

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2019 – 4:30 P.M.
3RD FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Present (9):

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Jason Ewing (Ward 6); Council Member Britt Moore (At Large); Council Member Don Scarborough (At Large); Council Member Britt Moore (At Large); Council Member Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1); Council Member Chris Williams (Ward 2); Council Member Monica Peters (Ward 3) [arrived at 4:55 p.m.]; Council Member Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); and Council Member Victor Jones (Ward 5)

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; Attorney Fred Baggett (filling in during the absence of City Attorney Joanne Carlyle); Eric Olmedo, Managing Director; Mike McNair, Director of Community Development & Housing; Loren Hill, President-High Point Economic Development Corporation; Marshall Yandle, Vice President-High Point Economic Development Corporation; Mary Brooks, Deputy City Clerk, and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and noted the purpose of the Special Meeting was to hold a Closed Session for economic development purposes.

City Manager Greg Demko advised that staff has several other matters that they would like to also brief Council on following the Closed Session.

2019-135 Closed Session- Economic Development

Council is requested to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for economic development purposes.

Council Member Jones moved to go into Closed Session for economic development purposes. Council Member Williams made a second to the motion which carried by a unanimous 8-0 vote. [Council Member Peters was not present when the vote was taken to go into Closed Session]

At 4:50 p.m., Council Member Williams moved to reconvene into open session. Council Member Jones made a second to the motion, which carried unanimously. [8-0 vote] [Council Member Peters was not present when

Council took the vote to reconvene into Open Session and was not present for the Closed Session discussion]

Mayor Wagner announced there would be no action taken as a result of the Closed Session.

2019-131 Adoption of Budget Schedule for Proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget

Council is requested to adopt the budget schedule for the proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget as recommended by staff.

[Council Member Peters was present for the remainder of the meeting]

City Manager Greg Demko reported that while development is blooming in High Point, revenues are flat and noted that the property taxes realized from all the development has not come into fold yet. Staff will continue to monitor the numbers as that are released by the county. As part of the recommended budget, Mr. Demko is recommending continuing the Pay for Performance increases for the employees and noted that last year, the Council approved a 1% city match to employee contributions in a 401K and he would like to keep that in the budget.

As part of the requirements and additional money that has to be set aside regarding the State Retirement contributions, Mr. Demko informed Council that department heads were informed in a department head meeting this morning that they need to look at cutting \$4,000,000 from the budget in order to balance the General Fund and the department heads were told to. He explained many people will think that the stadium is causing the shortfall, but assured Council that it is the exact opposite and that all the development that has been spurred has helped tremendously; however, the property tax revenues from this development have yet to be realized.

Additionally, Mr. Demko reiterated that the city's contribution to the NC Retirement System for employees increased substantially because the returns on investments are not there on the state level. He also noted that Worker's Comp is up as well as health insurance rates and all of these combined is equivalent to .03 cents on the tax rate that has to be accounted for. He also advised that a tax increase is not an option.

Council Member Hudson asked about the possibility of increasing fees at the Landfill and pointed out High Point's fees are less than any of the surrounding jurisdictions. Mr. Demko explained that the Landfill is in the Enterprise Fund and is self-supporting.

Eric Olmedo, Managing Director, then distributed copies of a proposed budget calendar for City Council as follows:

Date	Time	Purpose
May 16	3:00 pm- 4:00 pm	Special Meeting of City Council-Presentation of City Manager's Proposed Budget
May 16	4:00 pm- 5:00 pm	Finance Committee
May 29	3:00 pm- 5:00 pm	Budget Review
May 30	3:00 pm- 4:00 pm	HPCC Special Meeting- Budget Review
May 30	4:00 pm	Finance Committee
June 3	5:30 pm	Public Hearing on Budget
June 5	2:00 pm- 4:00 pm	HPCC Special Meeting- Budget Review & Adoption

Mayor Pro Tem Ewing advised that he would be on vacation and would not be able to meet the meetings scheduled for May 29th and May 30th. Both Council Member Peters and Council Member Williams advised that they would not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for June 6th.

Mayor Pro Tem Ewing also pointed out that it would be good if the meeting scheduled for June 5th could possibly be moved up to 2:00 p.m. because of the conflict with the High Point Economic Development Corporation's meeting scheduled for 4:00 p.m. that same day. This would allow both Mayor Pro Tem Ewing and Mayor Wagner to attend both meetings.

After reviewing the schedule, Council agreed to a final review and possible adoption of June 5th instead of June 6th.

Mr. Demko mentioned the large stage for Parks & Recreation that Council had previously talked about the need for. He noted that such a stage costs about \$400,000 and staff is jointly looking into the possibility of doing a partnership along the Triad region on how to make this happen. He explained the bigger issue is the manpower needed to continually set up and tear down the stages at these events.

No objections were voiced about having a meeting on June 5th for the final review and adoption of the budget and to eliminate the meeting on June 6th.

2019-132 Financial Software Technology Initiative- NC Treasurer's Office

Discussion of a request from the NC Treasurer's Office for the City of High Point to participate and partner with them in a financial software technology initiative to bring a standard chart of accounts and technology that will be offered to small governments within the state.

City Manager Demko advised that the State Treasurer's Office has asked the city to partner with them in technology that will eventually be offered to small governments in the state. He explained the Treasurer's Office would provide the technology and financial software for the initiative which would necessitate a Memorandum of Understanding. He noted that he has discussed this with the city attorney and has asked her to review the scope of the project to ensure the city is legally protected before moving forward.

2019-133 Recognition of Sports Achievements for Local High Point Schools

Council Member Moore is requesting that the City Council publicly recognize local High Point school teams regarding their recent sports achievements.

Council Member Moore expressed a need to recognize the Southwest Basketball teams on their recent wins and recognitions. Several Council Members pointed out there are other local teams that deserve recognition on recent achievements as well. Mayor Wagner noted his preference would be to recognize all the teams on their recognitions during one Council meeting.

2019-134 Tickets to Inaugural High Point Rockers Game

Discussion regarding reserved tickets and invitations to those who worked on the multi-use stadium project with the city.

City Manager Demko informed Council that they would be given two complimentary tickets to the High Point Rockers inaugural game on May 2nd. Additionally, he advised that invites and complimentary tickets would also be sent to others who have helped in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk