



**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Library, 901 N. Main Street, High Point
May 8, 2018 – 3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present:

Council Members Britt Moore, Don Scarborough, Wesley Hudson, Victor Jones, and Jason Ewing

Absent:

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, and Council Member Golden

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; Jeron Hollis Director of Communications & Public Engagement; Mary Sizemore, Library Director; John Raynor, Kassie Ettefagh; Sandra Keeney, Deputy City Clerk, and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Others Present:

David, Alyssa, and James Roberts- Patrons
Ann Lynch, President of the Friends of the High Point Library and Friends of the Museum Committee Board Member
Reverend Little, President- Washington Street Business Association
Yvonne Short, Chair- Library Board of Trustees
Everett Short, Retired Veteran
Bill Swain, Patron of the Library, Retired
Sally Hartlett
Marsha Allen
Carl Vierling, Executive Director, High Point Food Alliance

Mary Sizemore and the Library staff greeted Council and staff as they entered the building. She provided a tour of the various divisions and services that the Library offers. Brief tours of the areas followed.

Following the tour, everyone gathered on the Second Floor where refreshments were provided. Ms. Sizemore asked the customers who were present to introduce themselves.

Following the introductions, Ms. Sizemore asked Carl Vierling, Executive Director, Greater High Point Food Alliance (GHPFA) to kick off discussion. He advised that the GHPFA works closely with the Farmer's Market aspect of the Library and they are a great resource as everyone works together to alleviate hunger in the community. Mr. Vierling concluded his remarks by sharing that groups outside of Guilford County are always impressed with the works and services that the High Point Library offers.

The Library's youngest patron present, James Roberts, exclaimed that "Our Library is awesome." His mother, Alyssa Roberts, shared how much her family thoroughly enjoys coming to the Library noting that they have participated in numerous programs offered by the Library over the past six years.

Ann Lynch, Chairman of the Friends of the Library and a Friends of the Museum Board Member, shared that although her children are now grown, they have participated in reading programs and always thoroughly enjoyed it. She concluded her remarks by stating that the Library is the perfect place to be.

John McCulley, Retired, applauded the Library for instituting programs that have helped seniors not to have to travel and noted patrons can do a lot on computers, which proved to be especially effective because of the undergoing construction. He shared that staff is really good about alerting readers as to what is new.

Reverend Little, expressed how the Library has helped him tremendously in furthering his studies and noted the Library is a second home to him.

Yvonne Short, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, shared that she has been acquainted with the Library for many years. She noted the Library's vital role in the Macedonia Family Resource Center and the reading opportunities that children have enjoyed because they could not visit the Library due to the lack of transportation.

Everett Short, husband of Yvonne Short, expressed that the Library is fantastic.

Bill Swain, Retired, shared that the Library is a wonderful place and thanked the Library staff, as well as thanked the Council for supplying the necessary things for the operation of the Library.

Ms. Sterling, a frequent patron of the Library and an aspired writer currently working on a children's book, expressed uncertainty about technology and electronic books. She shared that she prefers to read and hold a book because she likes the "feel" and "smell" of books. She stated the community that is represented at the Library is amazing and shared that she likes the Farmer's Market too.

Marsha Allen, a long-time patron of the Library, shared that she has visited the Library on a regular basis as an adult since the 1980s and it has been like “home” to her. She felt the Library staff is fabulous, as well as the opportunities and services that the Library provides. She likened the Library as a jewel that has been hidden in the community.

Following the comments by the patrons, Ms. Sizemore asked the business staff to share a snippet of the kind of work they do at the business center.

Kassie Ettefagh, advised their primary goal is to assist entrepreneurs, business owners, nonprofits, etc.... by providing them with data/research/contacts they need to succeed.

John Raynor, shared the Library provides demographic data, market research data, and can overlay multiple layers at once. He expressed that the service they offer to businesses can be useful to them for marketing or brick/mortar location decisions. He shared they also help nonprofit customers and philanthropic organizations that might be sympathetic to their needs/goals by helping target fundraising efforts.

Vicki Lester shared some of the programming they provide. They help with job search skills and they share information as to what NC Works services can offer. They also help them make connections for job resources, as well as class resources that are available at GTCC and the surrounding area. In generally, they connect people with business information.

Yvonne Short advised that the Library provides computers for use by the public and added how important and extremely helpful computers are to many people.

At this time, Ms. Sizemore solicited introductions from the Council Members present, as well as the administrative staff.

Ms. Sizemore shared that the Grand Opening of the Library Plaza was perfect with great attendance. She emphasized that the Library Plaza is no different than what they do inside the Library as they try to specifically identify needs of the community that currently includes:

1. Food insecurity
2. Health
3. Obesity
4. Sense of community for downtown High Point

The tour concluded on the 2nd Floor at the Heritage Research Center, at which time Edith Brady, Museum Director, shared that she was trying to schedule a time for the Council to visit and tour the Museum.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk

DRAFT