

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
June 1, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL and MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bencini called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were present:

Mayor William S. Bencini, Jr.; Mayor Pro Tem James Davis (Ward 5); and Council Members Cynthia Y. Davis (At-Large); Latimer Alexander (At-Large); Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1); Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Alyce Hill (Ward 3); Jay Wagner (Ward 4); and Jason Ewing (Ward 6).

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

150183 Recognition of Honors Program Recipients

The Human Resources Department will present the certificates to the City of High Point Employees who are recipients of the HONORS Program awards.

Note: A description of the service of each employee recognized is hereby attached in Letistar as a permanent part of these proceedings.

Angela Kirkwood, Director of Human Resources, along with Malissa Dance and Yvette Carey of the Human Resources Department, and City Manager Greg Demko, presented certificates to the following City of High Point Employees who are recipients of the HONORS Program awards.

WORKING TOGETHER (framed certificate)

Troy Anthony (Parks & Recreation)
Randy Johnson (Parks & Recreation)
Mark Walker (Parks & Recreation)
Larry Pendry (Parks & Recreation)
Rick Ingram (Parks & Recreation)
Justin Hix (Parks & Recreation)
Frank Jacques and Mark Shroeder (IT/Planning & Development)
R. "Lynn Dodson" (Electric)

EXTRA MILE (certificate and \$50 cash award)

Steve Lee, David Wilson, Theresa Varner, Kevin Knight, Amanda Honeycutt, Thomas Hackworth, Tammy Dyles (911 Center)
Todd Dupree (Theatre)

Tim Brown (Information Technology)
Gail Adams (Parks & Recreation)
Jerry Byers & Jodie Pemberton (Public Services)

ABOVE AND BEYOND (certificate, \$100 cash award and name engraved on a permanent plaque for display in the lobby of city hall)

B. Keith Pugh (Engineering Services)
Alvin "Luke" Privett (Public Services)
Joyce Cox (Transit Supervisor)

150184 High Point Realtors Association - Update

Mr. Cam Criddlebaugh will be in attendance to update the City Council on the High Point Realtors Association.

Cam Criddlebaugh, 2015 President- High Point Regional Association of Realtors (HPRAR), provided the 2015 Report to City Council on the High Point Region Real Estate Market plus Social Responsibility Programs. Overall, the report reflected positive economic news of a greatly improved real estate market and its financial impact and some quality of life priorities.

Note: A copy of the entire report is hereby attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

150192 Public Comment Period

The following persons addressed Council during the Public Comment Period:

Note: This is a brief summary of the comments made during the Public Comment Period. The transcript containing the full dialogue is hereby attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings.

Jah Blisc, mentioned he recently relocated back to High Point, and grew up in High Point and attended elementary, middle and high school here. He pointed out there were a lot of open/vacant lots and buildings and questioned their use. He mentioned the Furniture Market and High Point University and shared that he does not feel welcome downtown, or on the HPU campus. Mr. Blisc pleaded with Council to not only engage the demographic that is being left out of the conversations, but to also utilize the spaces in the community to facilitate that engagement. He hoped to see them out in the community building unity.

Amber Hayes, 3207 Rolling Road, a previous student representative on the High Point Human Relations Commission addressed Council regarding the beneficial things she has learned through that experience. She asked Council to consider the funding in the budget for the Human Relations Department and the work they have been doing in the community, not only for African-Americans, but for the Latinos, and other minority groups and all persons in the High Point area.

Lena Gao, 2617 Allen Jay Road, who was born in High Point and grew up attending Allen Jay Middle School, Allen Jay elementary School and Southern Guilford High School, shared that she got engaged with the Human Relations Commission during her first year of high school and it benefited her by making her the leader that she is today and gave her opportunities to affect others. She asked Council to seriously consider how the decisions being made for the budget would impact the Human Relations Commission as well as the impact it would have on the youth.

Carl Robinson, 2289 Rothwood Acres Road, Greensboro, mentioned the Upskilling America Summit, a federal initiative to educate and train the workforce. He asked for Council's support in this initiative which would result in a better future for current and prospective employees in the community.

Victoria Kovba, 606 Shadybrook Road, the current co-char of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission, shared that she would like to think of the Human Relations as an investment in the budget, not something to come out as a financial overgrowth. She felt her experience with the Human Relations Commission has made her a better person and enabled her to speak and help more people. Ms. Kovba pointed out many cities/states think of Al Heggins as a role model because of what the High Point Student Human Relations Council has been able to accomplish throughout the community.

Dylan Gao, 2617 Allen Jay Road, was also present on behalf of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission, spoke about the positive impact it has been on his life and shared that it has made him a very outgoing person. He felt this is an extremely useful program that a lot of youth can interact with.

Mohammed Manson, 4015 Berkshire Court, a 2014 graduate of High Point Andrews High School, also addressed Commission on behalf of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission. He shared that he was extremely shy in school, and participating in this organization helped him open up. He informed Council that it was very upsetting to him to hear that the City Council was not going to budget Human Relations anymore, which caused confusion in his mind because of the positive impact they have made on the youth in every high school in High Point. He asked Council to consider budgeting Human Relations this year.

Mike Moran Hernandez, 707 Lakecrest Avenue, also addressed Council and spoke on behalf of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission. He shared that it was upsetting to him when he heard about the budget cut because of all the positive impact that the youth has had not only in High Point, but on a national level as well. He felt that although High Point has not been another Ferguson or another Baltimore, the High Point Student Human Relations Commission could prevent events like that from happening in High Point. He noted that the HPSHRC also helped him with his shyness and reiterated how upsetting it was for him to hear that this organization is being threatened. He asked Council to take into serious consideration what they are destroying.

Patrick Harmon, 1214 Woodland Place, addressed Council in favor of a four-way stop sign at Farriss and Rotary, citing speed and curves as factors. He also encouraged Council to listen to the students speaking tonight on behalf of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission.

Jonathan Fritz, 211 East Ray Avenue, asked Council to consider two requests:

1. To consider doing away with the No U-Turn at the intersection of Ray/Hamilton in front of the Senior Center, and
2. To have the police department enforce aggressive driving in the city.

Michael Bellocchio, 1008 Johnson Street, addressed Council in support of installation of a Stop sign at Farriss and Johnson Street. He presented a petition containing 34 signatures from property owners (44 homes in the Historic section; 34 signatures obtained; 4 vacant properties; 2 properties for sale). Mr. Bellocchio was critical of the High Point Transportation Department and felt the measures already taken by staff to help mitigate the situation have not helped at all.

Sharon Burgos, 3219 Timberwolf Avenue, spoke regarding dog tethering. She asked Council to consider drafting an ordinance making it unlawful to chain or tether a dog in the City of High Point. She asked that specifically the ordinance ban or severely limit the practice of tethering (leaving a dog out on a chain or a tether attached to a stationery object with no person present). She noted that she has collected 60+ signatures in person and over 1,000 on-line and reminded Council that she sent a packet of information to them for review. She asked Council to please act on the information now that she has raised awareness.

Gary Haynes, 719 W. Farris Avenue, spoke in opposition to a four-way stop at the intersection of Farriss and Rotary. He explained that his home is nearest to the intersection and felt a four-way stop would adversely affect him citing issues such as noise from cars stopping and starting, idling, motorcycles revving engines, etc.... He informed Council that he was very much opposed to a four-way stop at this location.

Larry Diggs, 127 Biltmore Avenue, addressed Council regarding revitalization in High Point and shared that many times ideas are brought forward, but they seem to die and nothing is done. He expressed support for bringing a baseball stadium to High Point and felt it would be a tremendous asset to High Point. He also supports making improvements to the Five Points entranceway and felt this would help spur growth in this area.

David Ruden, 1622 Staley Road, urged Council to consider additional hours of operation at the Library. He suggested the Library open at 9:00 a.m. on weekdays and a few hours earlier on Saturdays.

Jonathan Rorie, 607 Arlington Street, addressed Council on behalf of the High Point Student Human Relations Commission. He emphasized that the High Point Human Relations Commission is an organization that does important social justice work in the community, which includes supporting students through scholarships to attend diversity and justice retreats such as Anytown, and countywide conferences that connect students from high schools around the surrounding area. He pointed out this organization has shown an important commitment to the critical engagement of youth in High Point and it should be fostered more because it gives youth a voice and allows them to present ideas on issues in the community that might not happen otherwise. He asked Council to please consider retaining funding in the budget for the High Point Human Relations Commission.

Ryan Verstat, 1006 Johnson Street, expressed support for the traffic calming measures on Johnson Street and informed Council that he and his wife both signed the petition. Since October, they have witnessed seven or eight accidents while sitting on their porch. He believed installation of additional stop signs at Johnson/Farriss would be the least cost impact and yield the highest outcome.

