment discrimination, hate crimes, and state rioting. She stated a city that is inclusive and kind which was one of the four pillars of the new branding for the City of High Point was powerful. She stated it will take all the community to ensure fairness and equity in all actions, so equity and inclusion can be possible for High Point.

Loretta McNeal Laurinburg, NC thanked the Mayor and City Council for the proclamation regarding the Civil Rights Act of 1968. She stated on behalf of the NAACP

she would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for the work that is being done and noted that history brings us where we are today, and everyone should continue to hear the voices of all.

Pastor Brad Lilly representing High Point Peace Makers, stated that on May 17th at Congdon Yards the Peacemakers will have a Stop the Violence Summit. He explained this summit will include neighboring cities to bring together law enforcement, area churches, community improvement groups, and concern people dedicated to making an impact on violent crime.

In response to Council Member Moore, Pastor Lilly stated the summit will be on May 17th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Britt Moore, Chair

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Moore stated the Finance Committee met at the regular scheduled time and recommended items 2023-185-2023-187 move forward to City Council with a favorable recommendation.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Holmes, to approve the Finance Committee Consent Agenda.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Hudson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Jones, and Member Holmes

2023-185 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Guilford County Board of Education - School Year 2023-24

City Council is requested to execute a memorandum of understanding with Guilford County Board of Education for student transportation for the 2023-2024 school year.

Approved by the Consent Vote.

2023-186 Contract - Axon Enterprise, Inc. - High Point Police Department

City Council is requested to award a contract to Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$4,607,188 for the purchase of body-worn camera systems to be utilized by the High Point Police Department and authorize the appropriate City Officials to negotiate terms of the

Approved by the Consent Vote.

2023-187 Budget Ordinance - Occupancy Tax Revenues - Convention & Visitor's Bureau & Market Authority

City Council is requested to adopt a budget ordinance to appropriate additional occupancy tax revenues that will be passed along to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Visit High Point) and Market Authority.

Approved by the Consent Vote.**GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA****2023-188 Proposed Budget Presentation & Establishment of Public Hearing Date FY2023-24**

City Council is requested to establish a Public Hearing for Monday, May 15, 2023, at 5:30 pm for the FY2023-24 Budget Presentation and establish the following dates for City Council budget work sessions. Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 3-5 pm, Thursday, May 18, 2023, 3-5 pm, Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 3-5 pm (if necessary).

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager stated the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 budget allows the city to meet operational goals, maintain the current tax rate, and continue some capital projects associated in downtown such as parking and 300 Oak and as well as move forward with the senior center project. She noted that the pace of some projects could be impacted based on discussions with Davenport & Company, LLC, the city's financial advisor.

Mrs. Logan Ford explained the city has plans to close on the property associated with the construction of a new city hall in the fall of this year and noted this budget does not consider the initial debt the city would need to take on to support that project. She explained the budget includes employee pay increases and there might be some additional changes needed as the budget process progresses. She introduced Stephen Hawryluk.

Stephen Hawryluk, Budget and Performance Manager, provided the staff report for this item. He spoke about proposed City revenues and expenditures, and provided information regarding the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and the Capital Improvement Plan. He stated the total budget is \$478.5 million and noted the tax rate will remain at 61.75 cents per \$100 of valuation. He explained there will be no increase to electric rates but there would be a 4% increase in water/sewer rates as well as a proposed fee schedule change for parks and recreation fees, customer service fees, parking fees, solid waste fees, and stormwater fees.

He stated personal services are the biggest expense and this budget includes changes resulting from the classification and compensation study of city positions which includes police, a 3% mid-year merit pay adjustment for employees, increase employer contribution to the Local Government Employees' Retirement System, increase cost for workers' compensation, and increase employer costs to city health plan which would not have an increase to employee contributions.

He stated other expenditures included the transition from fully insured to self-insured for health insurance noting a health insurance fund was established in 2016 to transition to becoming self-insured, implement a full-service employee health clinic, and create a paid six-week parental leave/family caregiver policy.

He explained the budget also includes new positions such as an Assistant Recreation Supervisor for Parks and Recreation and a Utility Locator and Power Line Technician for Electric Services. Reclassifications are Budget and Performance to Budget and Performance Director, Information Technology to Telecommunicator, Police to Firearms

and Tool Mark Examiner, Parks and Recreation to Marketing Coordinator, Library to Library Outreach Coordinator, and Transportation to Assistant Transportation Director.

Mr. Hawryluk reviewed the Operating expenses and the Capital Improvement Plan and reviewed the next steps regarding future Budget Work Sessions and setting the Budget Public Hearing Date.

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Moore, to establish the date of May 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. for the FY 2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing and approved the listed dates for the City Council Budget Work Sessions.

Council Member Jefferson asked if the Work Sessions on May 10th, 18th, and 24th, could begin at 4:00 p.m. instead of the proposed 3:00 p.m.

After a thorough discussion, Mayor Wagner amended his motion to the following: to establish the FY 2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing date of May 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. and approve the City Council Budget Work Sessions on May 10th, 18th, and 24th to begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Council Member Moore provided the second; the motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Hudson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Jones, and Member Holmes

2023-206 Minutes to be Approved

Special Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes- November 4, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m.
Special Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes- November 7, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes- November 7, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes - April 12, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

Special Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes - April 17, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting of the High Point City Council Minutes - April 17, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.
Public Safety Committee Minutes - April 19, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

Council Member Hudson made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the minutes.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Hudson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Jones, and Member Holmes

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wagner reminded the Council of the recessed Special Meeting and the continuance of the Closes Session for personnel. He thanked everyone associated with

the opening night for the High Point Rockers and appreciated the special night honoring Coy Willard on Saturday.

Council Member Hudson stated the first High Pont Community Chorale will be Sunday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the First Methodist Church.

Council Member Holmes announced there will be a Town Hall meeting for the Ward 6 residents on May 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Deep River Recreation Center

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Sandra Keeney
City Clerk