



**MANAGER'S BRIEFING SESSION  
HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
August 7, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Jeron Hollis, Director of Communications & Public Engagement; Planner; Kenneth Shultz, Police Chief; Lee Burnette, Planning & Development Director; Jeff Moore, Director of Financial Services; Maria Smith, Deputy City Clerk; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

**Others Present:**

Scott Wallace

**News Media:**

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

**Handouts:**

- *High Point Police Department - Core City Violence*
- *Downtown Mixed-use Area Plan*

**Note:** *This handout will be attached as a permanent part of these proceedings.*

City Manager Greg Demko called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**1. Update – High Point Police Department- Core City Violence**

Kenneth Shultz, Police Chief, reported on the fiscal year review. He shared the Violent Crime Task Force with the notification taking place at the High Point Theatre. He pointed out that three of the murder victims sat in those chairs and received that message that was based on the statistics they would end up in jail, be doing positive good in society or end up dead. They are identifying the correct people.

He notified Council that two of the murder victims had the custom notifications where the police sat down with their families to warn them and to inform them if they hear they are involved this is what will happen. Chief Shultz challenges by knocking on doors and informed that two of the people have gotten killed since then.

Mayor Bencini inquired if this would be held at the main Theatre or one of the Galleries and Chief confirm the location would be in the upstairs of the Theatre.

He reviewed the Fiscal year for July 2016-2017 as follows:

- Whole year 8% up 2017
- 355 violent crimes 2017
- July 5% decrease
- May and June were able to drive those numbers down
- 11% increase in arrests (701 people arrested vs 631 last year)
- Firearm crimes down 4%
- 5 larcenies versus 6 larcenies

In further detail, he explained the 355 crimes and since 1992 compared 2009 with 668 violent crimes with the period that we have seen have been the lowest of crime rates. He noted that we are averaging approximately 1,400 violent crimes a year.

He addressed the Three-Phase Plan:

- 1) Gang Response (document this, list it as they moved around a lot with active warrants to make arrests which lead to much success)
- 2) Heroin Focus (on going major heroin supply, dozens of arrests, all combining with all the violence happening with a strong relationship to the gang and drug activity)
- 3) Prior Weapons Charges (continue to progress from a possession up to an assault, robbery then eventually murders)

He explained how they have phoned in extra money for DNA evidence. With things, not being confined to High Point, there is a lot of activity with people traveling here. He explained there is a lot of activity in Greensboro and in High Point and how the Street Crimes Unit supporting street crime offenders as they are bringing back to High Point. They continue to make big arrest with people that are involved with either or all locations and continue to track that down.

Council Member C. Davis had a question regarding the partnerships about the citizens that live in the neighborhoods as to what kind of partnership above and beyond what the Chief is currently receiving and would ask for. Chief Shultz responded as many of Council were at the YWCA, and he pointed out that they are have much success to focus deterrence. And their partnership to the High Point CAV with a 20-year history as many are turning their lives around. He suggested Parks and Recreation or churches to sign these kids up to keep them off the streets. He stressed how we need partnerships and gave one as an example: HUGS.

Council Member C. Davis had another question as to when they are calling in from neighborhoods what kind of information do you want them to give you when they make that call. Chief Shultz responded they are not providing information back from their victims as they are not disclosing information. He pointed out to the people that they were involved with shootings last week, so that would be retaliatory, and they would say they cannot remember. He stated he needs any and all information they can give.

Council Member Alexander wanted to know what the rules are on house seizures. Chief Shultz replied that there are nuisance abatement laws that are possibly. He explained how it is a very detailed scenario. Council Member Alexander suggested to remind property owners that are having chronic issues as this would be an opportunity if this could not change. Council Member C. Davis wanted to know when Chief Shultz's last time was to seize a house. He commented that it was several years back.

Regarding his resources of Burns Hill and Southside, Council Member Golden wanted to know what we were doing to prevent areas such as Hobson from rising back up after cleaning that area out. Chief Shultz explained with his deployment being consistent and being equal number of calls, the resource deployment being discussed are the spare guys and the way the splits are set up there is an overlap for second and third shifts. He added that there are two patrol team, between 8 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Mr. Demko reiterated that the eight officers were and shared that they plan to do that each year. He added that after a year of training they are on the streets. Chief Shultz shared they hired 27 officers last year, with one termination, with approximately five retirements and resignation. He stated how it was basically wash.

Finally, he reviewed the 196 Heroin overdoses and explained they continue to use Narcan. He reported there has been a lot of positive engagement, positive movement and including funding to that the state is pushing down treatment.

Council Member Williams referred back to the chart and commented it looks like we have more In-city now than the past. Chief Shultz stated how they have been running 50% in and 50% out.

Chief Shultz ended on a positive note and shared that they have had tremendous success with the following programs/relationships within the community:

- ✓ Coffee with a COP Program;
- ✓ Partnerships with Corporate High Point;
- ✓ SRO Officers completing the Youth Academy; and
- ✓ Housing Authority Officers putting on the Youth Camp

Mr. Demko reminded Council to reach out to anyone they many know who would like to pursue a career in the police academy to protect us.

## **2. Presentation – “Brunch” Sunday Alcohol Sales Legislation**

JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney, advised Council that they have the opportunity to vote on an ordinance that will allow retailers and restaurants within the city limits to serve alcoholic beverages (i.e. malt liquor, wine, beer, etc...) at 10:00 a.m. instead of noon.

Council Member J. Davis wanted to verify the definition of retailers as to a convenience store or grocery store cannot to sell at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Carlyle stated it does include those types of stores and it would not apply to the ABC stores as they are under a different statute.

Council Member Golden wanted to know what drove this decision. Ms. Carlyle was uncertain. To his understanding, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner, believes that this idea actually started out in Charlotte with the bars and restaurants wanting to serve at 10:00 a.m. before the Panther games. He further explained the North Carolina Restaurant Association in Raleigh wanted to expand it as a State Law bill. Ms. Carlyle, on the other hand, believes it was just many restaurants wanted to offer their customers Mimosa's during their brunches.

Council Member J. Davis wanted to know if any other city has not approved it. Council Member Alexander noted that Carolyn Coleman in the County as they needed a second reading. He stated how if it is a unanimous pass, it would not require a second reading.

Council Member C. Davis was concerned for the families going to church and during that two-hour period, even though it is available to purchase at noon. She stated the two hours is a lot of time for families traveling home and for those who cannot control how much they drink in that short period of time.

Ms. Carlyle advised that many cities allow extra time within a few dates after the State passes it. Council Member Alexander pointed out for retailers that are coming into High Point as they check boxes off and also areas that are dry in those areas. He indicated how it could be a big deal for some high-level hotel chains serving brunches. Council Member Hill addressed the safety issue with the legal obligation for the bartenders serving the alcohol is still there with the safety concerns being addressed through those laws.

Council Member C. Davis still being concerned as those laws do not prevent DUIs, and they do not prevent reckless consumption within the two hours expanded once church is let out. She feels more comfortable to start at noon so the families are able to get home safe. Council Member Hill assumed there was a lot of assumption on the part of Council Member C. Davis's faith. Council Member C. Davis did not want to come across as faith based, and everyone gets a vote as she stated her vote would be NO.

Council Member J. Davis pointed out for the boaters it would be beneficial. Mr. Demko shared that he did receive two emails in support of this decision. Mr. McCaslin advised that Lisa Vierling, City Clerk, has also received many phone calls in support of the ordinance.

### **3. Presentation – Public Notices Legislation**

Ms. Carlyle advised about a required legal publication that was vetoed. She reported that Guilford County had a local bill that is currently stuck in committee and there was a Statewide bill as well that was passed that the Governor vetoed. With that said, the actual numbers if there is an override, it would happen in the House with 60 votes. It may go to the Senate and it may not be revisited if they are sure they have those numbers.

She stated they are looking to come back on the September 6<sup>th</sup>, and based on what she heard this past weekend, it could be much sooner. Discussions are that they may go year-round.

As she stated, it is basically being able to electronically advertise versus going through the newspaper. She reported if they keep it as is, they would have to advertise it at least once a month for 12 months before they actually do that on a permanent basis.

Council Member J. Davis wanted to know what we spend currently. Council Member Alexander stated that he made that request and it was \$90,000 over three years. Ms. Vierling confirmed the amount and added that it was a very "conservative" estimate.

Council Member C. Davis wanted to know if it is vetoed and needing to take a revote, and questioned why we looking at it. Ms. Carlyle informed this is only a status update.

Council Member Alexander advised that it was on the agenda and, also, being strongly supported and to support "us."

Council Member Golden sees this as a potential problem as it may be the only way for advertisement notifications. Mayor Bencini suggested that the staff communicates with new Council at the time as part of their orientation. Council Member J. Davis feels confident if they are going to revisit it 45 days they will have an answer.

Council Member C. Davis noted that it comes back to her to being elected to represent the people of the community and to ensure that they have a voice at the table. For example, the stadium project was listed as a miscellaneous item, it was not listed as a catalyst nor a vote, but Council took it to vote. She stated that it is important having the agenda and information available and believes it is important that it not cause the public to miss out on something. Council Member Alexander pointed out that less than 50% of High Point receives a newspaper.

#### **4. Presentation – Airport Overlay District Amendment**

Planning & Development Director Lee Burnette reported on the former request made to staff amending the city's overlay district. He reviewed the background zoning district and base noise metric and impact.

The property that is indicated is located on Willard Dairy Road in between Highway 68 and Eastchester Drive which is west of Penny Road. He pointed out in that area of the airport overlay zoning district, it does not allow for residential development. He introduced Scott Wallace as the city initiated a noise metric as it was applied to that area and later where the airport did a noise analysis in 2009, and based on that analysis it was revisited that noise metric and adjusted. He shared how the planes were flying in and out and the intent was to put the noisier planes on the newer runway. Council Member J. Davis disagreed as to how the noisier planes were flying in and out.

He reviewed the County has a different zoning district. He reported that 5% were taking off at night time due to wind conditions. He briefly reviewed the zones:

- ✓ Zone 1 – daytime & nighttime
- ✓ Zone 2 – nighttime (non-residential)
- ✓ Zone 3 – equivalent to Zone 2 lowered by 30 decibels
- ✓ Zone 4 – notification

Based on physical features, roads, streams etc... were possible because property lines do change.

They believe this would be a supportive change and would be feasible to do this. They would not encourage anymore encroachment toward Highway 68. Council Member C. Davis wanted to know how many more cases came up and were told no. Mr. Burnette reported when they viewed several areas and they were in the middle of an area where it was not feasible, given the proximity to the airport he indicated how zone 2 and 3, were equivalent to the noise impact. He noted for zone 3, they do require non-residual and design standards.

Council Member Alexander asked if this was not incorporated and in Guilford County, if they apply for a permit to build a residence as this would be a self-imposed area. The only thing, is that they would have to be on the well and septic tank.

Mayor Bencini inquired on the FAA site to the south and subject property and wanted to know if they pay taxes. Mr. McCaslin replied that they do not.

Council Member J. Davis is in favor of development in that area.

Mr. Burnette recommended that if this were to move forward, there would have to be a laneage plane amendment. He suggests if there are no objections to place on the next Council agenda to

initiate the zoning process for the next Council meeting. Council Member C. Davis request to see the number of people that have asked to do this in the past that we have declined.

**Council Member Alexander moved to direct staff to place on City Council's next agenda for review and Council Member J. Davis made a second.**

**The motion carried by a 9-0 unanimous vote.**

**5. Presentation – Portion of the Sign Ordinance**

There was no discussion on this item.

**6. Update – Mixed-Use District**

Planning & Development Director Lee Burnette gave a brief update on the meeting that was held at the YWCA on July 31<sup>st</sup> for the Downtown Mixed-Use area. Overall, he described their meeting to be a success with approximately 250 people in attendance.

He reported that they gave a brief overview of the Downtown Mixed-Use in process and the status of the stadium process. He referred to the website of [www.highpointnc.gov/1993](http://www.highpointnc.gov/1993) and encouraged anyone to share any projection plans to that website.

He expressed all the positive comments and once they heard it was about the downtown and creating a sense of place within the City of High Point that is unique and not just about the stadium they had a positive tone about that area. Staff heard the comment, "It is about time." The citizens did have some concerns about safety, parking, etc... Staff was able to answer individual questions and were able to engage with the public.

He reiterated this would be coming back to Council at the September meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. He suggested to have a briefing session as well as an agenda item in September.

Mr. Demko suggested that part of the outreach which was well attended by the media, (newspaper and television stations) he recommended to share with Council the one media clip by WFMY News 2 aired.

There being no further no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maria A. Smith  
Deputy City Clerk