

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
February 5, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Mayor Jay Wagner, and Council Members Britt Moore, (At Large) [arrived at 4:23 p.m.]; Don Scarborough, At Large; Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1); Monica Peters (Ward 3); Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); Victor Jones (Ward 5); and Jason Ewing (Ward 6)

**Absent:**

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Williams (Ward 2)

**Staff Present:**

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Kenneth Shultz, Police Chief; Loren Hill, President, High Point Economic Development Corporation; Sandy Dunbeck, Senior Vice President, High Point Economic Development Corporation; Eric Olmedo, Budget and Administrative Director; Lee Tillery, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tracy Pegram, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk.

**Others Present:**

Laura Stroud and Rachel Cotter with The McAdams Group  
Ken DeCourt

**News Media:**

Pat Kimbrough, High Point Enterprise

*Note: The following documents will be attached and incorporated to these minutes as a permanent part of these proceedings and filed accordingly in Exhibit Book, Volume XII.*

- ✓ *McAdams PowerPoint Presentation on the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan*  
**(Exhibit Book, Volume XII, Page 55)**
- ✓ *High Point Police Department- 2017 Year in Review*  
**(Exhibit Book, Volume XII, Page 56)**

Mayor Wagner called the Special Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced that the Special Meeting was called for the purpose of receiving an update from staff on the Catalyst Project, and for holding a Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege.

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**Presentation- Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

Lee Tillery, Director of Parks & Recreation, expressed excitement about presenting the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan to the City Council and advised that the Parks & Recreation Commission would be receiving the same presentation at their meeting tonight. He explained this would be a six to eight-month process, would be a citizen driven plan, and would involve two public forums, the first of which will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out staff has not had a Master Parks & Recreation Plan that they could use and follow since 2007. The goal with this plan is to have an active working document that will guide the department for the next ten years from programs to infrastructure to operations and maintenance, etc....

He then introduced Rachel Cotter, Project Manager, and Laura Stroud with The McAdams Group out of the Durham office.

Ms. Cotter provided a brief history on The McAdams Group, a comprehensive team which includes some national consultants. McAdams is a full-service design and engineering firm. The team that will be working with High Point includes HH Architecture out of Raleigh; Jason Morado with ETC, a national statistics firm; and Pros Consulting out of Indianapolis, who are national consultants specializing specifically in operations, business, and maintenance plans for parks and recreation departments and facilities.

The process for the project will consist of

- Assessment (inventory/analysis of facilities and programs; demographics and trends; community engagement; and benchmarking)
- Vision (Mission plus Vision)
- Recommendations (programs and operations; park models and design standards; level of service)
- Action/Implementation (prioritize recommendations; resources; timeline; and financial strategy)

The four Focus areas for the Plan will be:

1. Parkland (the physical acres of parkland throughout the park system, that includes all the amenities, playgrounds, sports fields, picnic shelters, etc....)
2. Facilities (indoor recreation space such as aquatic centers, indoor recreation centers, senior centers, etc....)
3. Operations and Maintenance (operational structure of the department; if maintenance is adequate; how to plan for future maintenance; how to address maintenance on an annual basis; how to address deferred maintenance, etc....)
4. Finances (financial structure of the department, looking at user fees, annual budgets, cost recovery revenue metrics, setting future goals)

Ms. Cotter explained the study would start off with conducting data research to determine the demographics and trends and they would be relating trends in recreation into the demographics for the next ten-year planning horizon.

**Community engagement** will also be another big source of input, as the plan will be community driven. The following meetings are planned as part of the process:

- Two Manager's Briefings
- Two public open houses (the first will be March 12<sup>th</sup> and this will provide the public an opportunity to attend, ask questions, provide input, etc....)
- Two Staff Meetings, plus a Visioning Session
- Three Parks & Recreation Commission meetings
- Final Presentation before City Council

Ms. Cotter advised that part of the community engagement process will include a **statistically valid survey** to get a true representation of the demographics in High Point. The survey will be outsourced to ETC. Review of the survey questions is currently underway. It will take about 6-8 weeks to distribute the surveys, get the 400 surveys returned, and then analyze all the data.

Another important source of data will be the **benchmarking** exercise. As part of this process, they will be looking at 6-8 comparable agencies, or agencies that High Point aspires to be similar to. Some of the information they will be seeking is:

- Parkland per population
- Miles of trail per population
- Staff per acres of parkland
- Operating expenses per resident
- Cost recovery metrics

The second piece of this is the level of service standards, which is really the metric they will use as a basis for recommendations.

Concluding the presentation, Ms. Cotter shared the anticipated schedule for the process, entertained questions, and reiterated that the Strategic Master Plan with Vision will....

- Inventory and analyze parkland, facilities, programs, operations and finances
- Understand and resolve gaps and deficiencies
- Evaluate and provide strategies for improved operations and maintenance
- Benchmark against comparable agencies
- Identify level of service goals and metrics
- Improve financial sustainability through cost recovery goals and funding strategies
- Prioritize goals and objectives for a 10-year planning horizon

It is anticipated that the Final Master Plan will be ready to present to the City Council in September 2018.

Council Member Scarborough inquired about coordinated efforts with other agencies such as the YMCA and the YWCA. Ms. Cotter explained they do look at partnerships on a wholistic level and might identify some of those individuals or organizations as a potential partner. She pointed

out they would only be looking at the level of service standards for the facilities and parks that High Point owns, operates, and maintains.

Council Member Scarborough also asked about the Guilford County Schools and trails. Ms. Cotter explained that if it is a public facility that Guilford County owns and operates, and residents have access to, that typically goes towards the level of service standards. She further explained the acreage does contribute to the level of service and they would consider this when determining if parkland is sufficient or if there is a deficiency.

Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager, pointed out there are not many cities in North Carolina with a 100,000 population and asked if they would be benchmarking against North Carolina cities or cities in the Southeast. Ms. Cotter replied that they have done both, and explained they first talk with the Parks & Recreation Department to establish criteria and what comparable qualities they are looking for.

Council Member Golden mentioned the 2007 Parks & Recreation Master Plan that was referenced earlier by Mr. Tillery and asked if that plan was done by the same consultants and questioned why staff did not follow it. Mr. Tillery advised that it was done by another consultant and explained that a lot of the 2007 plan was based on recommendations that were not followed early on, so it was not a living, working document. He further explained that High Point has evolved so much in the last ten years which warrants an updated Master Plan.

Council Member Ewing inquired about the Westchester Park Plan and if it was included in the 2007 Master Plan. Mr. Tillery advised it was not, but it was included in the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Presentation- 2017 Crime Statistics**

Police Chief Kenneth Shultz distributed the 2017 Crime Statistics Report that will be published and posted on the city's website tomorrow.

He advised that because High Point is in four different counties: Guilford, Davidson, Forsyth, and Randolph, it creates some challenges in the Police Department, but a few years ago legislation was passed that now allows them to deal with everything in High Point jurisdiction wise.

The Chief identified the following big issues that the Police Department has been dealing with over the course of the past year:

- Homicides and firearms
- Traffic/Enforcement
- Opioids/Heroin

He briefly reviewed the organization structure of the department. One key point was Council's approval last year for a Public Information Officer, who was put over Community Outreach, and this has been very successful.

## Results of the 2017 Crime Statistics:

### Part I Violent Crimes as compared to 2016

- Homicide (up 171%). 60% of the homicides have been resolved which led to the arrest of 26 individuals for the murders.
- Manslaughter by Negligence (one in 2017, but none in 2016)
- Rape (down 20%)
- Robbery (down 5%)
- Robbery with Firearm (remained the same- 0% change)
- Aggravated Assault (up 1%)
- Aggravated Assault with a Firearm (up 33%)

### Part I Property Crime Statistics as compared to 2016

- Burglary (down 5%)
- Larceny (up 4%)
- Shoplifting (up 16%)
- Motor Vehicle Theft (up 25%)

These increases are believed to be attributed to the opioid epidemic, heroin use.

### Part II Crime Statistics as compared to 2016

- Decreases in Simple Assault, Counterfeit, Fraud, Stolen Property, Vandalism, Sex Offenses, Liquor, Disorderly Conduct
- Significant Increases in Arson, Prostitution

Chief Shultz shared a graph comparing historical violent crimes since 1992 and explained when he was hired as the Police Chief two years ago, a lot of precedence was put on their Focused Deterrence work and the efforts they are making show that these are the best practices because of the effectiveness of these initiatives.

There have been major increases in Violent Crime since 2013 and major decreases in Property Crimes. While 2017 started with +75% in Violent Crime rates in Week 11, the Police Department through consistent proactive policing and utilizing High Point's Model of Focused Deterrence greatly impacted the year and violent crime closed at +1% above the previous year.

Chief Shultz shared that the **heroin** situation has been very impactful on the city and ended up with 316 overdoses for the year, as compared to 2014 (116 overdoses); 2015 (77 overdoses); and 2016 (191 overdoses). He is on a board representing part of the NC Chief's Association with the State Attorney General and they are looking at ways to address this from a statewide approach. The total number of heroin overdose-related deaths for 2017 was 27.

Council Member Ewing asked if High Point has comparisons to other municipalities or regions in North Carolina or the Southeast. Chief Shultz stated he could get these numbers and explained that prior to spring of 2014, they did not track overdoses, but the drastic increase at that time heightened the attention which prompted them to start tracking the data. He noted the heroin

epidemic is a nationwide problem and unfortunately there are areas in North Carolina that are the worst in the country (Wilmington and Jacksonville).

**Homicide Update (Shootout on Martin Luther King Blvd.)**

Chief Shultz informed Council that one of the suspects that was shot during the recent shootout on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. has died. Five of the suspects involved in the shooting will be charged with murder. He explained that they are seeing groups that are involved with these crimes and they have to charge all known members of the groups/gangs that are involved

**Violent Crimes Task Force Call-In**

Chief Shultz invited the Council to attend the next Violent Crimes Task Force Call-In that is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers of the High Point Municipal Building.

**Update on Power Outage**

Staff provided an update on the power outage that was experienced by many residents today due to an equipment failure at the Eastchester Drive Substation. Five substations were affected causing a power outage for about 18,000 to 20,000 customers. Ninety-five percent of the power has now been restored.

**Closed Session (Economic Development)**

**Motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Ewing to go into Closed Session at 4:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

Council reconvened into Open Session at 5:15 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Ewing and second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Wagner announced there would be no action taken as a result of the Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa B. Vierling, MMC  
City Clerk

DRAFT