

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2020 – 3:00 P.M.  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER**

**Present (7):**

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Williams (Ward 2) [Arrived at 4:12 p.m.]; Council Member Britt W. Moore (At Large); Council Member Tyrone E. Johnson (At Large); Council Member Cyril A. Jefferson (Ward 1); Council Member S. Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); and Council Member Victor A. Jones (Ward 5)

**Absent (2):**

Council Member Monica L. Peters (Ward 3); and Council Member Michael A. Holmes (Ward 6)

**Staff Present:**

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney; Laura Altizer, Senior Budget Analyst; Loren Hill, President- High Point Economic Development Corporation; Terry Houk, Public Services Director; Jelani Biggs, Human Relations Manager; Robby Stone, Public Services Assistant Director; Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk, and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

**Others Present:**

Chris Rivera, Interim Executive Director, Guilford County Workforce Development Board; Thaddeus Shore, Center Manager, NCWorks Career Center of High Point; Hayes Finley, Fox Rothschild, LLP

*Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.*

**PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**

**2020-75**

**Presentation-Update on Workforce Development**

Chris Rivera, Executive Director for Guilford County Workforce Development will provide an update on Workforce Development.

*Chris Rivera, Interim Executive Director with the Guilford County Workforce Development Board; extended greetings; gave an introduction of the Workforce Development Staff and Board Members; provided an annual report on performance standards in the career centers; said the career centers were managed through the Department of Labor; Guilford County was a single entity workforce system with three bodies of government (City of High Point,*

Guilford County, and the City of Greensboro) with an fully executed development consortium agreement; and that the City of Greensboro was designated as the Administrative entity with its Mayor serving as the Chief Elected Official for conducting Consortium Business. The two primary career centers for Guilford County were located in Greensboro and High Point. Mr. Rivera introduced Thaddeus Shore, in attendance, who was the Center Manager at NCWorks in High Point; said this center focused on talent engagement, employment solutions, and talent development; provided an overview of the primary Workforce Development Services, Training Services, the NextGen Young Adult Program, Veteran Services, and Senior Employment Services; gave an overview of the performance from last Performance Year (PY) 2018 that included basic career services, case managed services, business services, and said the number of individuals that obtained employment exceeded the investment made by the Board; gave an update of the current PY performance trends on customer visits, staff assisted services, work readiness workshops, and job orders listed. Mr. Rivera continued discussion regarding the Demographics for High Point that included race, age, and education levels; outlined some of the individualized career services (that included numbers) for adults/dislocated workers and the youth such as: Work Based learning Participation, number of participants receiving credentials, and employment retention (currently at a 75%); and said they worked with local businesses to assist in job placement.

Mayor Wagner inquired on the comparison of the unemployment rates with the career center's rates. Mr. Rivera replied that the numbers of engagements coming in the career center were significantly lower; said they were putting more time with resources into individuals; the cost per participant was higher; and that there were fewer individuals in training which resulted in an increase service levels.

Mr. Rivera continued discussion regarding the High Point Community impact results for the timeframe, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019; the results included the number of people served, earned credentials, how many were employed, their earnings, and estimated earnings; spoke to the Business Services Unit; said this unit served as the liaisons with Guilford County businesses by assisting employers in solving workforce challenges, promoting and administering small business grants (funded through the Department of Labor) and workforce recruitment options, and support Economic Development projects (new and expanding); said there were seven High Point businesses that received incumbent worker training grants; and that they also worked with Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC). Mr. Rivera provided the goals for the rest of the PY as follows:

- Comprehensive Workforce Planning-develop and implement 4-year local and regional workforce plan
- Rebranding-implement marketing strategies to enhance awareness of workforce development and Career Center services
- Virtual Reality Career Exploration-deploy VR software/equipment to enhance exposure to in-demand careers throughout Guilford County
- Expand Reentry Services throughout local area
- Access Points-identify 2-3 community access points to provide workforce development services within

*Mr. Rivera concluded his presentation; and extended appreciation for everyone's support.*

*Council Member Jefferson inquired on maintaining the demand for services; the barrier with transportation (bus lines) to employment locations; and with assisting those who were homeless. Mr. Rivera replied that they had the capacity to handle an increase in participation; said transportation would be a barrier for flexible work schedules for those who took the bus; and said the board worked with the Welcome Home Initiative; and partnered with Neighborhood Development in Greensboro in providing housing and employment.*

*Greg Demko, City Manager, inquired on the community impact of individuals who obtained employment. Mr. Rivera replied there was a 47% success rate for individuals who obtained employment; said some that participated in training had wages six months after leaving the system which was tracked by the state; and that they followed individuals for 12 months after they have served in the workforce program.*

**2020-76      Closed Session-Attorney-Client Privilege**

Council is requested to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege

**2020-77      Closed Session-Economic Development**

Council is requested to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development

*Mayor Wagner announced the need to enter Closed Sessions for economic development and to preserve attorney-client privilege.*

**At 3:32 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Jefferson, seconded by Council Member Johnson to enter Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for economic development and N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion carried by a 7-0 unanimous vote.**

Upon reconvening into Open Session at 4:32 p.m., Mayor Wagner announced there would be no action taken as a result of the Closed Sessions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

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Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk