

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Minutes - Final

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

9:00 AM

Special Meeting

Council Chambers

Prosperity and Livability Committee

Wesley Hudson - Chair

Michael Holmes

Cyril Jefferson

Monica Peters

Jay Wagner, Mayor (Alternate)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Present: Chairman Member Wesley Hudson, Committee Member Cyril Jefferson, and Committee Member Monica Peters

Absent: Committee Member Michael Holmes

Present 3 - Council Member Cyril Jefferson, Chair Wesley Hudson, and Council Member Monica Peters

Absent 1 - Council Member Michael Holmes

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Wesley Hudson, Chair**

[2023-021](#)

Resolution - City of High Point Becomes a Bee City USA

City Council is requested to approve a request from Keep High Point Beautiful for the City of High Point to become an affiliate of Bee City USA.

Attachments: [Bee City USA KHPB](#)
[Resolution - Bee City USA](#)
[Bee City Presentation](#)
[Resolution Bee City](#)

Rebecca Coplin, High Point Beautification Supervisor, provided the staff report for this item. She noted that Keep High Point Beautiful operates under the Public Service Department. She stated that High Point is already doing things in the community to help pollinators, but would like to increase those efforts to better protect them. She explained that most native species of bees do not sting and the focus will be on pollinators which help the local gardens, farmers, and help sustain the local ego system. She stated raising community awareness is very important such as learning how pollinators help our food grow, hazards to pollinators such as pesticides, and removal of non-native invasive plants to make way for local plants. She explained next steps and encouraged everyone to visit the website beecityusa.org

Committee Member Jefferson stated he supported this item noting that this project seems to be in inline with the City's goal in becoming the worlds arts and design capital, we protize what our City looks like. The pollinators will help the local farmers which in turn would help with food insecurities. He requested information regarding budget impacts regarding adjusting the use of pesticides and becoming more organic.

Ms. Coplin noted that she has scheduled meetings with other municipalities that have this initiative in place to see how it has affected their cities.

Committee Member Jefferson made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Peters to approve Agenda Item 2023-021 and move it forward with a favorable recommendation to the City Council Meeting on January 17, 2023. Motion carried with the following vote:

Chairman Hudson stated he has beehives and noted the importance of education regarding pollinators such as the different between herbicides and pesticides. He requested information regarding where the City uses pesticides and the fees ability of making the City's rights of ways native grasses and pollinators.

Aye: 3 - Council Member Jefferson, Chair Hudson, and Peters

Absent: 1 - Council Member Holmes

[2023-017](#)

Update - Public Art Policy

Attachments: [Information - Public Art Policy](#)
[CHP Public Art Policy - Revised 12.07.15](#)

Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager, provided a background of the existing policy noting it was adopted in 2014 and revised in 2015 to broaden areas in the City in which art could be displayed. He explained the policy is more focused on when the City was accepting art work around the intersections and noted the policy could use some improvements.

Chairman Hudson noted muriels that are painted on a wall are not considered public art but are signs which are regulated through the sign ordinance.

Melody Burnett, President of Visit High Point, noted that community discussions have been centered around muriels and temporary installations for opening week for the High Point Rockers home games. She said they are exploring a second installation for 2023 and perhaps a review of public areas would help. She stated local leaders are reviewing goals of City Council, particularly around art and design and how to become more competitive in that area. She noted a more comprehensive Master Plan might help with public art consideration.

In response to Chairman Hudson, Ms. Burnette noted a collaboration with the City of High Point, Visit High Point, High Point by Design, and the local Arts Council would be a great place to start.

In response to Committee Member Peters, Meghan Maguire, Interim City Attorney, noted that muriels are typically regulated under the sign ordinance in

most cities. She stated when reviewing the current policy to remember it is mostly for residential neighborhoods. For consideration outside of those neighborhoods this policy would need to be update.

Committee Member Peters stated there needs to be extensive updates to this policy to ensure it aligns with the goals of City Council and help local artist and business to invest in art in our City.

Chairman Hudson noted that when words are placed on muriels it changes it to a new policy regarding advertisement

Ms. Maguire stated a draft sign ordinance which addresses muriels will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and will be presented to the Committee in February. She stated the draft ordinance has been on the Planning and Zoning website for months and open for public comment period.

Committee Member Jefferson, stated the topic of words in regards to street painting came up in 2020 noting art is an expression of individuals and can be subjective in nature. We want a beautiful City and there is so much research and we learn from other cities. We can not be the worlds arts and design capital without a beautiful downtown aesthetic and beautiful gateways to our city. There is a presence within a city when you allow art to flourish and it can be done in such a way to protect the fact that this is a City for all people.

A discussion ensued regarding current policy, restrictions regarding logos, street paintings, muriels, and being to restrictive and not allowing creativity.

Ms. Burnett provided examples of art that should be considered in reviewing the policy such as street benches, lamp post, and a possible statue in the roundabout. She noted it will be interesting to review what Civic Branding presents.

For Information Only[2023-019](#)

Update - Main Street Tree Replacements

Attachments: [Information - Main Street Tree Replacements](#)
[N Main St Planting Update Powerpoint](#)

Andy Piper, Senior Planner, provided a history of this item noting that City Council approved a long term funded tree plan to make High Point a net positive tree City. He stated some of the initiatives were to develop a tree replacement plan for Main Street in downtown, contract with a nursery to grow trees that are ready for planting when needed, have a city-sponsored annual tree give away to High Point residents and he noted all these were included in the annual budget.

He explained Armstrong Maples that were infected with Gloomy Scale, a Bradford Pear that fell due to Hurricane Ian, a Japanese zelkova that was showing signs of dye back were removed. In their place 4 Princeton Sentry Ginkgos and 4 Frans Fontaine Horbeams were planted along with six understory trees. He provided pictures of what the mature trees would look like.

He stated some future goals are to possibly remove older holly trees further north on N. Main Street, collaborate with the Marketing Authority and Keep High Point Beautiful regarding additional planting opportunities for S. Main Street, work with local nurseries, and add personnel to help maintain the trees.

In response to Committee Member Peters, Mr. Olmedo stated the trees along the front entry way of the library will be removed in sensory area as part of the uplift project.

In response to Committee Member Jefferson, Mr. Piper noted selecting the right tree and balancing availability and cost are the main focus. He would review areas that are not as restrictive and collaborate with local growers regarding planting more mature trees in strategic locations.

Chairman Hudson explained the trees needed for downtown are specific and very hard to find. He stated when this plan was started it was decided to collaborate with a local nursery so that the City will have trees that they need.

For Information Only

ADJOURNMENT