

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
(Virtual Meeting)
June 1, 2020- 5:30 P.M.
3RD FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM #302**

MINUTES

In order to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of our residents, staff, and the City Council, this meeting was conducted electronically. As part of the city of High Point's COVID-19 Mitigation efforts, in-person attendance will not be allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting was live-streamed and a link was provided to the public to listen to the meeting as it was being live-streamed.
www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting

ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Following a roll call vote by Mayor Wagner, the attendance and participation of the following Council Members was duly noted.

Physically Present (5):

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Williams; Council Member Tyrone Johnson (At Large), Council Member Cyril Jefferson (Ward 1), and Council Member Monica Peters (Ward 3)

Participating Remotely (4):

Council Member Britt Moore (At Large); Council Member Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); Council Member Victor Jones (Ward 5) and Council Member Michael Holmes (Ward 6)

A Moment of Silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

2020-181 A Public Comment Period will be held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

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The public can submit comments by calling 336-883-3522 and leaving a message, or by emailing written comments to publiccomment@highpointnc.gov

Written comments can also be placed in the City of High Point's utility payment drop-boxes located on both sides of the Municipal Building located at 211 S. Hamilton Street in the Green Drive and the Commerce Avenue parking lots. Comments submitted will be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council and will be read into the record at the meeting.

The City of High Point's Public Comment Policy restricts comments to no more than three (3) minutes which will apply for the telephone message submission. Email submissions and written comments should be kept at 350 words or less. The deadline for submitting comments is Friday, May 29th at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comments were received from the following people, read into the record by the city clerk, and will be attached as a permanent part of these proceedings.

The following voiced support for the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and for adding a new Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Specialist position to the city staff.

1. Rev. Frank Thomas
2. Dr. Joe Blosser
3. Gwendolyn Johnson-Green
4. Shelley Delmestri Hutchens
5. David Rosen
6. Kendal McBroom
7. Rev. Brad Lilley
8. Jennifer LeBeau
9. Susan Fagg
10. Heidi Majors
11. Patrick Harman
12. Maximilian Locher & Nancy Murphy
13. Carlvena Foster
14. Dorothy Johnson
15. Daniel Webb
16. James Adams
17. Glenn Chavis
18. Rev. J. Lee Scott
19. Rev. Joe Blankenship

The following resident submitted comments regarding speeding on West Willis Avenue.

1. Kimberly Campbell

FINANCE COMMITTEE - *Council Member Moore, Chair*
Committee Members: Moore, Holmes, Jones, and Peters

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Finance Committee Chairman Council Member Moore reported that the Finance Committee did meet as scheduled on Thursday, May 28, 2020 and placed all the following Finance-related matters on the June 1, 2020 High Point City Council Finance Committee Consent Agenda with a favorable recommendation.

Council Member Moore then made a motion, seconded by Council Member Peters, to approve the finance-related items on the Consent Agenda. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by a unanimous 9-0 vote as follows:

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.

Note: Although one motion was made to approve/adopt these matters under the Finance Committee Consent Agenda, action on all of these matters will be reflected throughout the Consent Agenda portion of these minutes as being made and seconded by the same persons.

2020-171 Municipal Lease Agreement - Motorola Solutions

City Council is requested to approve a Municipal Lease Agreement with Motorola Solutions for WatchGuard 4RE/VISTA In-car camera / body-worn camera systems to be utilized by first responders for Information Technology Services and the High Point Police Department, in amount of \$1,380,436.

Approved a Municipal Lease Agreement with Motorola Solutions for WatchGuard 4RE/VISTA In-car camera/body-worn camera systems in the amount of \$1,380,436.00.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this lease agreement be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-172 Ordinance - Budget Amendment - Motorola Lease Agreement In Car/Body Worn Cameras

City Council is requested to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,380,436.00 for a lease agreement with Motorola Solutions for WatchGuard 4RE/VISTA In-car camera / body-worn camera systems to be utilized by first responders for Information Technology Services and the High Point Police Department.

Adopted an Ordinance amending the FY 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of \$1,380,436.00 for a lease agreement with Motorola Solutions for WatchGuard 4RE/VISTA In-car camera/body-worn camera systems to be utilized by first responders for Information Technology Services and the High Point Police Department.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this budget ordinance amendment be adopted. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-173 Contract - Construction Concepts & Design - Sidewalks Curbing Replacement

City Council is requested to award a contract to Construction Concepts & Design Inc. in the amount of \$160,510.00 for the removal and replacement of City of High Point maintained sidewalks & curbs.

Approved award of a contract with Construction Concepts & Design, Inc. in the amount of \$160,510.00 for the removal and replacement of city-maintained sidewalks and curbs.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this contract be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-174 Contract - Sole Source - Accela Upgrade (Cloud Migration)

City Council is requested to award a sole source contract to Accela, Inc. in the amount of \$89,980.00 to migrate their Accela Civic Platform program to the Accela Cloud and that the appropriate City official and/or employee be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

Awarded a sole source contract to Accela, Inc. in the amount of \$89,980.00 to migrate their Accela Civic Platform program to the Accela Cloud and that the appropriate city official and/or employee be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this sole source contract be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-178 Contract - Arcadia - Arc Flash Assessment

City Council is requested to award a contract to Arcadis in the amount of \$143,500 to perform Arc Flash Hazard Assessments as required every five (5) years on electrical panels in all city facilities.

Approved award of a contract to Arcadis in the amount of \$143,500 to perform Arc Flash Hazard Assessments as required every five (5) years on electrical panels in all city facilities.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this contract be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-183 Contract - WESCO Distribution, Inc. - MCM Cable

City Council is requested to award a contract to WESCO Distribution, Inc. in the amount of \$532,140 to purchase 42,000 linear feet of 750 MCM underground cable for Catalyst Project (Appling Way, English Road, Elm Street) and re-stock the warehouse.

Approved award of a contract to WESCO Distribution, Inc. in the amount of \$532,140.00 to purchase 42,000 linear feet of 750 MCM underground cable for Catalyst Project (Appling Way, English Road, Elm Street) and to restock the warehouse.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, that this contract be approved. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-175 Kiwanis - Playground Donation

City Council is requested to accept the donated playground equipment at Washington Terrace Park and other amenities in the amount of \$134,167 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club.

Approved the acceptance of the donated playground equipment as Washington Terrace Park and other amenities in the amount of \$134,167.00 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Peters, to approve the acceptance of the playground equipment donated by the Kiwanis Club. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried the following unanimous 9-0 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.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

2020-179 Presentation of the Proposed FY20-21 City of High Point Annual Budget

Assistant City Manager Eric Olmedo will present copies of the proposed FY20-21 City of High Point Annual Budget to City Council. Council will be requested to adopt the following schedule:

Monday, June 1st- Proposed Budget presented to City Council - Council Regular Session 5:30pm
Thursday, June 4th- Budget Work Session - 4:00pm
Monday, June 15th- Budget Public Hearing - Council Regular Session 5:30pm
Wednesday, June 17th – Budget Work Session (as needed) - 5:00pm
Thursday, June 18th - Budget Work Session (as needed) - 4:00pm
Monday, June 22nd- Council Adopts Budget - Council Special Meeting 5:30pm

The Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget books were distributed to the City Council.

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager, stated this has been a very challenging budget and publicly thanked all of staff for the tremendous amount of work that went into it. He then turned the floor over to Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager, who provided a summary of the proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget.

Mr. Olmedo reiterated that the amount of uncertainty that everyone is faced with right now is the biggest challenge and he stressed that the figures that have been included in the budget are merely based on educated guesses due to the uncertainties with COVID-19 and the effect it has had on the economy. Staff has been consulting with peers in other cities, with the UNC School of Government, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities to come up with these estimates. Staff is expecting sales tax declines, slower property tax collections, slower registered motor vehicle and utility fee collections, etc.....

He advised that management and staff have put together a very conservative budget that may need to be amended throughout the next fiscal year. He mentioned the \$7.2 million revenue shortfall in the General Fund which is primarily linked to sales tax decline. Staff anticipates being down about \$1.7 million in sales tax for this current fiscal year and about \$4 million down for the upcoming fiscal year.

He highlighted the following recommendations that are contained in the proposed FY 2020-2021 budget.

- *One-Cent property tax rate increase (from 64.75 cents to 65.75 cents). The impact for median home value in High Point of \$147,500 would be about \$14.75 annually)*
- *No increases proposed for garbage fees, stormwater fees, motor vehicle fees.*
- *No increase in the electric rate is proposed at this time; however, a rate study for electric fees is in process and it could mean that staff will bring some rate structure changes back to Council once the study is completed.*
- *Increase in tipping fee at the Landfill from \$36/ton to \$42/ton.*
- *\$10 increase in returned check fees (\$25 to \$35). This is consistent with industry standards.*
- *2% water and sewer rate increase effective October 1. This continues the long-range plan that was developed with Davenport. The average rate increase would be \$1.51 a month. A comparison of a dashboard from the UNC School of Government*

Environmental Finance Center which showed the median of all 376 systems to be \$72.62, and the city's current rate is \$75 which is not too far out of what the median is statewide.

- *Closure of the High Point Museum and reduction of 6 full-time and 8 part-time staff positions which would result in a first-year savings of \$230,000.*
- *Closure of the Morehead Recreation Center and a reduction of 2 full-time and 1 part-time position for a first-year savings of \$230,000.*
- *Closure of the City Lake Pool for two seasons (due to the COVID situation and to help facilitate redevelopment plans at the facility) which would also include a reduction of 32 temporary lifeguard positions. Savings of \$106,000.*
- *Elimination of all outside agency funding for a savings of \$349,668.*
- *Elimination of the 1% city's match for employee 401K contributions and elimination of the employee holiday bonus at a savings of \$625,000.*
- *Replace the current performance merit raise program with a 1% COLA that would be administered mid-year in December.*
- *Targeted hiring freeze at an estimated savings of \$1.16 million.*
- *Reduction in Market Authority Funding by \$300,000 (\$60,000 in FY 2020 and \$240,000 in FY 2021)*
- *Reduction in the Community Development Blight Reduction Program. It started out at \$500,000 several years ago; it was raised to \$800,000; and staff is proposing to back it down to the original budgeted amount of \$500,000.*
- *Defer the 3rd year payment of the Catalyst Project loan for one year (\$443,000)*
- *Reduction in fuel budgets to reflect lower fuel costs (\$217,000) and a reduction in fleet vehicle replacements (\$332,000).*
- *Reduction in training budgets by \$300,000.*
- *Anticipate a 5.72% increase in health/dental costs which will be effective January 1.*
- *Includes a State mandated increase in the Local Government Employment Retirement System from 8.95% to 10.15%, which is about a \$1,000,000 increase.*
- *Includes funding for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist position and two apprentice positions at Fleet Maintenance to fulfill a commitment to the Guilford Apprentice Partners Program.*
- *Continues current levels of funding for street resurfacing at \$2.45 million. To stay current on street resurfacing, this amount should be about \$4.5 million.*

- *Continuation of the Utility Assistance Program at \$200,000.*
- *Replaces \$5.87 million in vehicles funded with a combination of pay-as-you-go funding (\$4.0 million) and lease purchase funding (\$1.845 million) from the Fleet Division of the Central Services Fund.*

Mr. Olmedo referenced the Pay-as-you-go Capital Program and noted that more details for the program could be found within the departmental line item detail budget book, which is located in OneDrive.

Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget Schedule

Mr. Olmedo reviewed the following proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget Schedule, which was adopted by a consensus vote.

Monday, June 1st at 5:30 p.m. (Budget Presentation)

Thursday, June 4th @ 4:00 p.m. (Budget Review)

Monday, June 15th @ 5:30 p.m. (Public Hearing)

Wednesday, June 17th @ 5:00 p.m. (Budget Review- if needed)

Thursday, June 18th @ 4:00 p.m. (Budget Review- if needed)

Monday, June 22nd @ 5:30 p.m. (Special Meeting- Adoption of the Budget)

Mr. Olmedo publicly thanked everyone who worked hard putting the budget together. He advised that the budget document will be uploaded and available for public inspection on the city's website.

Mayor Wagner also thanked all of staff and management for their hard work and mentioned again how this budget has been, by far, the most challenging the city has been faced with.

2020-180

Minutes To Be Approved

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes; May 14 @ 4:00 p.m.

High Point City Council Regular Meeting Minutes; May 18 @ 5:30 p.m.

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes; May 20 @ 4:00 p.m.

High Point City Council Special Meeting Minutes; May 22 @ 3:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Johnson, that the preceding minutes be approved as submitted. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-195

ERT (Environmental Remedial Trust) Agreement between the City of High Point and Seaboard Group II

Council is requested to approve an Environmental Remediation Trust Fund Agreement ("ERT Agreement") between the City and the Seaboard Group II. The ERT Agreement will replace the Qualified Settlement Fund Agreement between both parties and will also create a

separate "Environmental Remediation Trust" pursuant to Section 301.7701-4 of the United States Tax Code. The creation of the new trust will not have an impact on the City, because as a governmental entity, the City of High Point is not responsible for tax payments.

Approved an Environmental Remediation Trust Fund Agreement ("ERT Agreement") between the City and the Seaboard Group II.

Mayor Wagner moved to suspend the rules so this matter could be placed on tonight's agenda for consideration. Council Member Peters made a second to the motion. Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, 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.

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams, that to approve the Environmental Remedial Trust ("ERT Agreement"). Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-214 Appointment of Trustee for the Environmental Remedial Trust (ERT)

Council is requested to appoint Terry Houk, Director of Public Services as the Trustee for the Environmental Remedial Trust (ERT) between the City of High Point and the Seaboard Group II.

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle explained that due to the change from a Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) to an Environmental Remedial Trust (ERT) it would be necessary to appoint a Trustee for the ERT and she is recommending Terry Houk, Director of Public Services, as he was the Trustee for the QSF.

Approved the appointment of Terry Houk, Director of Public Services, as the Trustee for the Environmental Remedial Trust (ERT).

A motion was made by Mayor Wagner, seconded by Council Member Jefferson, to approve the appointment of Terry Houk as the Trustee for the Environmental Remedial Trust ("ERT Agreement"). Following a roll call vote by the Mayor, the motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 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.

2020-215 Statement from High Point Mayor Jay W. Wagner and the High Point City Council (Death of George Floyd)

Mayor Jay Wagner and the High Point City Council released a statement on June 1, 2020 regarding the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Considering recent events going on in the country, Councilman Jefferson mentioned the many discussions and protests/demonstrations that have taken place due to the death of George Floyd, who died while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He felt it would be very fitting for the Mayor to read the statement into the record because it sends such a strong, resounding message about what is going on as the public continues to heal from this tragic incident.

Mayor Wagner proceeded to read the statement from High Point Mayor Jay W. Wagner and the High Point City Council dated June 1, 2020 into the record.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

"One week ago, our nation witnessed a blatant act of injustice in the death of an unarmed and non-violent man, George Floyd, while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Not an isolated incident, the death of George Floyd is another in a long history of acts of violence, injustice, inhumanity and racism in our society. It is understandable that all people possessing love, compassion, fairness and a sense of justice in their hearts and minds are rightfully disgusted, angered, and even vengeful as a result of this despicable act. Many are also tempted to blame all police, which undermines trust in those who risk their lives every day for our protection and who equally condemn this act of brutality and stand together with us in seeking peace and justice.

The primary responsibility of government is to protect the inalienable rights of our citizens. Our city respects the rights of people to peacefully gather in protest, freely speaking their rightful anger, sorrow, and demands for change. However, acts of violence, lawlessness, and destruction of property dishonor the memory of George Floyd, destroy the message being rightfully conveyed and must be equally condemned and punished. Violence against the innocent is not a remedy for injustice. Our city will not tolerate, will do all it can to prevent and will punish with all the power at its disposal acts of violence of this nature.

The character of people, and by extension cities, states and nations, is revealed in times of crisis...especially those that shock our collective conscience and violate our ideals of life and liberty. It is during these times that we have to decide what kind of city we are. We must condemn the injustice we witnessed and dedicate ourselves to acknowledge and correct the inhumanity, racism, and brutality that made it possible. We can be a people and a city condemned to bitterness, hatred and a desire for revenge, or we can commit ourselves to comprehend and understand that peacefully working together is the only path to the wisdom, respect, compassion and love for one another that will result in justice and fair treatment for all who suffer from racism and inequality.

We ask for your prayers for the family of George Floyd and for our city, state and nation. These are confusing and difficult times. Our people are struggling to understand and respond, and many fear the future may not include the justice and fair treatment that all good people so desperately seek. While the future many not bring about the end of violence,

lawlessness, and disorder, the vast majority of our people (both white and people of color) want to live together in peace, improve the quality of our lives, and want justice and fairness for all human beings. It is during times like these that we are reminded that we still have much ground to travel, but we must be steadfast and dedicate ourselves to that end".

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor
Britt Moore, At-Large
Tyrone Johnson, At-Large
Cyril Jefferson, Ward 1
Chris Williams, Ward 2
Monica Peters, Ward 3
Wesley Hudson, Ward 4
Victor Jones, Ward 5
Michael Holmes, Ward 6

[end of statement]

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk