

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed a Moment of Silence.

*Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were **Present (9)**:*

Mayor Jay W. Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Jason P. Ewing (Ward 6); Council Member Donald A. Scarborough (At Large), Council Member Britt W. Moore (At Large), Council Member Jeffrey J. Golden (Ward 1), Council Member Christopher Williams (Ward 2), Council Member Monica L. Peters (Ward 3), Council Member S. Wesley Hudson (Ward 4), and Council Member Victor A. Jones (Ward 5)

GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

2019-519 Acknowledge Receipt of Abstract of Votes - High Point Municipal Election

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Moore, to acknowledge receipt of the Abstract of Votes for the High Point Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Jones

2019-528 Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate of Canvass for the Bond Referendum held on November 5, 2019

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Golden, to acknowledge receipt of the Certificates of Canvass for the Bond Referendum held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. The motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Jones

2019-520 Minutes To Be Approved

Finance Committee; Thursday, November 14 @ 4:00 p.m.

Manager's Briefing; Monday, November 18 @ 4:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting; Monday, November 18 @ 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting (Joint Meeting between the Greensboro City Council and High Point City Council); Thursday, November 21 @ 3:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, seconded by Council Member Moore, that the preceding minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Jones

2019-521 Approval of Closed Session Minutes of City Council

Minutes to be Approved and Unsealed

January 16, 2018 (1 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
February 5, 2018 (economic development)
February 19, 2018 (1 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
February 21, 2018 (economic development)
June 18, 2018 (3 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
July 16, 2018 (3 of 3) (economic development)
October 1, 2018 (3 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
November 19, 2018 (1 of 3) (economic development)
January 7, 2019 (1 of 2) (economic development)
January 7, 2019 (2 of 2) (economic development)
April 1, 2019 (1 of 2) (economic development)
April 15, 2019 (economic development)
July 15, 2019 (2 of 6) (attorney-client privilege)
July 15, 2019 (4 of 6) (economic development)
September 16, 2019 (1 of 3) (economic development)
October 7, 2019 (2 of 3) (economic development)

Minutes to be Approved, but Sealed and not released until it no longer frustrates the purpose

December 6, 2017 (to prevent disclosure of privileged information)
January 16, 2018 (2 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
February 19, 2018 (2 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
March 7, 2018 (attorney-client privilege)
March 19, 2018 (1 of 2) (to prevent the disclosure of privileged information)
March 19, 2018 (2 of 2) (to prevent the disclosure of privileged information)
May 7, 2018 (attorney-client privilege)
May 21, 2018 (property acquisition)
June 4, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
June 18, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney client privilege)
June 18, 2018 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
July 5, 2018 (attorney-client privilege)
July 16, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
July 16, 2018 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
September 17, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
September 17, 2018 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
September 17, 2018 (3 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)

October 1, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
November 5, 2018 (attorney-client privilege)
November 19, 2018 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
December 3, 2018 (attorney-client privilege)
December 17, 2018 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
December 17, 2018 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
January 14, 2019 (attorney-client privilege)
January 23, 2019 (1 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
January 23, 2019 (2 of 2) (attorney-client privilege)
March 4, 2019 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
March 4, 2019 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
March 18, 2019 (1 of 4) (economic development)
March 18, 2019 (2 of 4) (attorney-client privilege)
March 18, 2019 (3 of 4) (attorney-client privilege)
April 1, 2019 (2 of 2) (economic development)
April 10, 2019 (attorney-client privilege)
May 6, 2019 (attorney-client privilege)
July 15, 2019 (1 of 6) (attorney-client privilege)
July 15, 2019 (3 of 6) (attorney-client privilege)
July 15, 2019 (5 of 6) (economic development)
August 5, 2019 (1 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
August 5, 2019 (2 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
August 19, 2019 (attorney-client privilege)
September 16, 2019 (2 of 3) (economic development)
September 16, 2019 (3 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
October 7, 2019 (1 of 3) (economic development)
October 7, 2019 (3 of 3) (attorney-client privilege)
November 18, 2019 (attorney-client privilege)

Minutes to be Approved, and Permanently Sealed

November 20, 2017 (personnel)
April 11, 2018 (personnel)
April 18, 2018 (personnel)
August 9, 2018 (1 of 2) (personnel)
August 9, 2018 (2 of 2) (personnel)
October 1, 2018 (2 of 3) (personnel)
November 1, 2018 (personnel)
November 5, 2018 (personnel)
November 19, 2018 (3 of 3) (personnel)
December 17, 2018 (3 of 3) (personnel)
February 18, 2019 (personnel)
March 4, 2019 (3 of 3) (personnel)
March 18, 2019 (4 of 4) (personnel)
June 17, 2019 (personnel)
July 15, 2019 (6 of 6) (personnel)
August 5, 2019 (3 of 3) (personnel)

A motion was made by Council Member Jones, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, to approve the preceding Closed Session minutes according to the actions indicated. The motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Ewing, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Williams, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Jones

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Wagner recognized the Council Members that would be completing their terms tonight.

He read resolutions into the record for outgoing Council Member Donald A. Scarborough (At Large); Jeffrey J. Golden (Ward 1); and Jason P. Ewing (Ward 6).

[applause, standing ovation; photo op followed]

Following the presentation of the resolutions to the outgoing Council Members, Mayor Wagner provided an opportunity to the outgoing Council Members for remarks.

REMARKS FROM OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS

Outgoing Council Member Scarborough: *High Point was a start over city for me and my son. I grew up in Asheville. I moved to Brevard and got married and along the way, my wife died of breast cancer. After, you know, a fight that lasted over four years. The boys, you know, were 10 and 15 at the time. We had an opportunity to come here because Dr. Martison was here and all of the guys who were at Brevard when I was there came here. It's been a wonderful start over place, a wonderful home, a wonderful place to be with the people that we've met here who have been with us. Most of my boys married girls that they met here and they've given me now a grandbaby who is just down the road from here. But, it's a wonderful city. You know, we all too often look at all the things that are wrong with the city, which we need to do so we can fix, but we tend to somehow forget all of the wonderful things that happened in this city for us as individuals and us as a group. I'm so proud to have been a part of this particular group of people at this particular time and the ladies and gentlemen down here who, without them we wouldn't be able to do anything. But, it's been a wonderful time. I think High Point is ready to explode in very positive ways and I hope that the Council that follows, not only this time but the next time or the next time, keeps that momentum going the way I saw it go from where it was to where it is. I'd like to see where it could be. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be here. Thank you so much for educating my sons, both in high school and at High Point University. And thank you for being friends with me, my boys, and each other. You're wonderful people and I'm glad to be a part of you. Thank you.*

[applause]

Outgoing Council Member Golden: *I'm not going to be long at all. I just wanted to thank everybody, who over the years have supported me and gave me their vote, gave me that vote of confidence to go out and try to make some things happen that, you know, I said I would do*

as I was out on the campaign trail. I hope that I fulfilled enough of them where you guys feel like I did you some justice. I also want to thank this particular Council for the work that we've been able to do, especially for the last four to five years. We've set some high goals and we've reached quite a few of them. So, I'm proud to have been a part of that. I want to thank staff for keeping us up-to-speed and sharing information with us so that we could make decisions that would, you know, benefit the city of High Point. So, as I go out, I just want to say, once again, thank you all for supporting me.

[applause]

Outgoing Council Member Ewing: *It's been an honor to serve the people of High Point over the past seven years. As I've reflected over that time, I recall a lot of meetings and probably thousands of agenda items passed and discussed. I can recall many tight budget decisions that were made so that we could maintain a competitive property tax but still provide quality services. We've had a lot of steep challenges. In my second year on Council, we were faced with a retiring city manager. After dozens of interviews and work sessions that the Council and our consultant went through, we identified Greg Demko as our top candidate. One of Greg's first council-directed priorities was to fix the issues that High Point had become known for in the permitting and inspections departments. If you would have Googled up High Point then, you would have most likely seen complaints about our level of business friendliness. That was probably one of my proudest accomplishments during the last seven years that we were able to completely change that thought. Under the direction of Mayor Bencini, we created a strategic plan that would guide our Council and staff for the next four years. We moved our key initiatives forward at an impressive speed. And, to our peer cities, they watched us go by like gazelles running past. We flew past so many of our peer cities. In my opinion and experience, for the next Council, in order for a body of government such as this to be productive and successful, there has to be cohesiveness amongst its members. It's been an honor to work alongside the lady and gentlemen at this dais. Additionally, from previous Councils I've served with, we haven't always agreed, but we've made compromises along the way to ensure the vision of High Point becomes closer to being achieved. My hope for the nine that will sit in these chairs for the next four years is that they will work collaboratively toward strategic goals that will continue to move the city of High Point forward in greatness. I walk away from this dais with a thankful heart. Thankful for all those that have believed in me and that have supported my campaigns through the years. Thankful for an amazing city staff that is charged with implementing the plans that Council adopts and thankful for new friendships that I've made along this journey. I'd like to close with a quote, I believe that is very fitting from a leadership standpoint, and when you have a body of nine when it comes to compromising. "The centre of gravity of any parallelogram lies on the straight line joining the middle points of opposite sides." I've enjoyed it and I look forward to what's next to come.*

[applause]

[standing ovation for all outgoing council members]

Mayor Wagner: *Are there any other council members who would like to speak at this time?*

Council Member Moore: *I'd just like to tell those that won't be with us next time, thank you. I've known you all for a good while. Being a local person long before politics, it's been a*

pleasure. It's not been easy, but I appreciate the relationships and I'm sure they will continue. Thank you.

Mayor Wagner: *Anyone else?*

Council Member Hudson: *I'd like to say the same thing. Thank you all. It's been a pleasure working with all three of you. You are very honorable people.*

Council Member Williams: *I say the same thing. I was going to wait until later to say it, but, thank you Jason. Thank you, Don. I appreciate the work that y'all have put in. It's a lot of the things that people are unaware of what you've actually done in the background that will probably come out later. Just by general information sharing, but at that point, just know that these people have done a lot of good work in the background. I will say something, especially to the man to my right, this has been my mentor for years. Jeff took me in and helped me out when I considered Council. We both ran for the first time together. I lost, well actually both of us lost. And he went back the very next one and has been in this seat. So, just to know that some of the ideas, some of the foundational things that I've done has come from the gentleman to my right and I really wanted to let you know I appreciate everything that you've done with me to chat with me during this time.*

Council Member Jones: *I'll say, thanks to Jeff and Don, but Jason you've got to keep your cell phone on because they're going to pick your brain and stuff.*

Council Member Peters: *Thank you, all three of you, very much. And from each one of you I've learned something,, and I will carry that on for the next four years and I really thank you for your leadership, your friendship and your service. Thank you.*

Mayor Wagner: *I'll just close by saying that, you know, Don, I really appreciate you stepping up and taking on this job the last couple of years. You had a very fulfilling, long career in education and were already a man of significance in the city of High Point. You even decided to take this step and step out in service. I've enjoyed serving with you and I just want to thank you for being willing to take that extra step to serve your community.*

Jeff and Jason and I were all elected at the same time, so I feel like it's kind of a changing of the guard around here with you two guys leaving us. Jeff, I would just say that I think that, people would ask me all the time about different councilmen and I would tell them that Jeff Golden is the MVP of the City Council. He's the quiet guy that just grinds it out and gets things done. I truly believe that. I think that your work with our blighted communities has been amazing. That's something that when we came on Council in 2012, you were talking about and pushing and pushing and pushing until the day came that it became a priority of the whole Council and something that was recognized that our city has got to do. I fully hope and anticipate that we will continue that effort with you not with us anymore. I want to thank you for your friendship and for your service to the city as well.

And, Jason, the same with you. We came on at the same time and didn't always agree on things and I think as time went by, we began to agree more and pretty much all the time now actually. So, I think we came together on that. I don't know which one of us moved more, but I do want to thank you for your steadfastness in economic development issues and always

being the guy that digs into the numbers and seems to know what's going on financially with anything that we're doing.

I think that all three of you have made such a contribution to this Council and I just really want to thank you for stepping out in service. We don't do this for the pay. If you do, you're crazy. It's nice but you're not going to get rich doing this. But I want to thank you, all three of you, for what you've done for our city and for what you've done to help us achieve the goals that we have and the vision that we have for our city.

[applause]

[end of transcript]

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Ewing and second by Council Member Hudson, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Installation & Organizational Meeting of the 2019-2023 Mayor & City Council followed at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk