

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.
3RD FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Present (8):

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Council Member Britt W. Moore (At Large); Council Member Tyrone E. Johnson (At Large); Council Member Cyril A. Jefferson (Ward 1); Council Member Monica L. Peters (Ward 3); Council Member S. Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); and Council Member Michael A. Holmes (Ward 6) [arrived at 4:07 p.m.]

Absent (1):

Council Member Victor A. Jones (Ward 5)

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Kenneth Shultz, Chief of Police; Jeron Hollis, Communication and Public Engagement Director; Thomas Reid, Fire Chief; Chris Weir, Fire Marshal; Sandy Dunbeck, Economic Development Corporation Executive Vice President; Reggie Huck, Inspection Services Director; Mary Brooks, Deputy City Clerk, and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Others Present:

Louis Thibodeaux, Citizen; Martin Omnick, Citizen; Dr. Mike Sind, High Point Veterinary Hospital

News Media Present:

Laura Greene, *High Point Enterprise*; Abby Zeugner, *High Point Enterprise*
Sam Walter, WGHP Fox 8 News

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2020-13 Presentation-High Point Police Department**

Staff will give a presentation from the High Point Police Department

Kenneth Shultz, Chief of Police, extended greetings; spoke to the history of the High Point Police Department (HPPD), established in 1859; introduced his Executive Staff: Assistant Chief Ken Steele, Field Operations South; Assistant Chief James McNeill, Field Operations North; Assistant Chief Travis Stroud, Major Crimes Deterrence and Prevention; and Brian Beasley, Police Attorney. Chief Shultz continued discussion regarding an overview/breakdown of the 2019 Review (Review) of the HPPD; said it would involve statistics and data from prior years (5-year average) as follows:

- *Calls for Service: 122,073. Up 1% from 2018. Up 3% 5-year average*
- *Response times: Routine .24 vs. 7:12 (5 yr. av.) Priority 5:36 vs. 5:30 (5 yr. av.)*
- *Arrests: 8,583. No change from 2018. Up 6% 5-year average*
- *Charges: 13,826. Down 5% from 2018. Up 1% 5-year average*
- *Crashes: 4,794. Down 4% from 2018. Consistent with 5-year average*
- *Traffic Fatalities: 14. Up 56% from 2018. Up 27% 5-year average*
- *Opioid ODs: 255. Up 17% from 2018. Up 39% 5-year average*
- *Community Engage Hours: 1,761. Up 53% from 2018. 489% up 5-year average*

Chief Shultz said the Review would be posted on the HPPD's website; recommended Council sign up to receive notifications (news releases) through the city's website; follow their social media pages that would provide updates and media releases; mentioned the response to the homicide that took place in January; to providing feedback to the community on what happened; spoke to issues of the homeless camps in the South Main Street area; and said that area was a part of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) territory. Chief Shultz discussed the issues with law enforcement across the country; to the statistics of fallen officers during duty; to the recruiting and retention process for new and or current Police Officers; said the HPPD's Long Term Investment Strategy had a growth of 58%; provided an overview of the High Point's Indexed Violent Crime: Per 100,000 with percentages from 1997 to 2019 (included in handout); said the safest year was in 2014, even with a rise in the population; explained the "Focused Deterrence Initiative"; said it engages those at high risk of being a party to violence and convey clear incentives for avoiding violence and deterrence for engaging in violence; this is a strategy the Department of Justice (DOJ) recommended; spoke to support efforts against violence from the community and agencies; voiced the need to mentoring the youth; provided a breakdown of criminal homicide motives; to the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) that was created to improve the quality of life for the residents of High Point by reducing violent crimes; said removing illegal guns from the streets is one of the priorities of the HPPD; spoke to ballistics analysis in solving crimes; and gave an overview of comparison with other municipalities indexed violent crimes that included Greensboro, and Winston-Salem.

Council Member Jefferson asked if goals were set in reference to reducing crime. Chief Shultz replied the goal was to do away with crime; spoke to looking at what increased the crime rate; and to working with community organizations, and service providers to assist in lowering crime rates.

Chief Shultz provided handouts discussing tips on reducing trespassing problems, and on reducing aggressive panhandling; said the HPPD has restructured personnel with a strong downtown presence; and spoke to the process of reporting problems with trespassing and aggressive panhandling.

Council Member Moore asked if security videos are allowed in court, or would the owner have to testify in person. Brian Beasley, Police Attorney replied that the owner filing the complaint would have to be present in court to testify.

Chief Shultz spoke to dealing with mental illness and policing; to working with mental health facilities; to aggressive panhandling concerns; to providing facilities/services for the homeless; addressing underlined needs from trained professionals; and said the city of Greensboro had facilities to help deal with mental health.

Council Member Holmes asked if there was a plan for the City of High Point taking innovative steps to link mental health with first responders like the City of Greensboro. Council Member Jefferson inquired on trespassing problems; and how to prevent it. Chief Shultz replied yes; said they would need funding to link mental health with first responders; and spoke to trespassing as being problematic with business owners.

Chief Shultz spoke to the Sheetz store located on South Main Street; said the store hired off duty police officers; spoke to the issues that included trespassing, shoplifting, and drug overdoses; said there were three calls for service for the HPPD since January 2018; two of those were false alarms; and the other one being a medical need.

Council Member Jefferson inquired on reducing the number of illegal firearms. Chief Shultz replied that the HPPD had sworn officers that were part of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); spoke to issues of guns being stolen from citizens leaving weapons unattended in vehicles; said discussion on reducing the number of illegal firearms, and issues with stolen guns could be discussed at a future committee meeting.

Council Member Holmes inquired on pursuing negligent management of firearms for citizens who leave their weapons unattended. Chief Shultz recommended creating an ordinance.

2020-14 Closed Session-Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel

Council is requested to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client privilege, and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel.

At 4:51 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Hudson, seconded by Council Member Jefferson to enter into a closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege, and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel. The motion carried by an 8-0 unanimous vote.

At 5:35 p.m., upon made and duly seconded to recess the Special Meeting in order to attend the Regular Meeting of Council that was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. The motion carried by an 8-0 unanimous vote.

Upon reconvening into Open Session at 6:46 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded, Council reentered closed session to continue discussion regarding the personnel matter.

Council then reconvened into open session at 7:25 p.m. Mayor Wagner announced there would be no action taken as a result of the Closed Sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk