

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
INSTALLATION & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

INSTALLATION OF 2019-2023 MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Honorable Judge John O. Craig administered the Oaths of Office to the Mayor and each individual Council Member as follows:

*Mayor **Jay W. Wagner** (standing with him was his wife, Leigh, who held the Bible).*

***At Large Council Member Britt Moore** (standing with him was his wife, Karen, who held a special Bible given to him from special friends, Steven and Jennie).*

***At Large Council Member Tyrone Johnson** (standing with him was his mom, Henrietta Johnson, who held his dad's Bible; his dad passed away last year. Also standing with him were family members Pamala Turner, Markisha Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Katina Johnson, Ja'Quentin L. Harris, Bobby Green, and Dr. Gwendolyn Johnson Green).*

***Ward 1 Council Member Cyril Jefferson** (standing with him was his wife, Raven, who held a special Bible belonging to his grandmother, Gertrude Walker, who received it as a gift from his great-grandmother, Gertrude Hooks. Other family members standing with him were: Cynthia R. Davis (mother); Aaron Davis (stepfather); Gertrude Walker (grandmother); and Freddie B. Walker (grandfather).*

***Ward 2 Council Member Christopher Williams** (standing with him was his wife, Jan, who held the Bible).*

***Ward 3 Council Member Monica Peters** (standing with her was Alan (husband); Claire (daughter) who held her mother's special Life Application Study Bible; Sandra (mother-in-law); and Carola (special aunt who is 88 years old).*

***Ward 4 Council Member Wesley Hudson** (standing with him was his wife, Allison, who held a special Bible given to him by his lodge when he became a Master Mason).*

***Ward 5 Council Member Victor Jones** (standing with him was his older brother, Dupre, who held the Bible).*

***Ward 6 Council Member Michael Holmes** (standing with him was his wife, Daria, who held a special Bible; his 13-year-old daughter, Cameron; and his 15-year-old daughter Nasia).*

Once all Oaths were administered, the 2019-2023 Mayor & City Council took their respective seats at the dais to conduct the business of the Organizational Meeting.

[applause, standing ovation]

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wagner officially called the Organizational Meeting of the 2019-2023 City Council to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

Mayor Jay W. Wagner, Council Member Britt W. Moore (At Large); Council Member Tyrone E. Johnson (At Large); Council Member Cyril A. Jefferson (Ward 1); Council Member Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Council Member Monica L. Peters (Ward 3); Council Member S. Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); Council Member Victor A. Jones (Ward 5); and Council Member Michael A. Holmes (Ward 6)

Reverend Frank Thomas, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, offered the invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA**2019-522 Election of Mayor Pro Tem**

Consideration of the election of Mayor Pro Tem. Term to be effective December 2, 2019 and will expire on December 20, 2021.

Mayor Wagner opened up the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Moore nominated Council Member Williams to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

The Mayor asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, to elect Council Member Christopher Williams as the Mayor Pro Tem for the period of December 2, 2019 - December 20, 2021. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

2019-523 Appointments to Committees of City Council (2019-2023)

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Hudson, that the appointments to the Standing Committees of the 2019-2023 City Council be approved as recommended by Mayor Wagner. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

2019-524 Appointments of Council Liaisons to the Various Boards/Commissions/Agencies (2019-2023)

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Jones, that the Appointments of the Council Liaisons to the various boards/commissions/agencies be approved as recommended by Mayor Wagner. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

2019-525 Ordinance Establishing Dates and Times for Official Sessions of the High Point City Council

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Hudson, that the Ordinance establishing the dates and times for the Official Sessions of the High Point Council be adopted. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

**Ordinance No. 7583/19-100
Ordinance Book Volume XX, Page 212**

2019-526 High Point City Council Rules and Procedures

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Jefferson, to adopt the High Point City Council Rules and Procedures. The motion carried by the following 9-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Jefferson, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Holmes

Introduction of Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager

City Manager Greg Demko introduced Greg Ferguson, who has been recently appointed as Assistant City Manager responsible for community services. Mr. Ferguson comes to High Point with over 25 years of experience, most recently having served as town manager for the Town of Waxhaw and Town of Huntersville.

Remarks from Incoming 2019-2023 City Council Members

Transcript of Remarks

Mayor Wagner: *I'll start just by welcoming all our new members, welcoming back the returning members and welcoming all of our new members. This is a historic night for our city. So, I want to welcome all of you for taking the effort, giving forth the commitment to serve your city. Like I said at the end of the last one, we don't do this for the money. You do it because you love your city and you're willing to work hard on behalf of your city. So, I want to thank all of you for committing and recommitting and I look forward to serving over the next four years with each of you. I know that the last City Council really, really functioned well together as a team and I have no doubt that that will continue with our new Council. I look forward to getting to know all of you and I look forward to serving with all of you again.*

Council Member Jefferson: *Mr. Mayor, I'd like to thank everyone who came out this evening, especially I'd like to thank those who are friends and family and loved ones and supporters who came out. We do not take it lightly and we do not take it for granted. When I was getting ready for today, a friend told me what Bible were you going to use, or that was his question. I just thought a regular Bible and he said, no, it should be a special Bible. So, I reached out to my grandmother, who has been the matriarch of our family and who has always been a woman of faith. I'm not saying this just to carry on and to be verbose, but to be intentional that as a woman of faith she has always believed in the power of prayer. So, I don't think that it's a mistake that we are here right now. I believe that we are called for this and I'm excited for the next four years. I appreciate you inviting Rev. Frank Thomas to come and pray for us. I say that because even though many folks, they like to say separation of church and state, I was reading something by George Washington that was really interesting. Councilman Britt Moore sent it to us and I thank you for it. The first resolution for Thanksgiving actually highlighted that we were a nation thankful to God for where we are. And, I say that very boldly and unapologetically because the next four years we are going to be led by God. I believe that. I believe that we are going to allow our hearts and our minds to be consecrated and with the spirit of agreement, we will do what's best for every citizen in High Point. High Point is at a critical time. Revitalization is good, but for a tide to truly lift our boats we have to remove the holes that keep some boats from rising. So, I thank you God for this opportunity and we appreciate you all. I mean that.*

[applause]

Council Member Jones: *I echo what Cyril says. I never speak publicly without letting it slip that I'm a man of faith myself. Since my mom's here, I've got to get some brownie points. I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be alive, I wouldn't be the man that I have grown to be if it wasn't for having a praying mom. And, those don't always happen right away, but the years down the road, we see that behind the scenes she was there praying for you. You didn't just get here by accident. I wouldn't be willing to go through with this for another couple of years if I didn't feel like we actually have the ability to accomplish what we say we do. If it was a lip*

service, I've got better things to do. But, we're actually accomplishing what we said we would do. We're seeing brick and mortars pop up. We're seeing opportunities. We're seeing real jobs that people are able to step into because we're thinking the right way and we're working together to make High Point more successful, economically safer. Everything that you guys come to us and say, represents us. We take it seriously. I know I do. I respond and I want to make sure that you know we've got a great group up here with the incumbents. I'm proud to serve with you guys again. It's been a joy the last couple of years. I'm excited to help out the rookies, get their feet wet. With all the committees that we're going to be working on, I just know it's going to be another few more years of positive vibes in High Point.

[applause]

Council Member Hudson: *This is a milestone night and I'll tell you where I was two years ago this same night. Sitting down there for the first time, where Cyril is sitting for the first time. My father was in the hospital and died of cancer a month later. So, he never got to see me sit here. In the last two years, my mother has moved here and actually bought a house in my ward. So, my mother got to vote for me this time. My son voted in his first election this year and he got to vote for me for the first time. That's pretty awesome; a really awesome experience. So, it's great to sit here at the beginning of another term. The last Council was fantastic. I can't imagine a more unified, successful, agreeable Council. I know that we will be working off of the foundation that they laid and I know we're going to do great things. The new members of Council, I have all the faith in you all. I'm looking forward to good things and I'm looking forward to working with you all. Thank you. I look forward to four years with you.*

[applause]

Mayor Pro Tem Williams: *Well, this election actually took a whole lot less convincing for my wife to agree with me to run. But, without Henry James Williams and Dot Williams-my parents-and the foundation they laid in me when it comes to being a public servant, there wouldn't be a Chris Williams. But, without a doubt, without Jan L. Williams, there wouldn't be a Councilman Williams sitting here. [applause] She does so much. Anybody that has followed the campaign knows they see more of her stuff than me. With that said, I'm grateful for the service and the connections and the talent in High Point. Y'all really don't understand how much talent we've got in this city in the people that serve and do good things here. I think we hear so much.....it could be one small thing bad that happens and it gets blown up huge, but when it comes to the huge amount of work that's been put in by the people of High Point, it gets minimized and I don't think that's fair. I think that if we actually knew the kindness, the compassion, and the love that goes across this city and that people do thankless things all the time, you would really appreciate what High Point actually is. I'm grateful to be of service to this city. I'm grateful to be able to serve on this board and serve on the past few boards. We've got a lot of things going well and moving forward in our city and I just hope that you could take the time when you see it for yourself, share with your friends and neighbors how good High Point is and how grateful we are, we ought to be, to know that we live here. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Thank you to the members on this board and the work that we're going to be putting in. I hope to see you out there on the trail.*

[applause]

Council Member Moore: *I've championed High Point my whole life. I love the place with all its warts and scars, but it's an amazing place. I knew my mom wouldn't come up and get her picture taken, but if any of you know me, I can certainly echo what these folks said. I think that actually the people that voted for me were hoping somehow that she would be up here. I appreciate her and my family. I've been very blessed and I look to the left and the right and I'm afraid that I might have to admit that I'm the eldest member of this Council. I feel very fortunate to be here representing my hometown. I think y'all for breaking away from Cyber Monday to come to something halfway important. When we had the groundbreaking for the new building getting ready to go up at the stadium, the mayor made a point, which I think is one that I've been trying to make for a long, long time. We can build these things, we can set policies, we can do whatever on a local level, a national level, and everything else, but the mayor made the point in the depiction of the picture that was up at the groundbreaking that the most important part of that picture were the people walking in between and in and out of the buildings. It's true. Because if we're not participating actively in whatever it is that we're doing and that includes our city, then it's only going to go as far as we all take it together. So, I'm thankful to be up here playing this role, but I hope you realize that each and every day we all play a role in the way that we spend our time and our efforts and our talents and our monies. I look forward to working along with these folks and each of you as we go forward. Thank you.*

[applause]

Council Member Peters: *So, I want to thank everyone for being here. There's lots of people out in the crowd and a few I want to acknowledge. My sister, Karin, is here. My aunt who I love so much, Tata, who is 88 is here. And my mother-in-law, Sandra Peters, I love you so much. And my husband is here, Alan Peters and my daughter, Claire, and my sister and brother-in-law, Norm and Beth. I hate to say it but I forgot to invite my family to come tonight. Luckily, Victor posted on Facebook and I said, Oh, gosh, I forgot to invite my family. So, thank y'all for coming at the last minute. So, two years ago, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I knew that I had a really strong passion for the community, and I wanted to serve, but I really didn't know what that looked like and now I do, and I love it! I do feel like I've been called to serve this community and I just cannot wait for the next four years to continue to grow, to learn, to give back the things that I've learned with networking and relationships that I've built. I just thank you all and thank you for your votes. I see several people, too, that helped me. They either worked poles, they did phone banking for me. Thank y'all so much from the bottom of my heart. I really appreciate it. God bless you all.*

[applause]

Council Member Johnson: *First and foremost, I have to thank God because I would not be here without him. I also have to recognize my dad, who is not here physically, but spiritually he is here. He passed last year and I wanted him here so I used his Bible. So, this is a very special moment to me. I recognize my beautiful mother in the back because she has pushed me, has pushed me, has pushed me. And, to my family. My humongous family who has pushed me from Day One. To my Pamela, as I call her, thank you for always pushing me. I do believe this is a calling definitely to serve all. To serve all of our people. All of our High Point. And I just thank you for those who voted for me. Thank you for the ones that did not vote for me, but we are going to do this together. This Council, I do believe I'm looking*

forward to working with each and every one of us and getting to know us better. But, most importantly, again, I just thank you all and just continue to look for great things out of this Council. Thank you.

[applause]

Council Member Holmes: *To my wife and to my kids, so, for a long time my wife, Daria, she has kind of embodied my overwhelming need to serve. Early mornings when I would get up and go out of the house, she supported me in that. My kids, the times I was away. So, I wouldn't be here without their love and support. As I sat in front of the Board of Elections at 11:00 a.m. on filing day on the phone with her deciding whether or not to run, she said, it's in your heart. God placed it there! So, I went in and I ran because you had my back like you always have. To my mother, who is not here, she passed a few years ago, she put into me the heart for service. And, I've said this many times on the campaign trail, she would say to me that the hand that you lift to point the finger at what's wrong should be the hand that you lift to fix the problem. So, I've carried that with me. As I drag my wife into the "Y" early in the morning at 5 o'clock, there's a quote on the wall that says, "If service is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you." I appreciate your faith, but I ask that you continue to hold this Council accountable for making sure that we serve every single member of High Point regardless of stature, regardless of race, regardless of gender, regardless of socio-economics. You....we are here for you, you are not here for us. We are called to serve, and we are your servants. Please hold us accountable. And, I thank you all for your votes. I thank you all for your support and I look forward to serving you over the next four years.*

[applause]

Mayor Wagner: *I'm going to take a moment to finish this up, but before I do that, I'd like to recognize one person in the audience, our former mayor, Bill Bencini. I'm going to put him on the spot.*

[applause]

The room is so full, are there any other former council members here?

Council Member Jefferson: *There's Mayor Sims.*

Mayor Wagner: *Yes, Mayor Sims.*

[applause]

And, I would also like to take the time to recognize my opponent in the mayor's race, Carlvena Foster, who is here. She is our representative on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

Any other elected officials here who we have not recognized? [none] I'll finish up by saying that I want to thank my mother, my wife, and my son for being here. My daughter is home with a stomach or nose something tonight so she couldn't be here. But I'd like to thank my mother and my late father for making the man that I've become today, and to my wife for making me the man that I am today. She is my biggest advocate and I wouldn't be sitting here without all the doors that she knocked during the campaign and all the work that she put in and all the general reminders that she gives me. I'd like to thank my son for being here as well; I wish his sister was here with us. This job takes a lot out of you and folks up here who have served I think will echo this, but, I'm probably not as good of a father that I could be because of this job. I'm probably not as good of a son or a husband as I can be because of this job. But, yet, they allow me to do it because it's something that I have a passion for and because I love our city. So, I want to take this time to recognize all of them for what they've done to make the person that I am today and for all of their help in getting me where I am. I have a lot of great goals for this Council. When I first came on Council, I had a long list of things I wanted to get done and I've gotten most of those done. I've kind of looked back at my 2010 campaign information and kind of went down the list and I've been able to do most of those things. But, when you first come on Council and you've got a long list of things to do and maybe they don't happen as fast as you might want, don't give up. There's still more time. Now, I've kind of gotten where I've tempered those expectations of wanting to change the whole city overnight to where I feel like if we could just do one great transformational thing every year, that we're going to carry this city forward. Two would be great, but if we could do one-that's a great year. I look forward to serving with all of you in the next four years. And, I want to repeat that if we can work together there's nothing that we can't do. I truly believe that. All nine of us together, but there's a bigger together out there, there's all the citizens of High Point. There are our entities, our businesses, our civic groups, our charities, our universities. All of those things....we're at a magical time right now. All of those entities are pulling together and when everybody is pulling together, we can do great things. So, I look forward to serving with you and to leading with you. You will hold me accountable as well as we go forward because we are all in this together. I do want to thank our staff for all the hard work. While we're up here dreaming and pursuing transformational things, they are the ones that make those things happen. And, by the way, while we're making transformational things, they're still making sure that the garbage gets picked up and your water is on and your sewage goes where it's supposed to go and the streets are clean and so on and so forth. All of those things that we take for granted every single day. I wanted to take the time to tell them thank you.

[end of transcript]

ADJOURNMENT AND RECEPTION

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Moore and second by Council Member Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.

A reception was held in honor of the outgoing Council Members and the incoming Council Members immediately following the adjournment of the Installation and Organizational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk