

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
(Virtual Meeting)  
June 22, 2020- 5:30 P.M.  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM #302**

**MINUTES**

*In order to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of our residents, staff, and the City Council, this meeting was conducted electronically. As part of the city of High Point's COVID-19 Mitigation efforts, in-person attendance was not allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting was live-streamed and a link was provided to the public to listen to the meeting as it was being live-streamed. [www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting](http://www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting)*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Following a roll call vote for attendance, the following council members were identified as being present:

Mayor Jay W. Wagner (physically present)  
Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Williams- Ward 2 (remote participation)  
Council Member Tyrone Johnson- At Large (physically present)  
Council Member Britt Moore- At Large (physically present)  
Council Member Cyril Jefferson- Ward 1 (physically present)  
Council Member Monica Peters- Ward 3 (remote participation)  
Council Member Wesley Hudson- Ward 4 (physically present)  
Council Member Victor Jones- Ward 5 (remote participation)  
Council Member Michael Holmes- Ward 6 (remote participation)

The following staff members were **physically present**:

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Michael McNair, Community Development Director; Steve Lingerfelt, Information Technology Director; Jeron Hollis, Communication & Public Engagement Director; Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

The following staff members **participated remotely**:

JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Council Member Moore, Chair

**2020-218      Adoption-City of High Point FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget & Related Documents**

Council is requested to adopt the City of High Point's FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget and related documents.

Council Member Moore stated that the City Council did hold required public hearing for the City of High Point's FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget & Related Documents on Monday June 15, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.; and that public comments were received and recorded into the proceedings of the meeting minutes.

**\*\*Transcript\*\***

**Chairman Moore:** *As we begin, I would like to take just a minute to say thank you to the staff, all of those multiple staff and our manager that worked on this budget, in an extremely fluid, challenging and uncertain time, It has been a lot of hard work and they have brought us multiple budgets, multiple plans, and multiple ways trying to get to a balanced budget, which we are required to do by state law. So, if there are any other comments, usually at this time that any other council member would like to make before we take a vote, you can certainly....*

**Mayor Wagner:** *This is Mayor Wagner. I think it would be wise for us to have a motion before we proceed so we know what we're debating.*

**Chairman Moore:** *And at that time, I would entertain a motion to approve the city budget for FY 2020-2021.*

**Council Member Jefferson:** *Second.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *We need a motion.*

**Chairman Moore:** *I'm going to entertain a motion.*

**Council Member Jefferson:** *So moved.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *The motion has been made by Councilman Cyril Jefferson. Is there a second? It's been seconded by Councilman Tyrone Johnson. The floor is now open for any comments or questions from the Council. Please identify yourself before you speak.*

**Council Member Hudson:** *If no one has anything else, I would like to speak. First of all, I want to reiterate what Councilman Moore said. Thank you staff for creating this budget, it is the budget council requested. I do have a moral and ethical dilemma with this budget and I will explain. While next year we will be laying people off, so our employees are losing their jobs because of this budget. Citizens of High Point are losing their livelihood because we cannot find enough money to pay them. Simultaneously, we are creating new staff positions. I have a moral dilemma telling people that their jobs are not as important to as the new positions we are creating, Our current city employees are not getting raises, nor yearly bonuses or performance bonuses because we cannot find enough money to pay for their earned rewards, while we are simultaneously finding money to add new staff positions. And I have a difficult time rectifying this inequity; this is not the proper way to treat loyal and valuable employees. We are voting to eliminate our financial support to some of the most important and essential nonprofit organizations in High Point. Macedonia Life Center, Open Door Ministries, Theatre Arts Gallery, and Southwest Renewal Foundation because we do not have enough money to help them serve our city, while we are simultaneously finding money to fund new staff positions. We are also declaring an across-the-board's hiring freeze for a complete year in all city departments. The city council is hiring staff positions that the city council has decided that they want; the hiring freeze does not apply to the city council. Our city council should not have this much power. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *Okay, is there anyone else who would like to speak?*

**Council Member Jefferson:** *This is Councilman Jefferson. I just want to ask this for the record, would you mind clarifying what those new positions are?*

**Council Member Johnson:** *This is Councilman Johnson. What's your issue with that?*

**Council Member Hudson:** *They're in the budget. The most obvious one is the Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The two positions that are requested for that.*

**Council Member Johnson:** *What's your issue with that?*

**Council Member Hudson:** *I have absolutely no issue with creating that position. I think that the total community of High Point will benefit for that position. I think the Muslim community, of which we have 10,000 citizens of High Point. I think the Pakistan community, I think the African American Community. I think the LGBTQ community will benefit from that position. I have a very hard time laying people off while simultaneously hiring for a new position. That's a conflict to me. And while I want the position, I have a hard time doing it while simultaneously laying people off.*

**Council Member Johnson:** *However, but do you think we need that position?*

**Council Member Hudson:** *Absolutely. Absolutely. I have no problem with the position.*

*I think it's needed in every organization—municipal, as well as corporate. It's just the message that we send right now is that some positions are more important than others. I have a tough time rectifying that.*

**Council Member Jefferson:** *I would like to make a comment. This is Councilman Jefferson. I would like to thank Manager McCaslin, the rest of city management, department directors. I do think this was an unprecedented time. \$7 million plus shortfall, something that none of us hope to walk into while on the job. And I think that over the past several weeks, we've had various options to consider, and I don't think any of those options were fulfilling 100% of our wishes or 100% of our desires, but I think that given the deliberations we've had, the email concerns that we've been able to receive, that we've done a pretty good job. And a big credit to the finance, and again the city manager, for you guys trying to do that. I'm someone who believes that the capacity of our High Point city staff, believe that they are phenomenal; and I have great hope for how we will rebound from this. I have great hope for what our leadership would do to make sure that High Point continues to rise. And as revenues being to rebound, I do look forward to reconvening as a body to reinstate the number of initiatives that would be funded. So, that we can ensure that the best municipal staff, not just in the state, but in the country can continue to get their just due. We will continue to advocate for that. We will also continue to advocate to support our local organizations, our outside agencies. I did have the privilege and pleasure of contacting every single outside agency during these past few weeks. Just to make sure I was aware of where they stood. There were a number of them I had conversations with, to connect them with folks who had not made connections with a number of organizations. And they were able to secure some funding. So I certainly understand where you are coming from Councilman Hudson, I appreciate that. But, just as much as I'm appreciative of all the great work we've been doing so far, I look forward to the work that the city will do in enacting the diversity and inclusion measures and initiatives. I think we'll continue to move North Carolina's International city forward as we leverage our versatility in becoming the best versions of ourselves.*

**Mayor Wagner:** Councilwoman Peters, did I hear you? Would you like to speak?

**Council Member Peters:** *Yes, I do want to speak. It is a really tough time, and I'm glad that we were able to get the 0% tax increase. I know that the nonprofits are very very important. I'm on several of their boards and I support them all. And I want to encourage everyone, they're saving that 1%, so if you can to donate something to the nonprofits. I do think it is valuable that we create the Diversity and Inclusion position. I think we are way behind on that and I'm really proud that we found a way to make this happen. Thank you.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *Is there anyone else who would like to speak?*

**Council Member Jones:** *Council Member Jones here. I want to echo and say thank*

*you to Randy and staff for one of the things that I pushed for was the 0% rate increase. I appreciate your efforts to accomplish that. I've got a problem with a decrease in the training budget because of everything going on, we need more training. That's a hesitation I had, and also the nonprofits that are vital like Macedonia and the Theatre Art Galleries. I know there are only finite dollars available and I want to thank staff for that. It was a tough call to make.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *Okay, anyone else before we call the roll?*

**Mayor Pro Tem Williams:** *This is Mayor Pro Tem Williams. I appreciate all the hard work staff put in, but the one thing I do want to add to this, just remember, if we were to increase the tax percentage, that's the one thing that we could not amend through the year. Everything else we can. So, I know it's difficult. I know it's trying. I'm still remaining hopeful that with the shortfalls, if the opportunity comes along we can make that we can make some changes to amend the budget to increase those things we had to cut. I just wanted to put that out there to make sure that people do understand that out of everything, that all of the hard work went in by staff and difficult decisions that we're making as a council can be changed except the tax rate. Thank you.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *Anyone else?*

**Council Member Britt:** *I want to add one more thing. This is Britt Moore. I would like to let the citizens know and all of us know, and this is going to be on the philosophical side, but the Council has stated many things that were debated over many meetings and many hours, so I won't go back over that. It has been part of my philosophy for a long long time. You know, this budget is what it is and like like Chris said, one thing that cannot be changed is the property tax rate for the year. Hopefully, we'll have a strong economic recovery. That still remains to be seen. But it's imperative that, we the citizens of High Point, grow the local economy by participating in it with our dollars every day. And, if we don't do that, and hopefully have the macro economy rebound as well, then we may find ourselves as well in this very same budget situation come next May. Because we still have an economy that still for the most part is currently shut down. And it is the private sector that funds the public sector. So, thanks again to staff.*

**Mayor Wager:** *Okay, last chance. Does anyone else want to speak? Okay. I'll now call the roll. Please indicate where you support the motion. The motion is for the approval of the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget.*

**Councilman Holmes:** *How do you vote?*

**Councilman Holmes:** *Aye.*

**Mayor Wagner:** *Councilman Johnson?*

*Councilman Johnson: Aye.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilwoman Peters?*

*Councilwoman Peters: Aye.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilman Moore?*

*Councilman Moore: No.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilman Williams?*

*Mayor Pro Tem Williams: Aye.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilman Hudson?*

*Councilman Hudson: Aye.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilman Jones?*

*Councilman Jones: No.*

*Mayor Wagner: Councilman Jefferson?*

*Councilman Jefferson: Aye.*

*Mayor Wagner: The mayor votes Aye. The motion is approved by a vote of 7-2.*

**\*\*End of Transcript\*\***

**A motion was made by Council Member Jefferson, seconded by Council Member Hudson, that the City of High Point’s FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget and related documents be adopted. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following 7-2 vote:**

Aye (7): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Holmes

Nay (2): Council Member Moore, and Council Member Jones

**2020-219 Approval- FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget for the Market Authority**

Council is requested to approve the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget for the Market Authority.

*Mayor Wagner voiced appreciation and thanked the Market Authority on their collaboration with the budget; spoke to their amicable cut to their budget of \$300 thousand dollars; and spoke to his serving on the committee.*

*Council Member Moore echoed the Mayor in thanking the Market Authority.*

*Council Member Jefferson thanked the Market Authority; and stated he was looking forward to a successful Fall Market.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Hudson, that the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget for the Market Authority be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**2020-220 Approval- FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget and Contract for the High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Council is requested to approve the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget and Annual Contract for the High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Jefferson, that the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget and Annual Contract for the High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau, and to amend the motion that the appropriate City official and/or employee be authorized to execute all necessary documents be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**2020-221 Approval-Accela 5-Year Cloud Hosting Services Agreement (Sole Source)**

Council is requested to approve the Accela 5-Year Cloud Hosting Services Agreement (Sole Source).

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Hudson, that the Accela 5-Year Cloud Hosting Services Agreement be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Chair**

**2020-224 Approval of Substantial Amendments to the City of High Point 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan & the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, and Citizen Participation Plan**

The City Council held the required public hearing (virtual public hearing) on this matter on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. No comments were submitted for the public hearing. Pursuant to newly adopted legislation regarding public hearings conducted at remote meetings, a 24-hour waiting period was required before action could be taken on this matter. Council is requested to approve the Substantial Amendments to the City of High Point 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, and that the appropriate City official and/or employee be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Williams, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Substantial Amendments to the City of High Point 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and the 2015-2019 Consolidate Plan, and amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan be approved, and that the appropriate City official and/or employee be authorized to execute all necessary documents. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2020-223 Grant of Easement between the City of High Point and the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children's Museum**

Council is requested to approve the Grant of Easement between the City of High Point and the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children's Museum for shared parking opportunities at the Culler Senior Center, as well as the most efficient means of providing solid waste service to the two facilities.

*Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager reported that the museum needed extra space to meet parking requirements; and spoke to the Senior Center looking for new, long term, location.*



**A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Johnson, that Grant of Easement between the City of High Point and the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children’s Museum be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**2020-225 Closed Session- Personnel**

The City Council is requested to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel.

**At 5:57 p.m., a motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Moore, to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for a personnel matter. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moore, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

*Note: The Deputy City Clerk departed the meeting immediately after Council entered Closed Session. Neither the City Clerk nor the Deputy City Clerk was present during the Closed Session on the personnel matter.*

**Upon reconvening into Open Session at 6:30 p.m., Mayor Wagner reported there would be no action taken as a result of the Closed Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Hudson and second by Council Member Moore.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary S. Brooks,  
Deputy City Clerk