Amy MacArthur, 1107 Johnson Street, addressed Council in support of the petition to have Johnson Street reclassified as a residential street. She expressed support for any street calming measure, including stop signs, or whatever else might be deemed appropriate. She mentioned that Johnson Street has been designated a Historic District due to the recognition of its value and specialness that it offers High Point and she felt that the city should back this up by making it a street that people can actually safely enjoy and walk down. She asked Council to seriously consider making a change to the status of Johnson Street to make it residential.

Sandra Hayes-Dunn, 3207 Rolling Road, spoke on behalf and in support of the Human Relations Commission. She shared that she served on the Commission in the 1990s and noted that she was well aware of the accomplishments of the Human Relations Commission (past and present) and applauded Al Heggins for what she has brought to the Human Relations Commission to ensure fairness and equity regardless of race, background, income, etc... She asked Council to seriously consider keeping the High Point Human Relations Commission in the budget.

Gloria Halstead, 901 Johnson Street, spoke in support of reclassifying Johnson Street in the Historic District from collector to residential status. She informed Council that she was responsible for drafting the petition that was circulated and signed by the property owners. Ms. Halstead shared some of her personal experiences with accidents in the area and a time when she was interviewed by Channel 8 and Kim Wynne was concerned for her welfare because she was standing on the sidewalk and she found the traffic to be extremely fast. She asked for Council to carefully consider reclassifying the Historic part of Johnson Street to residential.

Anne Andrews, 717 W. Farriss Avenue, a resident at this address for 64 years, stated she wanted to back up everything that her neighbor, Gary Haynes, said. She added that it would be problematic for Farriss Avenue residents, as well as Rotary residents

due to the location of all the resident's driveways off Farriss, making it difficult for them to safely get in and out of their driveways.

Scott Blanchard, 902 Johnson Street, also spoke in support of reclassifying Johnson Street from a collector street to a residential street. He noted he does not have air conditioning and relies on opened windows, but he is no longer able to open his windows due to the noise from the accidents that occur. He asked Council to consider slowing the traffic down by putting a three-way stop sign there.

[end of public comments]

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Chair

150185 Public Comments - City of High Point Proposed 2015-2016 Annual Budget

Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. is the date and time established to receive public comments on the proposed 2015-2016 City of High Point Annual budget.

Note: This is a brief summary of the comments made during the Public Comment Period. The transcript containing the full dialogue is hereby attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings.

Chairman J. Davis opened the public hearing and announced this was the date and time established to accept public comments on the proposed 2015-2016 City of High Point Annual Budget.

The following person spoke regarding the budget:

Barbara Collins, 107 Crestwood Circle, posed three questions to Council regarding the budget:

- 1. What are miscellaneous expenditures?*
- 2. What are unanticipated grants.*
- 3. Why have several departments not met their objectives?*

Chairman J. Davis then asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak regarding the budget. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Council Member Wagner, Chair

150186 Resolution of Intent - Annexation Case ANX15-05 - Keystone Group, Inc.

Approval of a Resolution of Intent that establishes a public hearing date of Monday, June 15, 2015 to consider a voluntary contiguous annexation of approximately 0.6 acres, and lying at the southwest corner of Barrow Road and Willard Dairy Road. The

property is also known as Guilford County Tax Parcel Guilford 0169950 and 0222141 (portion).

Adopted a Resolution of Intent establishing a public hearing date of Monday, June 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. to consider a voluntary contiguous annexation of approximately 0.6 acres, and lying at the southwest corner of Barrow Road and Willard Dairy Road.

A motion was made by Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Alexander, that this Resolution of Intent be adopted be adopted. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 1460/15-31

Introduced 6/1/2015; Adopted 6/1/2015

Resolution Book Volume XIV, Page 31

PROSPERITY & LIVABILITY COMMITTEE - Council Member Ewing, Chair

150190 **Amendment to Traffic Schedule - Article P - Four Way Stop at Rotary/Farris**
Consideration of a recommendation by the Prosperity and Livability Committee to install a four-way STOP condition at the intersection of Rotary Drive and Farriss Avenue.

Chairman Ewing referenced the petition included in the packets in support of a four-way STOP at the intersection of Rotary Drive and Farriss Avenue. He asked staff to brief Council.

Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation, advised the Prosperity & Livability Committee previously met and discussed the possibility of a four-way STOP or some other traffic calming measure along Rotary Drive at the request of some concerned citizens along Rotary Drive. Data/information was submitted at this meeting that was collected regarding volumes, speed, etc... which included the entire Rotary Drive corridor. Traffic volume through the corridor is around 3,700 cars a day and it is posted at 35 mph from Ray, south and 25 mph from Ray north to Lexington. He pointed out there is a fairly significant non-compliance issue with the 25 mph posting. Staff determined that the Farriss Avenue intersection, which is about half-way between Lexington and Ray within that 25 mph zone, would be the most appropriate based on the information they gathered. Staff looked at sight distance, both entering the intersection and from the stop approaches and along Rotary. Due to Rotary being curvy and hilly, staff also looked at the grades. Mr. McDonald informed Council that typically four-way STOPs and multi-way STOPs are not recommended and are not intended for speed control, but they are becoming more popularly used for that purpose. He shared that the Committee discussed the possibility of putting in small traffic circles.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis questioned the reason why staff is looking at a four-way STOP if it is not intended for speed control since speed is the issue. Mr. McDonald pointed out staff is looking at a low cost approach and noted constructing traffic

circles (roundabouts) would be relatively costly. He further explained that speed bumps are generally installed in parking lots and are very drastic and speed humps have a more gradual rise and are primarily used on flatter streets. He also shared that High Point has not used speed humps so this would be a new treatment to try. Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis pointed out that one of the four bullet points in staff's report that concerns him is the statement that it could cause motorist confusion regarding right-of-way, which can lead to rear-end crashes and he felt this would be mitigating one condition (speeding), yet creating another (rear-end crashes). Council Member C. Davis asked City Manager Greg Demko if he could have some police presence in the area to enforce the speed limit for a certain period of time to see if this would not rectify some of the thru-traffic as well as some of the speeders. Mr. Demko shared that police officers have patrolled the area for a couple weeks at a time, but as soon as there is not a police presence, the speeding, etc..... continues. Council Member Alexander pointed out the district attorney in Guilford County encourages police officers to bring speeding tickets for 10 miles over the posted speed limit, so High Point's officers outside of school/construction zones are basically writing tickets at 10 miles over the posted speed limit. Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis then shared that he was trying to weigh the opposition/support and noted that he has only received one email in favor and several in opposition. He questioned how the Prosperity & Livability Committee derived at this recommendation.

Council Member Alexander, who is a member of the Prosperity & Livability Committee, explained there were a number of people who have communicated with committee members. He mentioned the four-way STOPs located at Council/Ray and Country Club/Hillcrest and noted these have been very effective. Council Member C. Davis shared that she has traveled Rotary often in the past and during that time she has only witnessed one accident when a new licensed driver got rear-ended making a turn. She expressed concerns Johnson Street, more so than Rotary due to the pictures that she has seen of the trees and yards. She also expressed concerns for the residents who actually live on the corner where the driveways may be impacted too and she felt there may be a different resolution besides the four-way STOP.

At this time, Mayor Bencini asked staff about the most effective speed control devices. Mr. McDonald replied that the devices are not effective without consistent enforcement and explained there are a lot of different traffic calming measures such as vertical measures like speed humps, chicanes, etc..... He felt a speed hump would probably be as cost effective as any measure. Mayor Bencini questioned why there has been no discussion on the possibility of installing speed humps. Council Member Hill, who is also a member of the Prosperity & Livability Committee, advised that the Committee did discuss speed humps, but dismissed the possibility due to the expense, they tend to be noisy, and issues with emergency vehicles going over them. Mr. McDonald pointed out staff's concern with putting speed humps on Rotary was due to the number of downgrades and upgrades.

Council Member Wagner, who is also a member of the Prosperity & Livability Committee, pointed out the staff report documents 27 crashes along Rotary since January 1, 2010 and more than likely there are a number of accidents that don't even

get reported, so the actual count is probably much higher. He also pointed out that Council received a petition that is attached was included in the packet and identified as Exhibit B. The petition was signed by ten people who live in the immediate area of Farriss and Rotary. He noted this area is in his ward and he hears complaints often, and uses Rotary frequently. He noted the 25 mph speed zone serves no purpose because no one obeys it and felt dedicating a police officer to patrol the area to write tickets was not the best use of resources. He stated the ultimate goal is how to best calm the traffic on Rotary because many use the street as a cut-thru street although it is really a neighborhood street. He suggested the city look at speed humps citywide and that he would not mind doing traffic circles at Rotary/Sunset, Rotary/Fairway as long as the city does not have to acquire right-of-way to put those in. Council Member Wagner noted the Committee attempted to look at this as a very inexpensive way to try to address this situation, then come back and monitor the situation to see what the effect on traffic actually is. He strongly felt something should be done before there is a fatal accident.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis advised that this is not an easy decision for him because the neighbors seem to be split with some in support and some in opposition. He felt other alternatives should be considered before a decision is made to install four-way STOPs. Council Member C. Davis stated she would still like to see police officers patrol the area. She questioned only putting one stop sign up for one particular area of Rotary when the whole street was studied. Mr. McDonald explained staff was looking at the 25 mph section of Rotary where speeds were higher than the posted speed limit and were looking at where something could be done low cost that would have an impact at a location that fit the criteria. Staff felt Farriss was the most logical intersection. Council Member C. Davis felt if speed and accidents are concerns, then she suggested looking at installing more than just one stop sign in one centralized area and felt consideration should be given to place stop signs all along Rotary to encourage drivers to be more mindful instead of in one particular area of Rotary. She shared that while she has heard the concerns from the property owners, she could not support a four-way stop because she felt staff has not used all the resources available. Council Member Alexander pointed out it depends on the bulk of the traffic and consideration must be given to where the traffic generators are.

Council Member Hill reiterated that police officers have used enforcement over and over and over in this area and it just has not worked. Council Member C. Davis requested staff provide data on how many times officers patrolled the street to enforce speed versus the number of tickets they were actually written for speeding along the section where the four-way STOP is being requested. Council Member Wagner commented that people drive was fast as they feel comfortable driving and much of it has to do with how the road is engineered. He offered support for installing traffic circles.

Chairman Ewing pointed out the petition was received after the Prosperity & Livability Committee meeting and that although the petitioners felt a stop sign may be a good start, they desire a more holistic traffic calming program (a fix, not a band-aid). He noted that he personally can see this turning into further traffic issues and felt the

only way to eliminate the fact that it is a pass-thru street is to eliminate the intersection at Rotary and Lexington and make people find a different way out. Mayor Bencini disagreed and pointed out this would force traffic heading north on Rotary to go other places. He did feel at some point, the City of High Point would have to deal with other more proven speed controlling devices such as vertical solutions that Mr. McDonald alluded to. He stated his preference would be to go ahead and do something like that, but he did not feel the city is prepared to be able to do that at this point. Short of coming up with another solution, he was okay with trying a four-way STOP and if it proves to be ineffective, then another measure might be necessary.

Council Member Alexander then moved to install a four-way STOP at Rotary and Farriss. Council Member Wagner made a second to the motion and asked Council Member Alexander if he would be willing to include in his motion a provision to ask staff to monitor the speed on the road and report back to Council.

Council Member Alexander agreed and felt six months would be a sufficient timeframe would be six months from the date the four-way STOP is installed and it needed to be done when school is in session.

At this time, Chairman Ewing then made a substitute motion that this matter be referred back to the Prosperity & Livability Committee to receive a report on vertical solutions. Mayor Pro Tem Davis made a second to the substitute motion.

Mayor Bencini called for a vote on the substitute motion to refer this matter back to the Prosperity & Livability Committee, which PASSED by the following 7-2 vote.

Aye (7): Mayor Bencini; Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis; and Council Members C. Davis, Golden, Williams, Hill, and Ewing

Nay (2): Council Members Alexander and Wagner

GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

150187 Appointment - Tom Van Dessel - HPEDC

Mayor Bill Bencini is requesting City Council confirm the appointment of Tom Van Dessel to the High Point Economic Development Corporation (HPEDC) to replace Lee Boone who is not eligible for reappointment. Appointment to be effective July 1, 2015 and expire June 30, 2017.

Approved the appointment of Tom Van Dessel to the High Point Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Council Member C. Davis, seconded by Council Member Ewing, that this appointment be approved. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

150188 Change in City Council Meeting Schedule

Due to summer schedules, Council is requested to consider a change in the Regular Meeting schedule to cancel the August 3, 2015 meeting.

Council Member Alexander explained this meeting date coincides with the ElectriCities Annual Conference and encouraged all Council Members to attend. Council Member C. Davis pointed out the conference does not start until August 6th and she did not see a reason or need to cancel the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Alexander, seconded by Council Member Wagner, to approve a change in the Regular Meeting Schedule of the High Point City Council cancelling the August 3, 2015 meeting. The motion PASSED by the following 7-2 vote.

Aye (7): Council Member Hill, Council Member Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council Member Ewing, Council Member Wagner, Mayor Bencini, and Council Member Alexander

Nay (2): Council Member Golden, and Council Member C. Davis

150189 Approval of the Minutes of Previous City Council Meetings

- Community Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee; May 12 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Finance Committee; May 14 @ 4:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting; May 18 @ 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Ewing, seconded by Council Member Hill, that the preceding minutes be approved. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC

City Clerk