

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
ADJOURNED SESSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
JUNE 18, 2015 – 9:30 A.M.**

ROLL CALL, MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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:

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).*

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – *Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Chair*

150202 City of High Point 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance and Related Documents

City Council is requested to adopt the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related ordinances and/or resolutions.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis posed a question about the fee structure for Planning and Development and stated the Triad Real Estate & Building Industry Coalition (TREBIC) also had concerns. He wanted clarification that trade permits would increase \$40 to \$200. Lee Burnette, Director of Planning and Development, replied that the minimum permit fee was raised from \$40 to \$50, \$65 or \$70 depending on the type of permit. He explained these adjustments are an attempt to get the minimum fees up to comparable measures in what other jurisdictions are doing as far as building inspections fees. He shared his concern is not necessarily with changing the value, but with changing the structure because the structure is figured into Accela and changing the structure could have an effect on the Accela project. He explained the fee structure would be effective until Council decides to change it and pointed out it could be changed at any time by Council. Mr. Burnette suggested looking at the city's costs over a year's time and perhaps making adjustments at that point. He added the intent is to change the structure of the permitting process and get multiple trades on one permit, which would be a cost savings to the user, as well as the city.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis stated staff's explanations helped alleviate some of his concerns.

Council Member C. Davis shared some suggestions she made at the budget review sessions and asked that these statements be included in the record:

- In regards to **employee pay**, I do not have a problem and the people that I represent do not have a problem giving city employees a 1% cost of living increase as well as a 1% merit increase, which would give us a savings of \$448,333.34 to just give them a straight 2% increase on their pay across the board, but taking that 1% back out that could be used in other areas of the city that have needs, whether it be in wards 1, 2, 3, sections of 4. They just think that those dollars could be used in other areas, especially with so many people in the 27260 being in the highest poverty rate that we have within the city. That there's some work to be done there and those dollars would serve well there.
- The other thing is I would like for us to still consider....and I know we've had these conversations that's why I'm not making motions, but basically giving you my thoughts. Again, we have **four code enforcement officer positions**. If we went down to two and implemented two this year and two next year, within this budget, we would save \$159,000, which could be utilized, again, in some areas of the city that need more attention at this time.
- I feel the same way and many people feel the same way about the **street sweeper position**. That would save the city \$313,465, which could be used in other areas within the storm/water use department.
- The **three full-time and five seasonal positions for public services**....again, bringing that down to two full-time and three seasonal employees would save the city \$190,291.25 which could be used in a different area or capacity.
- Some people feel, and I am going to hit the **WiFi at the Rec Parks**. Even though many people would like to see that happen, some people do feel that it's not the responsibility of the city to provide WiFi at the Rec Centers due to the other WiFi services that we currently provide for the Market itself.
- The \$300,000 earmarked for the **Economic Development effort**, Mr. Davis brought that back and that has now been worked in. I'm glad to see that.
- The **assistant city manager's position**. Instead of having two, I would rather see us have one. That would save almost \$200,000. I don't see the

need for two additional assistant city managers when we have a city manager, a deputy city manager and then we're going to be hiring an assistant city manager. That gives us three and to add an additional, I just don't think that's something that we need at this time. The city's ran on three managers for many a year and I think that we can structure that in a better way and have savings throughout.

- I am still not in favor of the \$13,500 for the **Youth White Privilege conference** that's listed in the budget. The previous council cut the \$25,000 down to \$13,500. I believe, and many citizens believe that this is something that a parent and child should have a conversation over. That's something that should be discussed at home and should be paid for by parents and not by the city. There aren't...and some of the conversations that have actually gone on-line to view the budget, looked at it in the way there aren't any...there's an Indian Civil Rights conference...it's not listed in our budget. There is a Human Rights Education Symposium that could be attended, but that's not listed within the budget. There are other international symposiums on culture and diplomacy that could be listed in the budget. The concern that they have is that it may serve better if these conversations are held within the church, within homes, and those sorts of things....that the city should not be providing those funds.
- The **\$2,000 that we're currently using for the HiFest**, I attended the HiFest a couple of times. It's a good start, but it's extremely under-attended. I think that the \$2,000 we could split somehow and use in a different capacity. SoSi has a cultural arts event that occurs within the same timeframe that we could funnel some of those dollars over into that event, which appears to be very successful. That we could partner up somehow and make that an even bigger event. Maybe we could use those \$2,000 as a partnership with our Human Relations Department working with SoSi on that event because their multi-cultural thing really does well.

“Those are just some of the things that I wanted to make sure were on record, so that I've addressed everything that I feel that the constituents I represent have been represented.”

Mayor Bencini thanked City Manager Greg Demko and his staff for the hard work put into preparing the budget. Mr. Demko said he thought this was a budget that will start off the program to really make a difference and improve our community.

Adopted the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related documents.

A motion was made by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to adopt the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance for the City of High Point and related documents.

The motion carried by the following 8 – 1 vote:

Ayes (8): Mayor Bencini, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council Member Alexander, Council Member Ewing, Council Member Golden, Council Member Hill, Council Member Wagner, and Council Member Williams

Nay (1): Council Member C. Davis

Council Member Cynthia Davis advised that if the matters had not been bundled together she would have voted Yes on some of them.

COMMUNITY HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE - Council Member Golden, Chair

A motion was made by Council Member Cynthia Davis, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to suspend the rules to consider the West End Ministries Garden Lease. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

150213

West End Ministries Garden Lease

Council is requested to approve lease agreement with West End Ministries for the period of one year for the purpose of creating a community garden "Bountiful Harvest." Property is located across from the West End Ministries building on English Road.

A motion was made by Council Member Cynthia Davis, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to suspend the rules to consider a lease agreement with West Ministries for the period of one year for the purpose of creating a community garden. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle advised that the City has an opportunity to enter into a lease with West End Ministries for a Community Garden. She then shared some of the terms of the lease before Council today:

- *It will be a one-year lease*
- *WEM will provide their own tools. A shed will be onsite for storage of their tools, but they will be responsible for locking it; the City of High Point would not be liable*
- *WEM will be required to apply for water service and would be responsible for the usage*
- *There would be an exchange for the one-year lease (i.e. \$1 - \$10)*
- *An indemnification clause will be incorporated into the agreement*

Mike McNair, Director of Community Housing & Development, noted this has been discussed at several of the committee meetings throughout the year. He explained that West End Ministries, along with a large number of supporters, want to establish a garden on this property. The City conveyed these properties (totaling approximately 1.1 acres) to SHARE for construction purposes, but since that time SHARE filed bankruptcy, so the City is currently in the process of regaining the properties. Mr. McNair informed Council that the closing is scheduled for June 19, 2015 and as soon as the property is back in the City's possession and officially recorded, the property could be officially leased to West End Ministries. Ms. Carlyle suggested that Council take this into consideration and advised that the effective date for the lease cannot be put into place before the property is transferred.

Approved a lease agreement with West End Ministries for a one-year period for a community garden and authorized the appropriate officials to execute documents associated with the lease. The lease would be effective following the transfer of the property.

A motion was made by Council Member C. Davis, seconded by Council Member Golden, to approve the lease agreement with West End Ministries following the transfer of the property to the City. The motion PASSED by a 9 - 0 unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:00 a.m., Council entered into Closed Session upon motion duly made and seconded pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with their attorney and 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter.

Upon reconvening into Open Session at 11:05 a.m., an announcement was made that there was no action taken as a result of the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk