



Prosperity & Livability Committee

(Virtual Meeting)

Chaired by Councilman Hudson

Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Jefferson, and Peters

November 4, 2020 –9 :00 a.m.

3rd Floor, Council Chambers

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER (Virtual Roll Call)

Chairman Wesley Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Following a virtual roll call, the following attendance by Committee Members was duly noted.

Physically

Present (2): Chairman Wesley Hudson

Remotely

Present (2): Committee Member Michael Holmes, Committee Member Monica Peters, and Committee Member Cyril Jefferson

Also Present:

Council Member Britt Moore

Staff Present:

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Mark McDonald, Transportation Director; Lee Tillery, Parks and Recreation Director; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Staff Participating Remotely:

JoAnne, Carlyle, City Attorney

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2020-436 Presentation- Committee of HPU Undergraduate Students**

A committee of High Point University (HPU) graduate students will make a presentation to the Prosperity & Livability Committee.

A committee of High Point University (HPU) Undergraduate Students “Greenway Extenders” presented a presentation for their project, extending the Greenways in the City of High Point. The following students provided a summary of their presentation: Alexandra G. D’Arpino, Jack A. Eitner, Sydney A. Kerr, Mackenzie M. Marting, and Danielle K. Milich.

The Greenway Extenders provided the mission statement and a purpose statement explaining how the location of the Greenway (from Vail to W. Ward down Cassell Street exiting into the Southside neighborhood) would have an impact on providing job opportunities, different means of transportation, and connecting the city to strengthen the city’s prosperity and economy. The Greenway Extenders are in coalition with the Southwest Renewal Foundation. They wished to raise the quality of urban life and expand economic development in phase 3 of the Greenway. Details of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Greenway were provided. Some of the benefits for phase 3 would include new and safer transportation options, and attracting and retaining young professionals to start their lives in the city of High Point. The total cost for the Greenway extension was estimated at \$82,009.38. The cost would be covered by the High Point Department of Transportation in the 2021-2022 budget year. The environmental health goals for the extension included raising the quality of life and improving environmental health by providing cleaner water and improved air quality, and offering trails to walk on with your pets. The economic development goals would include serving to attract new businesses; creating new job opportunities; and connecting the communities of the city together. The historic preservation goals would allow for easier access for the citizens of the southside neighborhood. The presentation shared a comparison from the city of Apex, NC that resulted in the town’s value of homes increasing by \$5,000; and other cities recognizing the increase in home values due to the Greenway which led to the growth of their economy. The Greenway Extenders concluded their presentation providing references for their project.

Chairman Hudson thanked the HPU students; and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Committee Member Peters thanked the students for their interest in the Greenways; spoke to the history of the Greenways; and recommended adding this project to the 2021-2022 budget.

Mark McDonald, Transportation Director provided an overview of a plan for the Greenway that showed using a portion of the street alignments for the extension that included sidewalk extensions, wheel chair ramps, pavement markings, etc...; and said an estimate was consistence in the amount between \$70,000 and \$80,000.

Lee Tillery, Parks and Recreation Director spoke to the southwest plan in coordination with the city that would be adopted with the Master Plan to cover the entire city; said it would go before council for adoption; and would be completed next spring; and said that since the pandemic the attendance on Greenways increased with the usage of trails because of the ability to social distance outside.

A motion was made by Committee Member Peters, and seconded by Committee Member Jefferson to bring the Greenway Extension before council for approval for the next 2021-2022 FY budget.

Chairman Hudson voiced concern with an early decision before knowing the details of the next FY budget; and made a recommendation to table the motion to a future date to have a better understanding of how the next FY budget would look.

Committee Member Peters voiced the need for this extension; said it had been in the works since 2004; the estimates were based on outside bids; that she would consider tabling the motion with consideration that the transportation department relooked at the numbers for the project; and that it was not too early to consider this project for the next FY budget.

It was the consensus of the committee to table the motion until a future meeting.

Chairman Hudson requested staff to conduct more research; and provide an update to the committee at a subsequent future meeting.

Council Member Moore asked Mr. Tillery if the City of High Point had completed an analysis on the impact of property values along the Greenways. Mr. Tillery replied and spoke to other studies performed around Greenways with positive impacts; said that High Point did not have an analysis performed; and spoke to accommodations that need to be taken into consideration for the next FY budget to include the management and upkeep for the Greenways.

Mr. Tillery spoke to the benefits of the Greenway connectivity from a regional standpoint; said the Greenways would be connected to downtown High Point, Greensboro, and different areas that provided a regional network systems. The Jamestown Golf Course was an example of what could happen with connectivity options; and said that the Comprehensive Plan in April would show a bigger picture of what would happen in the future.

Committee Member Peters thanked the HPU student for bringing this project to life; and said that an application was submitted through the Foundation of Healthy High Point for funding.

2020-437 Presentation- Tree Replacement Program

Staff will provide a presentation on a Tree Replacement Program.

Robby Stone, Public Services Assistant Director recognized Rebecca Coplin, and Andy Piper of Public Services for their leading efforts with the Tree Replacement program; said that Keeping High Point Beautiful (KHPB) board wanted to start the tree replacement at the Martin Luther King corridor; there were 40 tree that needed to be replaced; spoke to assistance from other outside sources in funding; to notifying the public for donation opportunities; said Mr. Piper would be assisting in the proper selection and placement for the trees; said they would like to replace the trees as funds came; spoke to replacing trees in groups of 5 to 15; the anticipated cost for replacement was \$150 per tree; overall estimate was \$7,000 for 40 trees; provided photos of trees throughout the city that were in need of replacing; and voiced hazard concerns with dead and leaning trees.

Council Member Peters voiced appreciation; and thanked Ms. Coplin, and Mr. Piper for their hard work and efforts.

Mr. Stone provided handouts with the Tree Replacement program's information to be distributed to council.

Chairman Hudson asked how would the public be notified on making donations for the trees. Mr. Stone replied that they would work with the public information office for advertising; and that they would move forward after having approval from council.

2020-438 Update- South Main Street "Welcome to High Point" Sign

Staff will update the Prosperity & Livability Committee on the South Main Street "Welcome to High Point" sign.

Mark McDonald, Transportation Director gave an update on the "Welcome to High Point" sign; provided pictures of what the sign would look like; said that two locations for the sign was submitted to NCDOT for preliminary review; the district engineer indicated that an engineered drawing was needed for the sign; and once approved an application for encroachment would be submitted to move forward.

Council Member Peters inquired if a motion was needed to move forward with the sign; and voiced the importance of making South Main feel connected to the city. Interim City Manager McCaslin replied yes, that a recommendation would be needed from the committee to council to move forward; said the cost for the sign was not in the budget; that there were funds from a previous bond referendum used for improvements on Main Street that could be used; and that the estimate for the sign would be around \$13,000 to \$16,000 that included the sign, lights and landscaping.

Committee Member Peters moved to forward this recommendation to move forward with the “Welcome to High Point” sign to the City Council for approval at the November 16, 2020 meeting of council. Committee Member Jefferson made a second to the motion. Following a roll call vote by Chairman Hudson, the motion carried by the following unanimous 4-0 vote:

Aye (4): Chairman Hudson, Committee Member Jefferson, Committee Member Peters and Committee Member Holmes

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Wesley Hudson, Chairman