



PROSPERITY & LIVABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Chaired by Council Member Hudson

Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Peters, and Jefferson

January 8, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

3rd Floor Lobby Conference Room

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Wesley Hudson and Committee Members Michael Holmes, Cyril Jefferson, and Monica Peters

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Loren Hill, President- High Point Economic Development Corporation; Laura Altizer, Senior Budget Analyst, Roslyn McNeil, Budget Analyst; Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation; Mary Brooks, Deputy City Clerk; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

News Media Present:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2020-18

Update-Street Painting Grant

Staff will provide an update on the Street Painting Grant

Laura Altizer, Senior Budget Analyst, reported that the city would be applying for a grant through the Bloomberg Foundation for an asphalt art program. This is an initiative where applications can be made for painting sidewalks and other infrastructure. The cap was set at \$25,000 and the grant was submitted for \$24,593 with some in-kind contribution on top of that. Ms. Altizer explained that the city would be the lead agency and the High Point Arts Council would act as fiscal agents if the city is awarded the grant. The grant awards will be made in March and if the grant is received, the city will have until the end of 2020 to implement the project.

Brian Davis, a local artist, assisted with the application and actually did a walk through the areas and shared some new concepts to be submitted with the grant proposal. The project

focuses on the area between the Library and the proposed Nido & Marianne Qubein Children's Museum. The following goals were set for the project:

- ✓ *To create a visually exciting entrance into the downtown area;*
- ✓ *To enhance the connections between the children's museum and the library;*
- ✓ *To engage children and participants with the art work on the library site and in between the two locations;*
- ✓ *To increase participation of children that are within walking distance of the library and other participants by enhancing the outdoor area of the library.*

Ms. Altizer spoke to how early on in the process, they were informed by Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation, that the policy adopted by the City Council in August 2016 deals primarily with residential street painting and permits which requires neighborhood participation (painting and maintenance). Major Thoroughfares are excluded and the policy is limited to those areas that are zoned residential. City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle inquired about the roads/thoroughfares maintained by NCDOT. Mr. McDonald explained the NCDOT controlled roads would require their approval and explained they are not necessarily automatically excluded, but would require state approval.

Committee Member Jefferson asked if the policy expressly prohibits doing any painting in major thoroughfares and Mr. McDonald replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Altizer reported that once it was discovered that the city's policy only covers painting in the residential areas, they started looking more at projects involving vertical structures. She pointed out there are ten vertical structures that were included in the grant (four traffic signal boxes located at major intersections in the area and six electric transformer boxes). In an effort to broaden the project, they conceptually looked at artwork on the sidewalks and painting poles under the Farmer's Market stalls at the library.

Committee Member Jefferson asked staff to clarify if there will be an open solicitation process for opening up opportunities or a contract to more artists. Ms. Carlyle believed it would be necessary for it to be an open process since the city will be the lead agent.

Chairman Hudson did not believe it had to be pushed through the city, but it could go through the Arts Council as well. He explained that he reached out to Brian Davis once he found out that the grant had to be submitted within two weeks in an effort to ensure the deadline for submittal of the grant would be met. He further explained that this in no way prohibits involvement of other artists in the process.

Committee Member Peters asked if it might be possible to revisit the Policy to include streets/thoroughfares in addition to residential streets. She spoke to how the painting could create a slow-down factor and the grant refers to the use of art and community abatement to improve street safety. Chairman Hudson asked if staff could email the current policy out to the committee members to allow additional review/discussion in a future meeting.

Introduction of Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation

At this time, Chairman Hudson took a moment to introduce Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation, to the committee members. He advised that the committee does a lot of

work with Mr. McDonald and spoke to how the livability part involves streets, stop signs, speed humps/bumps, traffic calming measures, etc....

Committee Member Jefferson inquired as to if streetlights would also fall into that category. Chairman Hudson explained it would have to be a large-scale project involving a neighborhood and not just individual complaints like a streetlight shining into a home.

With regards to the speed bumps, Committee Member Jefferson asked for staff to clarify the threshold for the percentages for required signatures and if a homeowner or tenant could sign the petition. Mr. McDonald replied the policy requires a petition containing at least 75% of signatures on the petition. He explained that the policy is primarily written for homeowners, but felt there are some gray areas where there are a number of rental properties, so staff could take that into consideration.

Chairman Hudson pointed out this is something that would come through the committee and if there is a safety issue, then Council could have the discretion on traffic calming measures that could be implemented to improve safety.

2020-19

Discussion-Future Committee Presentations

Staff will provide feedback on presentations/discussions for future committee meetings. give presentations on a Future Committee

"Welcome to High Point" Signage on S. Main Street

Committee Member Peters advised that the residents/businesses in South High Point feel there is a separation from South High Point and the rest of the city. She asked about the possibility of erecting a nice, brick "Welcome to High Point" sign with some shrubbery on S. Main Street. She suggested a location on some property owned by NCDOT on S. Main Street in the vicinity of Archdale Road where it comes into the Peters Auto Mall and the Kmart area since this property cannot be developed because of the power lines around it. She felt it was important that the residents/businesses feel like they are a part of High Point.

Request for a Traffic Pattern Change at Walmart on S. Main Street

Committee Member Peters advised that she has had some people in the S. Main Street area ask about the possibility of making the center entrance to Walmart directly off of S. Main Street safer. She spoke to how this is a busy intersection with all the traffic coming into and exiting Walmart and how motorists make unsafe left turns instead of going out where the traffic signal is located. A suggestion was to put some type of median in there which would require right-turns only. Mr. McDonald agreed that this is something staff could certainly look at.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk

Wesley Hudson, Chairman

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