

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

He then called the roll for attendance. The following council members were present:

Mayor Jay W. Wagner; Mayor Pro Tem Monica Peters, Ward 3; Council Member Britt Moore, At Large; Council Member Tyrone Johnson, At Large [arrived at 5:10 p.m.]; Council Member Cyril Jefferson, Ward 1; Council Member Christopher Williams, Ward 2; Council Member S. Wesley Hudson, Ward 4; and Council Member Michael Holmes, Ward 6 [arrived at 4:45 p.m.]

Absent:

Council Member Victor Jones, Ward 5

Staff present:

Tasha Long Ford, City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney; Angela Kirkwood, Director of Human Resources; Ryan Ferguson, Marketing Manager; Sandy Dunbeck, Economic Development Director; Jelani Biggs, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer; Bobby Fitzjohn, Financial Services Director; Sarah Stevenson, Economic Development Manager; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Also Present:

Patrick Chapin, Business High Point-Chamber of Commerce; Lizzie Powers, Intern-High Point University

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2022-86 Update-The City of High Point M/WBE Program regarding Comparisons from other Cities

Staff is requested to provide an update regarding the City of High Point M/WBE Program and Comparison Information from other Cities.

Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager, made a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the City of High Point's M/WBE Program, and comparison information from other cities; said that the city was required by state law to track Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) participation for public building construction; the city's current goal is 10%

participation; that the city only tracked Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBE) participation on construction projects, per statutory requirements; and that it did not include commodity or other purchases. Mr. Olmedo continued discussion regarding the total M/WBE Utilization for years 2015-2021 comparisons for High Point; the total utilization outperformed the city's goal by 10%; the utilization categories included: Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). He then discussed updates with other cities (Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Asheville) with categories for Minority, Nonminority Female, and total M/WBE:

- City of High Point: showed data that reflected M/WBE for calendar years 2020/2021; said that a Disparity Study would analyze firm availability and establish aspirational goals based on the city's market area.*
- City of Greensboro: The Disparity Study data represented averaged utilization for FYs 2012-2016; 2019 and 2020 categories reflected calendar year reporting; did overachieve with Study; currently implementing all recommendations from the Study; and M/WBE reporting data for FY 2019-2020 was impacted by Pandemic.*
- City of Winston-Salem: Disparity Study data represented averaged utilization in FYs 2013-2018; the FY 2019-2020 category reflected the FY reporting; planned to implement recommendations from Study; utilize new software to better track progress on performance measures; and FY 2019-2020 was impacted by Pandemic.*
- City of Asheville: Adopted the M/WBE Policy in 2021; their Disparity Study data represented averaged utilization in FYs 2012-2017; most recent annual report does not include M/WBE utilization information; the data reflected the average utilization captured by the 2018 Disparity Study and the aspirational goals determined by current availability of M/WBE firms.*

Mr. Olmedo concluded his presentation; and provided a link to the Disparity Study Reports for comparison of the above mentioned cities.

Mayor Wagner asked how minority females were counted in utilization. Mr. Olmedo replied that the minority females were included in the total minority category.

Council Member Jefferson voiced appreciation; and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Mayor Wagner asked if the N.C. School of Government had any information regarding policy changes in response to the Disparity Study. JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney, replied that she was not aware of any policy changes at this moment; and that she would provide that information to council.

2022-87 Closed Session-Economic Development and Attorney-Client Privilege

Council is requested to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4) for Economic Development; and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client privilege.

Mayor Wagner introduced, Lizzie Powers, High Point University Senior, in attendance who is interning with his firm. (Note that Ms. Powers left before closed session discussion began)

At 4:46 p.m., Council Member Jefferson made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) for Economic Development and N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client Privilege; and seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following 8-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (8): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Peters, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson
Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Williams, Council Member Hudson, and Council
Member Holmes

Absent (1): Council Member Jones

At 5:37 p.m. it was the consensus of council to recess the Special Meeting and convene after the adjournment of the scheduled Regular meeting that was supposed to start at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:57 p.m. council reconvened into closed session.

At 7:25 p.m., Council reconvened into open session. Mayor Wagner announced there would be no action taken as a result of the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Special Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Williams and second by Council Member Moore.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
Deputy City Clerk