

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FEBRUARY 1, 2016 – 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:

Present:

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

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

160033 Resolution - Reverend Thomas Spann

Reverend Thomas Spann and family will be in attendance to accept a Resolution honoring Mr. Spann for his contributions to the City of High Point and the Gospel Music industry and in recognition of his 91st Birthday.

Mayor Bencini read a resolution into the record proclaiming Friday, February 5, 2016 as "Thomas J. Spann Day" in the City of High Point. Rev. Spann founded the Brooklyn All-star Singers in 1950 and over the years has made thirty albums with three hundred songs, including both gold and platinum albums. Rev. Spann was present to accept the resolution. He shared that he is 91 years old, that he is very happy to be a citizen of High Point and is looking forward to many more years.

Following the presentation of the resolution, a photo opportunity followed with Mayor Bencini.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Bencini opened the floor for Public Comment with the following persons speaking during the Public Comment Period.

Louis Thibodeaux, 1242 Kensington Drive, informed Council that his Neighborhood Association called a meeting on Saturday, January 16, 2016 to discuss the stormwater issues with approximately twenty-four of his neighbors attending, along with Council Members Cynthia Davis and Alyce Hill. He reminded Council that a copy of the audio of the meeting could be obtained from the city clerk. Many of the neighbors had questions and believe the Dovershire/Country Club/Kensington stormwater projects should be put on hold until the

existing problems are addressed. Before concluding his comments, he asked, once again, why he could not get a response to his questions when asked in this forum.

Council Member C. Davis responded and explained conversations are on-going and she has consistently asked about the progress, with the last update a couple of months ago. She noted she was told by Deputy City Manager McCaslin that staff is still working on the engineering plans for this particular area. She assured the residents in that area that she does hear and appreciates their concerns. She questioned why there is still money in the bank from the 2004 bond issue when there are issues that need to be addressed now.

Nick Platt, 1226 Kensington Drive, wanted to go on record agreeing with Mr. Thibodeaux and others that will speak about the problems on Kensington and Wales.

Wilson Womble, 1228 Wales Drive, also went on record and was in agreement as well. He noted he has lived on Wales Drive for 24 years and during that time, he has watched the creek go from a gentle stream into a raging river. He also shared that on one occasion in those 24 years, he has had to deal with water in his garage. He mentioned he has a bridge on his property and he has measured the piping under the bridge. It was his understanding that they plan to increase what comes under Kensington and expressed concerns that they are at their limits.

Mike Wilhem, 1244 Wales Drive, felt it was interesting that when the wastewater is seven feet deep at its full height with the creek currently being six inches. He noted on any given day with a heavy downpour of one hour, which happens many times a year, the water raises the height to seven feet. He pointed out the water moves quite rapidly down the street and at times reaches one and a half feet. He shared since 2000, the creek has risen to the seven foot level on three occasions. He pleaded with Council to stop the project and take a different look at what is going on because they absolutely cannot take more water.

Mr. Wilhem shared some photos with Council. While the photos were circulating amongst the Council Members, Council Member C. Davis asked that Council seriously consider this area when looking at the budget prior to any additional improvements being made because it would further impact these residents.

Jonathan Fritz, 211 E. Ray Avenue, addressed Council again regarding his concerns about the speeders on S. Main Street making it unsafe for pedestrians to use the crosswalk and cross the street. He noted there has not been any progress made since he last addressed Council and asked if it would take someone getting killed or hurt before something is done about the excessive speeding and reckless driving at GTCC. He asked the City Council again for help and consideration regarding his concerns.

He also pointed out the traffic lights at the intersection of Hamilton and Kivett are very tricky with drivers running the red light coming down English. He suggested the city could possibly put some kind of filters in the lights so drivers won't look at traffic lights on the cross streets.

Mayor Bencini asked if there was anyone else present who would like to speak during the Public Comment Period. There being no further comments, the Public Comment Period was closed.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

160034 **Appointment - Boards & Commissions - Human Relations Commission**

Council is requested to confirm the appointment of Felicia Jones to the Human Relations Commission as Council Member Alyce Hill's appointment (replacing Ralph Rodland who resigned). Appointment to be effective immediately and will expire June 1, 2016.

Motion by Council Member C. Davis, second by Council Member Williams to suspend the rules in order to add this matter to tonight's agenda for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Hill explained Felicia Jones will be replacing Ralph Rodland on the Human Relations Commission, who had to step down due to a work conflict with the meeting date.

Approved the appointment of Felicia Jones to the Human Relations Commission.

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

160035 **Change in City Council Meeting Schedule**

Consideration in a change in the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule to cancel the following Regular Council Meetings:

- Monday, April 18, 2016 (Furniture Market)
- Monday, July 4, 2016 (Holiday)
- Monday, October 17, 2016 (Furniture Market)

Motion by Council Member C. Davis, second by Council Member Williams to suspend the rules in order to add this matter to tonight's agenda for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Alexander made a motion to approve the change in the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule by canceling the preceding Regular Council Meetings. Council Member Wagner made a second to the motion.

Council Member C. Davis offered a **SUBSTITUTE MOTION to have the meetings on the Thursday following the Monday meeting dates instead of cancelling the meetings altogether.**

Council Member Golden suggested it might be helpful to look at the meetings that the city manager already has planned.

Council Member C. Davis then asked if it might be possible to approve the Monday, July 4th cancellation, but table the Monday, April 18th and the Monday, October 17th to allow staff time to see if there might be any conflicts.

Mayor Bencini asked if there was a **SECOND** to the **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**.

Council Member Williams made a **SECOND to the SUBSTITUTE MOTION**.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**.

There being none, he called for a vote. The **SUBSTITUTE MOTION** failed by a **2-7 vote** as follows:

Aye (2): Council Members C. Davis and Williams

Nay (7): Mayor Bencini, Mayor Pro Tem Golden, and Council Members Alexander, Hill, Wagner, J. Davis and Ewing.

Mayor Bencini then called for a vote on the **ORIGINAL MOTION, which carried by an 8-1 vote with Council Member C. Davis dissenting.**

Other Business

RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Council Member Alexander shared that Raleigh has followed Fayetteville's lead and installed red light cameras. He noted that their Councils have not been engaged in this endeavor; this is part of the School Board's revenue program. He pointed out the technology is out there and although High Point's Red Light Camera Program was challenged by the State Constitution, there are cities in North Carolina finding ways to use technology to do things that we cannot get done with human beings.

Institute for Emerging Issues

Council Member C. Davis announced that she would be attending the Institute for Emerging Issues in Raleigh on February 7-9. She noted that she would be going to Raleigh on February 7th to look at Raleigh and the side street parking and some of the things that she has not had an opportunity to see late in the afternoon. She will be there for Emerging Issues, which is discussing future jobs, the impact, what those jobs may look like and how to make citizens ready for those jobs. She remarked that she has not been able to speak during EDC conversations, but hopes when looking at opportunities whether it be Guilford County, High Point, that we start to look at the drone industry and maybe even take apart a drone, if needed, to see what those components are and who makes those. She also felt we need to start looking at living wage jobs. She shared that the revitalization that Council is pursuing is admirable and needed, but she felt people really need jobs and start looking at companies that can come in and fill some of the vacant buildings.

Additional Information on Stormwater Issues

Council Member Wagner asked if staff could provide Council with current FEMA Flood Maps and felt it might be helpful to review the flood maps in those areas where there are stormwater issues. City Manager Demko advised that staff could provide a briefing to Council on this as well as some of the occurrences that have happened, as well as future plans. He pointed out the topic of past bond issues regarding stormwater projects was discussed during a recent pre-budget meeting. Council Member J. Davis pointed out he is aware there are sewer lines that cross the area in question and it is probably private sewer lines. He asked who would be responsible in the event that those sewer lines fail in the event of a flood and puts raw sewerage in the creek. Deputy City Manager McCaslin advised the responsibility lies with the property owners. He felt this was a safety issue that Council should look into and asked staff to bring back some information on this. Council Member C. Davis shared that she had taken photos and provided them to Council more than a year ago, which showed the sewer lines had debris pressed against them and this was a real concern for the residents on Kensington, but also be a concern to the city.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Alexander and second by Council Member Wagner.

Respectfully Submitted,

William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
High Point City Clerk