

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Chaired by Council Member Johnson
Committee Members: Johnson, Andrew, Cook, McKiver
March 5, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
211 S. Hamilton Steet

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called Community Development Committee Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted all Committee Members were present.

Present: Chair Tyrone Johnson, Council Member Tim Andrew, Council Member Amanda Cook, and Council Member Vickie McKiver

Community Development Committee - Council Member Johnson, Chair

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2024-089 Public Hearing on the 2024 Annual Action Plan

City Council is requested to conduct Public Hearing on the 2024 Annual Action Plan.

Nena Wilson, Community Development Director, provided the staff report for this item. She stated the Annual Action Plan (AAP) outlines the strategic plan for addressing community needs identified in the 5-year Consolidated Plan, with an emphasis on low to moderate income and special needs populations. The AAP details the projects and programs that will be undertaken during the program year using funding received through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. The draft AAP will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning March 25, 2024, the plan is made available at various locations throughout the city as well as the website. During this time, two citizen participation meetings will be conducted on March 25th and April 2nd.

Ms. Wilson stated if final allocations are not received prior to the plan being considered by the City Council, the amounts will be based on estimates. The plan will not be submitted to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) until final allocations have been received. She noted the allocations were received on May 3rd last year and the plan is due on May 15th. The request in the past has been for Council to approve the plan based on no major changes.

In response to Committee Member Andrew, Ms. Wilson explained a continued resolution includes (HUD) programs so the allocations can be provided.

Committee Member Cook noted that in June she would complete the five-year Core City Grant which allowed her to buy a house and noted the wonderful customer service she received from the city staff.

A motion was made by Chair Johnson, seconded by Committee Member Andrew, to set the public hearing for the April 1, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Aye: Chair Johnson, Committee Member Andrew, Committee Member Cook and Committee Member McKiver

2024-090 Community Development and Housing Updates

Staff will provide updates on Affordable Housing, Homelessness Initiatives, and Local Codes. Bernita Sims, Guilford County Continuum of Care Board Chair, will provide a Continuum of Care Update.

Nena Wilson, Community Development Director, provided an update regarding housing assessment, housing funds, and the day centers site and contractors.

In response to Council Member Andrew, Ms. Wilson stated regarding housing found amounts, staff is in early stages of reviewing potential areas, but actual amounts have not been discussed.

Ms. Wilson provided an update regarding local codes for February 2024 and introduced Kaylie Parrish, Interim Code Enforcement Manager.

Ms. Wilson spoke to the Guilford County Continuum of Care emergency assistance in which the City provided \$50,000 for emergency hotel assistance and that approximately 75% percent of the funds have been spent. She noted the greater need is for rent and utility assistance.

In response to Council Member Andrew, Ms. Wilson stated she would provide the data for the 25 minimum housing code violations.

In response to Council Member Cook, Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager, noted that most of the efforts to date has been centered around education to determine the housing needs in High Point which are different than other government entities and noted the need for collaboration on things such as emergency housing and hotels to help build each other up.

2024-091 Community & School Gardens Update

Crystal Mercer, County Extension Agent for Community and School Gardens, will provide an update on the Community and School Gardens Program.

Crystal Mercer, County Extension Agent for Community and School Gardens, provided an update on community and school gardens in High Point. She provided a list of the approved community gardens; spoke to 11 grants received totaling \$942.54 with savings of \$1,266.26; provided a list of new and re-start gardens; noted micro-grant of \$300 to various schools; and discussed upcoming events. She thanked Soviero's Tri-County Garden Center for their support of the High Point Community Gardens and spoke to the amount of produce given to food banks with 16 tons produced locally.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyrone Johnson, Chairman
Community Development Committee

Attest:

Sandra Keeney, City Clerk