

HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
December 8, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MINUTES

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were present. Council Member Mendenhall offered the invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Present: Mayor James C. Davis (Ward 5), Council Member Rebecca R. Smothers (At-Large), Council Member Britt Moore (At-Large); Council Member Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1), Council Member Foster Douglas (Ward 2); Council Member Judith P. Mendenhall (Ward 3); and Council Member Jay Wagner (Ward 4); and Council Member Jason Ewing (Ward 6)

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

140371 Budget Ordinance Amendment - Meredith Street Apartment Demolition
Council is requested to adopt an ordinance amending the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance to appropriate funds in the amount of \$55,600 for the demolition of the Meredith Street Apartments.

Adopted an Ordinance Amending the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance to appropriate funds for demolition of the Meredith Street Apartments.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall, that the Ordinance be adopted amending the 2014-2015 Budget to appropriate funds in the amount of \$55,600 for the demolition of the Meredith Street Apartments. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

140372 Minutes to be Approved
Special Meeting- Monday, November 17th @ 4:00 p.m.
Regular Council Meeting - Monday, November 17th @ 5:30 p.m.
Special Meeting - Tuesday, November 25th @ 4:00 p.m.

Approved the preceding minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Council Member Smothers, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall, that the preceding minutes be approved. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote.

140373 Approval of Closed Session Meetings**Closed Session Minutes to be Unsealed/Approved**

December 17, 2012
December 20, 2012
July 15, 2013
August 5, 2013
September 5, 2013
October 7, 2013
October 21, 2013
March 17, 2014
April 7, 2014
May 5, 2014
June 5, 2014
July 21, 2014
September 15, 2014
October 2, 2014

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Moore and second by Council Member Wagner the preceding Closed Session Minutes were unsealed and unanimously approved.

Closed Session Minutes to be Approved (Permanently Sealed)

February 17, 2014
February 27, 2014
March 3, 2014
March 17, 2014
April 3, 2014
April 21, 2014
May 5, 2014
June 10, 2014
July 21, 2014
August 15, 2014
October 6, 2014
October 16, 2014
October 31, 2014
November 3, 2014
November 17, 2014
November 25, 2014

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Moore and second by Council Member Douglas, the preceding Closed Session Minutes were permanently sealed and unanimously approved.

Closed Session Minutes to be Approved (but to remain sealed at this time as to not frustrate the purpose)

October 1, 2012
October 15, 2012
December 17, 2012
October 6, 2014
November 3, 2014

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Smothers and second by Council Member Mendenhall, the preceding Closed Session Minutes were unanimously approved, but remain sealed at this time as to not frustrate the purpose.

MISCELLANEOUS

140400 Memorandum of Agreement- Gregory William Demko City Manager

Consideration of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of High Point and newly appointed City Manager Gregory William Demko.

Motion by Council Member Smothers, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall to suspend the rules so this matter could be placed on tonight's agenda for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of High Point and Gregory William Demko, City Manager.

A motion was made by Council Member Smothers, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of High Point and Gregory William Demko, City Manager.

140401 Reappointment to Welfare Reform Liaison Project Board of Directors

Consideration of the reappointment of Sandra Hayes-Dunn to the Welfare Reform Liaison Project Board of Directors.

Motion by Council Member Smothers, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall to suspend the rules so this matter could be placed on tonight's agenda for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Ewing is recommending the reappointment of Sandra Hayes-Dunn to the Welfare Reform Liaison Project Board of Directors. He explained that Ms. Hayes-Dunn was initially filling an unexpired term, which expired at the end of November, 2014.

A motion was made by Council Member Ewing, seconded by Council Member Mendenhall, that this reappointment be approved. The motion passed by an 8-0 unanimous vote.

Presentation of Resolutions of Appreciation and Keys to the City

Mayor Davis presented Resolutions of Appreciation, which were read into the record, to Outgoing Council Members Britt Moore, Foster Douglas, Judith P. Mendenhall and Rebecca R. Smothers. He then presented Keys to the City to Council Members Mendenhall and Smothers. Following the presentations, he read the following statement into the record.

"As the Mayor, I get to make an executive decision every once in a while. This was an

executive decision. I've asked you two back up because I want you to know how much we appreciate your service and dedication to our city. To me, personally, you have been instrumental in my growth and maturity as a member on Council. You are my and others mentors. Your presence will be greatly missed at the dais and the committee meetings. I wanted to do something special to recognize your service to make our city the community that we all love. Becky once told me that you have to have a certain passion to do this job. There's no one more passionate for our city than you two. So what do we do to recognize and honor your dedication to our city? Do we make resolutions? Do we dedicate days in your honor? Do we name buildings? You already have all the above. [laughter] And as mayors, you gave keys to the city to people who have made our community grow and prosper in recognition of their efforts. I can't think of anyone more deserving than Becky Smothers and Judy Mendenhall. You have never found a door that you couldn't unlock. On behalf of the citizens of High Point and the High Point City Council, I'd like to present each of you your own personal key to our city. Thank you for your service." [applause]

Remarks from Outgoing City Council Members

Mayor Davis then asked for the outgoing Council Members to share some closing remarks.

Council Member Moore: *It's been a true honor and a privilege to serve my home town. A town, like many of you, that I love very much. I owe a great deal of thanks and gratitude to my supporters. I ran three times and was able to come out twice. If I could have done that like I dreamed of as a boy in the major leagues I'd be making about \$25 million a year right now. But I want to give a great deal of thanks to the staff, the Members of Council that were in front of me, that helped teach me and bring me along. I have learned a great deal. Hopefully I've done some good along the way and I couldn't be more proud to have served.*

We recently had a meeting that I attended at the Nussbaum Center. It's no shock to any of you how I feel about domestic manufacturing and local support, those kinds of things. I think they transcend a lot of what we do on this Council into the day-to-day lives. But the Nussbaum Center was over teaching us about why they started their program years back. And we were trying if it could be something, it may very well be something that can be good for us, an incubator type system. But as they were talking about it, I found it interesting, as he talked about the buildings that were becoming vacant, and the blight and decline that they were seeing in Greensboro, what they were trying to do and accomplish. And after he shared with us what they have accomplished to this point, which is good. I found it interesting and I couldn't help myself, I've told this Council and said several times I know I have the right to remain silent, I just don't always have the ability. So, my comment to him was, are we actually trying to replace what we let go? And his short answer back to me was: Yeah, that's pretty much what we're trying to do.

So, I wish this new Council nothing but the best of success. I will do all I can, whatever that may be, to support them. I congratulate each of them on their win. I don't think that our challenges can be fixed from this dais, but I'm confident in the leadership that's coming on board and with our participation as citizens I don't think there's anything we cannot do. So, thank you for the opportunity to serve, thank you staff, thank you Randy for your leadership. And it's just been a real pleasure, thank you very much. [applause]

Council Member Mendenhall: *I have to start out by saying there has been a lot said and written about this Council and the fact that we were divided and didn't get along. I think if you take the time to go back and look at the minutes and look at the votes that were taken you'll find that this Council actually did get along very well. I've served on a lot of Councils and I don't know that I've served on any Council that was unanimous in all its decisions, nor would the citizens of High Point expect nor want that. But I feel strongly that this Council accomplished a great deal under some difficult circumstances at times.*

Those of us who live in a community, or even in a neighborhood, are never going to agree on everything, that's a given. I think that the people in this City care very deeply, whether they live in the northern part of the City or the southern part of the City, about our community and want the best for their neighborhoods and themselves. And I think that this Council, in its wisdom, tried to do what it felt, as a body, was in the best interest of this City.

We are blessed with a great staff here. I have never worked with folks who cared more about the City and wanted to do what was right than our staff. And I think that we all owe them a debt of gratitude for the time that they put in and the efforts that they give. They got a lot of emails from me because the people in Ward 3 had a lot of issues and Alyce is going to find that out. And they never failed to respond as quickly as they possibly could and those residents and I appreciated that fact.

I have been blessed with opportunities to serve this community in many ways because I'm old and I've lived here since 1960 and I've just been around. And I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had to be a part of the life of this community. At my advanced age I am also look forward to chilling a little bit. I'm not sure my duplicate bridge partner even voted for me because I think she wanted me to be able to spend more time at the card table with her. There were a lot of Tuesday afternoons when I was looking at my watch saying, I've got to be at Becky's committee in about five minutes, we better hurry up. And I was always late.

But I truly have enjoyed these last two years. It has been fun for me to be recycled and I'm very proud of what this Council has done. I'm also very proud of those who have been elected and reelected to serve this community in the coming three years. I know that there are challenges that they will face and they will need all the wisdom that God can give them to make good decisions on behalf of this City. But I am sure that wisdom will come and they will do that. And I am certainly not planning to leave. Now you can't call me in the afternoons and expect to find me at home. But if you need me, call me in the morning or at night. And if Carolina is not playing basketball I'll be happy to talk to you.

Otherwise, I do appreciate the fact that I have had another opportunity to serve. I wish those of you who are continuing Godspeed on your journey. And thank you all, thank the people who have supported me over the years, and thank God for the opportunities and blessings I have been given. Thank you. [applause]

Council Member Douglas: *I would like to thank everyone. It's been an honor and a privilege to have served the City of High Point. We've, like Miss Mendenhall stated, we've had some tough times but we've always weathered through it. We were more united than a lot of people thought that we were. And really, without the leadership of certain people that knows the City like the back of their hand like Miss Smothers here, that made it a whole lot easier, I'll tell you.*

And it's really been a privilege serving with my colleagues here. Mr. Moore, Mr. Made in America, I admire that, state and national level.

Ms. Mendenhall, it's been like, you know when you came back you had more energy that anybody I've ever seen.

And Mr. Jeff Golden is a voice of reason. Jeff would always say, "Well now, I don't know. You ought to think about what they might be thinking." I would say "Okay."

And you, Mr. Mayor, penny pincher....Got to ease up a little bit.

And Becky, there's not enough words to talk about or even mention the wisdom that you brought to the Council in itself. You know a lot of times I didn't agree with you, but I had to admire and to respect the way you were able to maneuver politically and get things done. I mean really, you all just don't know.

And Jay. Jay always wore two hats. We would be in a meeting and it would seem like he would have to turn one of them around and speak from an attorney's perspective. Then he'd flip it back around and say "Well, I think I might could go for that."

And Jason, Mr. Analytical, he breaks everything down.

With all that being said, it's really been a pleasure serving with you guys and I wish you guys all the best. You know, with all being said and done, it's really been a good group. A lot of attitudes were getting thrown around every now and then, but overall we accomplished a lot of things and I really appreciate everyone that supported us. It wasn't always easy, but we got it done. Thank you. [applause]

Council Member Smothers: *It's always a pleasure to be sitting here with a group that likes you. And this is a friendly crowd tonight, believe me we've had standing room only that didn't particularly like us. Most of you all out there though are just hoping we'll hurry up and shut up and we can get on with the fun part that comes next.*

But I would like to, number one, recognize my younger son, who's in the back. I think he was deputized by the family to make dad gone sure she really is going to quit this time. So he can go home and say "Uh huh."

There's been so much said tonight that I totally agree with, particularly in regard to the competency of this Council and some of the issues that we faced that were not easy. And some of those were internal and leadership was at question many times. But I think that when you look at overall our record it was, it's one that we can be proud of and certainly one that this City benefited from.

I give a special thanks to not only the City staff now, but the ones the ones that I've worked with over the years. Which Mayor Davis was so nice to point out how long it was. But it's been a large part of my life and one that certainly has been very meaningful. I've been very grateful for the support I have received. I had told Alice Moore, I wasn't going to tell this but I am anyway, we had an opportunity, Judy drove, Greg Demko is a brave man, he rode around with Judy driving and me giving the directions where to go. And Jim and Jason kind of clinging in the back seat as we toured High Point to show him our town. And fortunately, Judy and I have over the years seen so much of that growth and that expansion and that is something that we're very pleased to have been part of.

But as I look at the pictures on the wall, and Foster nicely pointed out one day how far back mine went, all I can say is having worked with five Mayors, because I count Mayor Davis as a real Mayor. I called him "Baby Mayor" for about two months but he's a real Mayor and

he's got big shoes and Bencini you're going to be challenged to fill them. And three Managers and several interim City Managers in the whole thing. I figure for every thousand people that we've added since I first came on Council I have gained one pound.

So, I thank you. [applause]

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Mendenhall and second by Council Member Douglas.

The Installation Ceremony and Organizational Meeting of the 2014-2017 High Point City Council immediately followed the adjournment of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

James C. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk
