

# City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building  
211 South Hamilton Street  
High Point, NC 27261*



## Minutes

**Monday, February 3, 2014**

**5:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

## City Council

*Bernita Sims, Mayor  
James C. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem  
Foster L. Douglas, Jason P. Ewing,  
Jeffrey J. Golden, Judith P. Mendenhall,  
Britt W. Moore, Rebecca R. Smothers,  
Jay W. Wagner*

**ROLL CALL, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were present. Mayor Sims offered the invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Present** 8 - Mayor Bernita Sims, Council Member Jason Ewing, Council Member Jeffrey Golden, Council Member Judy Mendenhall, Council Member Rebecca Smothers, Council Member Jay Wagner, Council Member Britt Moore, and Mayor Pro Tem James Davis

**Absent** 1 - Council Member Foster Douglas

**Presentation: Triad Rapid Response Team (Human Trafficking)**

Rachel Parker, and Jacque Perkins, representing the Triad Rapid Response Team shared some information regarding their efforts to expand operations in the Triad area for anti-human trafficking in an effort to raise awareness of this issue. The Triad Rapid Response Team is a collaboration between law enforcement, service providers in Guilford and Forsyth Counties with a mission to identify and connect recently liberated victims to needed services in the community as quickly and efficiently as possible within the first 72 hours after identification. She reported that North Carolina has been identified by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, that brings the 24/7 hot line and response, across the Nation as 10th in the Nation for human trafficking and based on calls they receive, we have been listed as the top 8 in the Nation. Ms. Parker asked those who are aware of such activities happening around the community, to please contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (1-888-373-7888).

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Upon motion by Council Member Moore, second by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, all matters on the Finance Committee Items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved and/or adopted. The motion carried unanimously. [8-0 vote] [Council Member Douglas was absent]

Note: Action will be reflected on the individual matters throughout these minutes as being made and seconded by the same persons.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council Member Moore, Chair****Members: Wagner, Davis and Sims****(all were present)****[140030](#)****Contract - Bid No. 38 - RFID Library System**

Approval of contract awarding Bid No. 38 for the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) at the Library. Purchasing and the Library Staff recommends that contract be awarded to Bibliotheca in the amount of \$94,077.00 which is the lowest responsible and responsible bidder meeting specifications.

**Attachments:**    [Bid No. 38 - Library Project](#)

Mary Sizemore, Director of the High Point Public Library, explained implementation of this radio frequency identification at the library enhances staff efficiency with the capability of checking in/out multiple items at once and eliminates separate security transactions.

Approved contract with Bibliotheca in the amount of \$94,077.00 which is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting specifications.

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, that this Contract be approved. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote. [Council Member Douglas was absent]**

#### [140031](#)

##### **Contract - In-Car Camera System - Police Vehicles**

Approval of contract with WatchGuard via Computech International in the amount of \$326,006.00 for the purchase of in-car cameras for Police Vehicles.

**Attachments:**    [Contract - Police In-Car Cameras](#)

Chairman Moore pointed out these cameras would be purchased with federal forfeiture funds received in 2013.

Approved contract with WatchGuard via Computech International in the amount of \$326,006.00 for the purchase of in-car cameras for police vehicles.

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, that this Contract be approved. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote. [Council Member Douglas was absent]**

#### [140032](#)

##### **Budget Ordinance Amendment - Traffic Signal Project**

Adoption of a Budget Ordinance amending the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance to appropriate funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Wendover Avenue/Gisbourne Drive traffic signal project.

**Attachments:**    [Budget Ordinance Amendment -Transportation Dev Participation Amendmen](#)

**Ordinance No. 1731/14-09**

**Introduced 2/3/2014; Adopted 2/3/2014**

**Ordinance Book Volume XVIII, Page 63**

Adopted Budget Ordinance amending the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance to appropriate funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Wendover Avenue/Gisbourne Drive traffic signal project.

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, that this Budget Ordinance Amendment be adopted. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote. [Council Member Douglas was absent]**

**COMMUNITY HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE -****Council Member Douglas, Chair****Members: Mendenhall, Ewing and Golden**

**(all were present except Chairman Douglas. Due to the absence of Chairman Douglas, Council Member Mendenhall was asked to chair this portion of the meeting)**

[140033](#)**Ordinance -Vacate/Close Dwelling (48 Hour Notice) - 1310-1C Burton Road**

Adoption of an ordinance ordering the inspector to effectuate the vacating and closing (48 hour notice) of a structure located at 1310-1C burton Road belonging to Laurelwood Park Limited Partnership.

**Attachments:** [Vacate Close - 1310-1C Burton Avenue](#)

[Memo from staff recommending removal from agenda](#)

Chairwoman Mendenhall advised that there has been some action by the property owners to make repairs to the structure, so staff is suggesting it be placed on the pending list with no specific time frame.

Referred this matter to the Community Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee.

**A motion was made by Council Member Mendenhall, seconded by Council Member Ewing, that this matter be referred to the Community Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee and placed on the pending list. The motion PASSED by an 8-0 unanimous vote. [Council Member Douglas was absent]**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Sims opened the floor for comments from those desiring to address Council during the Public Comment period.

Rev. Frank Thomas, Pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 753 Washington Street and President of the Minister's Conference, asked if there were any Council Members who disagree with having a street in High Point named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He noted contrary to the belief of some Council Members, a petition from residents is not a requirement. As he stood before Council during Black History month, he asked them to pass a resolution to submit an application to the Planning & Zoning Commission to have a street in High Point named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and further requested that this be done no later than February 28th, which is the conclusion of Black History month.

Chip Harris, 312 E. Farriss Avenue, owner of two commercial properties in Uptowne High Point, addressed Council regarding support for the proposed feasibility study for dieting N. Main Street. He shared that he was certainly impressed with the encouragement and enthusiasm that has been shown around Uptowne and the City Project as a whole. He shared excitement about

the prospects over the next several years in changing the city in a positive way by creating a walking center, a biking center, a shopping center, an eating place in Uptowne that folks can enjoy for years and decades to come. He thanked Council for continued support of the Uptowne efforts and the feasibility study.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS - 6:15 P.M.**

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE - Council Member Smothers, Chair**

#### **140034**

#### **Resolution - Street Abandonment 14-01 - Portion of Montlieu Avenue - HPU**

A request by High Point University to abandonment that portion of Montlieu Avenue, an improved right of way, lying between N. Centennial Street and N. College Drive; and 2) approve encroachment agreement between the City of High Point and High Point University for improvements to Montlieu Avenue.

**Attachments:**    [Street Abandonment 14-01 - Montlieu Ave - HPU](#)  
                          [Encroachment Agreement - CHP and HPU - Montlieu Avenue](#)  
                          [Resolutions in Support of the Montlieu Avenue Street Abandonment](#)  
                          [Montlieu Avenue Traffic Summary](#)

**Resolution No. 1364/14-04**  
**Introduced 2/3/2014; Adopted 2/3/2014**  
**Resolution Book, Volume XVIII, Page 87**

The public hearing for this matter was held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Sims: Herb if you want you can go ahead and present the staff report.

Herb Shannon: Yes, this is Street Abandonment Case 14-01. This is an application submitted by High Point University. The University has requested and submitted the application to abandon that portion of Montlieu Avenue lying between N. Centennial Street and College Drive. We do have an overhead projection of that area. We have N. Centennial Street to the left. N. College to the right. And the area cross-hatched in red is that segment of Montlieu Avenue that's being requested to be abandoned. The total Montlieu Avenue right-of-way has a length of approximately 2.5 miles starting from N. Main Street to the west up to Woodrow Avenue which is north of E. Lexington Avenue near Five Points to the east. The segment of Montlieu Avenue that's been requested to be abandoned is approximately in the middle of this 2.5 mile segment. The area proposed for abandonment has the length of approximately 3,700 feet and the width varies from 60-90 feet with the wider widths being at the intersections. This right-of-way was platted between the 1920s and the late 1940s as various subdivisions were approved along this segment of roadway.

The Technical Review Committee reviewed this request at their December 18th meeting

in 2013 and they offered the following comments for Council's consideration. First, retention of easements. There are various utility lines along the full length of this roadway. Within the segment proposed for abandonment, you have water lines, sewer lines, electrical lines, Piedmont Natural gas lines and Northstate Communication lines. The public utility easements will need to be retained over these various utility lines. And within the staff report are specifics as to the width of required easements that would need to be retained. The second issue reviewed by TRC was the citywide vehicle traffic and circulation. Montlieu Avenue is classified as a minor thoroughfare. The NC Department of Transportation counts note 4,400-5,000 trips per day as the most recent count. The City of High Point Transportation Department has some updated information on traffic counts they can review with you. In addition, there are two city bus routes that use this segment of Montlieu Avenue and the Transportation Department is reviewing rerouting options for these two bus routes. The third issue, fire and emergency response time. The City of High Point Fire Department has evaluated this segment to be abandoned and they have noted, based upon their review, that the abandonment of this segment of Montlieu Avenue would not impact response times. They also coordinated a review with the Guilford County EMS and they also noted that the road closing does not impact response times. In your packet is information from the Fire Chief on response times.

Finally, a general bit of information, that if the abandonment is approved and the university proposes any type of renaming of this segment of Montlieu Avenue in the future, one of the two remaining segments of Montlieu would also have to be renamed. Either that segment from N. Main to Centennial or from College to Lexington would need to be renamed if this is renamed in the future. According to North Carolina law, when a municipality abandons a right-of-way, the land reverts equally to abutting property owners. For example, if you have a 60-foot wide right-of-way, 30 feet goes to the property owner on one side and 30 feet goes to the property owner on the other side. In this case, the university owns all of the property from N. College to Centennial. They own all the property on both sides of the street. Therefore, the university would attain all of that property and since the university does own the property on both sides of the street along that full length, no property is being denied access. In conclusion, under the findings, the North Carolina General Statutes require that prior to abandonment of the street it is determined that 1) the closing of the street is not contrary to the public interest, and 2) no individual property owner in the vicinity of the street or the subdivision which is located would be deprived of reasonable means of ingress or egress to their property. Based upon the information provided, the Planning & Development Department recommends approval of the abandonment. I would note that the Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed this request at their January 28th public hearing and they recommended approval of this street abandonment request. Are there any questions at this time? I would note that we do have the Transportation Department staff and Fire Department staff available if you have any specific questions.

Mayor Sims: I have a question about the street renaming piece. Tell me again what that means.

Herb Shannon: Currently, Montlieu Avenue is named from N. Main Street all the way north of Lexington. If, in the future, an application is proposed to rename this segment-if it is abandoned-and there is a request in the future to rename that private street to a new name, you will have a situation where from Main Street to Centennial, you have Montlieu and then it skips from College to Lexington. Staff is noting, as general information, if there's every a request in the future to rename this segment of Montlieu that one of those other two segments need to be renamed because you don't want a street naming stopping and then picking up such a far distance away.

Mayor Sims: So if the street is closed and I don't think there will be.....will there physically be addresses on that particular street that would be the reason why we would go through that?

Herb Shannon: There would be addresses, but even though it may be closed as a public street, it will still be a private street with a Montlieu Street naming.

Council Member Davis: So based on the university's past history, the chances that they are going to rename the street is very high.

Chairwoman Smothers: That might be a question you can pose to the university. Any further questions of Herb at this time? If not, since he's already cited two of the issues that deal with one of the regulations in the statute that has to do with public interest, do you want to have the presentations next by the Transportation Department and Fire Department and EMS?

Thank you, Herb. Mr. McDonald, would you like to present your information?

Mark McDonald: Yes, good evening. Mark McDonald, Transportation Director for the city. What Herb has put up there before you.....Herb can you go to the second map? This is a map showing the area there with High Point University there in the center showing the existing traffic count that we recently did of about 5,100 vehicles per day. The 2011 count was done by NCDOT sort of on either end of this segment yielded an average volume of about 4,700 per day. The counts that we did back in January yielded 5,100 per day. We also did traffic counts at the two major intersections at either end of this section of Montlieu at N. Centennial and N. College to help us in the assessment of the Montlieu Avenue closure question. From the traffic numbers that we got....and Herb, you can go to the next view now. From the numbers that we collected back in January, of the 5,100 vehicles per day that are using this section of Montlieu, about 35% of those are in some way affiliated or destined towards the university. So that leaves external trips, daily trips of about 3,300 per day that are going through this area. It's through traffic and will have to find another path if this portion is closed. We looked at the turning movement counts that we had at the two major intersections and from that, determined that as an estimate, approximately 49% will go to the N. Lexington....on Lexington Avenue. Herb if you scroll down, you can see that. It's about 1,600 per day that will be reoriented in that direction and another 51% or about 1,700 would go to the south towards Kivett or College or down College towards Kivett

I should say. So it's a fairly even split. In the real world, it's probably not going to be quite that even. It's probably going to find a way to balance itself out over time, but we don't see this distribution of these additional 3,300 trips across an entire day and across a transportation network that surrounds the university and expands out even beyond that as being a significant burden. Only about 20% of this 3,300 trips are during peak hours. Probably the four highest hours of the day when you would expect there to be more congestion or heavier traffic through the intersections. So when you distribute these trips out across the network, we can anticipate that those trips can be handled by adjustments to signal timing at the various intersections that are around.

I'll be glad to answer any of the questions you have. Herb, if you'll put up the summary that we have there.

Chairwoman Smothers: And I would ask the clerk that that be attached to the minutes.

Mark McDonald: If you have any questions, I'll be glad to address those now.

Mayor Sims: With this traffic being rerouted on...let's say to Lexington. How does that, or how will it impact the entrance at HPU off of...what is that E. College? Where is that at College Village Shopping Center? What's that entrance?

Mark McDonald: W. College at Lexington.

Mayor Sims: How will that impact W. College and Lexington?

Mark McDonald: Well there would certainly be...over the course of the day there would be traffic along Lexington Avenue. There will probably be more traffic going into the university from that side. That really depends on how the university chooses to treat the closed portion. Right now what we have seen is that they plan to gate both ends of that. So there would probably be some additional traffic flow that would be going in and out of the campus from that north side.

Chairwoman Smothers: Further questions of Mr. McDonald at this time?

Council Member Wagner: Do you expect that there will be some traffic that would divert onto Gordon Road and down Washington Street further out?

Mark McDonald: Well actually, the 51% that we projected towards Kivett...I think overtime you would see some percentage of that also use Gordon Street and Washington Street back over to Centennial that way, where either across Hoskins Street to Kivett to that side. So that would be distributed through that area.

Chairwoman Smothers: Further questions? Thank you, Mark. Can we hear from the Chief?

Chief Tommy Reid: Good evening. What Herb's put up in front of you here is the



territory map that we use to allocate station resources. I know you've all heard of ISO. ISO is Insurance Services Organization that sets insurance rates within the city. So what we do is we have to abide by a certain set of rules for response times, travel and so forth and this map that you're looking at here shows the different station allocations that we have. You will see in the yellow...Herb, will that color do any better? Okay, the yellow street is actually where it's closing and if you'll notice, Station 1 services everything to the east of that....I mean to the west of that. Station 7 serves everything to the east. Station 13, which is the portion right above, services the northern side of that and Station 2 and Station 9...Station 9 is the blue, the kind of light green at the bottom there is Station 2 and services the southern side of College. We're bound by ISO for mile and a half districts around the station and that mile and a half is not as the crow flies. It's by road miles and it takes into account speed limits, stop lights, traffic and everything. In our studies of all these areas, in looking at them, that's why you see the jagged lines. When you leave the station, those jagged lines represent a mile and half road travel and distance wise it's what we set our standards by. So all our studies that we have looked at, unlike some of the other things that go on, we're strategically located so closing Montlieu Avenue does not impact us. If Station 1 is traveling Montlieu Avenue, the section that's closing, more than likely they are headed to the university for a call.

We kind of...used to Montlieu Avenue kind of went down kind of this little straighter path and now it's got that crooked curve in it down there, so we kind of shy around from that curve. If you run down through that at 45 or 50 m.p.h. in a 36,000 pound fire truck and you hit that curve, it's not very pleasant. So we kind of shy away from Montlieu Avenue, just generally speaking. So as far as the studies that we've done in looking at all our districts and meeting the Insurance Service Organization that rates us, closing Montlieu Avenue is an inconvenience, but does it impact us? No it does not whatsoever.

**Chairwoman Smothers:** Any questions of the Chief? [none] Thank you. I'm not sure who is here from Guilford County.

**Jim Albright:** Good evening. I'm Jim Albright. I'm the Emergency Services Director for Guilford County. For the last fifteen years, I've served as the EMS Director as well. We, with Chief Reid, have done an analysis of this particular situation...the closure of Montlieu Avenue. As many of you are aware, our primary station in High Point is at the corner of Hamilton and Montlieu. We have routinely used Montlieu as a travel corridor; however, as he indicated, there are other travel routes that we use extensively. One of the issues that have been addressed to us is the issue of transport back from the Five Points area to High Point Hospital and we also don't believe that there will be a significant impact. Historically, we have used Montlieu as a travel route, but one of the issues that we've identified is there is an increase in pedestrian traffic and the road change that occurred at Boundary and Montlieu. We also have had a tendency to look for reroute opportunities. So there is an opportunity to travel Montlieu back to College, south to Kivett and to access the hospital in that particular manner and we find that the difference in travel time is approximately one minutes. We are not concerned about that

in any way. The safety and health of the citizens of High Point will not be jeopardized by an additional minute of transport time and our response time still will meet all national standards as they do citywide in High Point.

**Chairwoman Smothers:** Questions of Mr. Albright?

**Mayor Sims:** No, just a comment. I did have a citizen speak to me, Mr. Albright, that said that that minute did make a difference with their relative. Now, again, I'm not an EMS professional. I don't do any of that. But, again, that comment was made to me that that redirection would have made a difference with their parent had that street been closed. And I know that that may happen from time-to-time. I don't know if it's a minute, fifty seconds or thirty seconds. I don't know. But there will be some type of impact and I don't want us to minimize that. But hopefully whenever you all are making that transporting individuals to and from, that somewhere you'll try to make up whatever that might be in the process.

**Jim Albright:** Well, and let me speak to that specific issue. There is a time sensitive nature in what we do. Obviously, the reason the fire stations are within a mile and a half radius and we place numerous EMS resources in High Point is so that we can get to you very quickly in the time of your emergency. That's not going to be impacted by this. The additional minute of transport time, we are rendering an exceptionally high level of medical care to these folks and the transport times throughout the City of High Point are exceptionally good. And we are talking about a six-minute transport versus a seven-minute transport which exceeds all of our transport times in the rest of the system. So we don't want the public to feel as if they are at risk. They are being attended to. And, again, at the highest medical level possible.

Mayor Sims: Thank you.

Chairwoman Smothers: Thank you, Mr. Albright. The university, I think, wants to address the Council in regards to their petition.

**Chris Dudley:** Good evening. My name is Chris Dudley. I live at 1365 Trafalgar Drive in High Point. I am a 1994 graduate of High Point University and currently serve as Chief of Staff.

Madam Mayor and members of City Council ... thank you for your time and attention as we discuss this important issue. The support of City Council and City Staff over the past nine years, has been instrumental in facilitating the transformation that has taken place at High Point's University and has led to great benefit for our entire City. Over the past 2 months, High Point University has had impactful conversation, communication and collaboration with members of our community, elected officials and city staff about the University's need to close a section of Montlieu Avenue and the benefits of continued University growth. We have held a public meeting and hosted a round table discussion with local pastors and community leaders AND we have had numerous conversations with citizens as they expressed support and reservation about

closing a seven-tenths of a mile section of Montlieu Ave. between N College and N Centennial.

We have acknowledged that our communication can be improved and we have a much better understanding about the concerns that our neighbors have. We also have a much better feel for the widespread enthusiasm that our community has for continued growth at HPU.

As you already know you approved a memorandum of understanding regarding this issue and NCDOT has signed off on the removal of a section of Montlieu from the State system handing it over to the City of High Point in accordance with the MOU. The City Staff has recommended approval and last Tuesday night, the Planning and Zoning Commission gave a positive 7 to 0 vote.

HPU owns all of the houses in the 3 block area that we plan to build and all of the houses on both sides of Montlieu between College and Centennial.

It seems the Montlieu Avenue discussion focuses on 4 important questions. Through the university's internal process, the research done by city and county staff and emergency responders AND feedback from citizens, these questions have all been answered.

**Question #1 - Is the continued growth at High Point's University and the development of new programs in Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies good for the City of High Point?**

Yes. The University is ready to offer these new major programs and build a new undergraduate science building, growing the annual economic impact to more than \$500 million. These programs will cost more than \$120 million to complete and will add measurably to the prestige of HPU and bring honor and branding to the City of High Point. They will bring in 700 new students AND 125 new faculty and staff positions, for a total of 825 new people. AND the Pharmacy school will be the Triad's one and only giving the City of High Point something to be very proud of!

The University fills local hotels and restaurants bringing in some 80,000 visitors a year. Only Triad-based contractors are hired to build new buildings and renovate older facilities. HPU hosts scores of complimentary cultural, spiritual, environmental, family and athletic events throughout the year.

The growth at HPU has added hundreds of new students and jobs AND increased the economic impact to \$454 million a year.

HPU students, faculty and staff serve 100 local non-profits by donating 108,000 hours of service each year and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for local causes including its increased contribution to the United Way from \$38,000 to \$200,000.

HPU supports important education initiatives at local schools like putting IPADS in the hands of all Montlieu Elementary students, and donating two, 4-year scholarships annually to first generation college students from the City of High Point. HPU also supports City-wide initiatives like being the major funder for the Ignite High Point study.

HPU brings international attention and branding to our city through rankings like U.S. News and World Report, features that appear on CNBC, FOX News, ABC News, the Biography Channel, and through visits of major thought leaders to campus like Colin Powell, Laura Bush, and Bill Clinton. University growth will only expand these positive benefits to the City of High Point.

Another benefit of University growth is that it takes place without public funds or incentives. HPU will assume all costs for the improvements to the closed section of Montlieu and the development of the new programs and facilities. Think of the incentives our City might offer a new business looking to invest big money and create 125 new jobs in High Point.

**Question #2 - Is Montlieu Avenue needed to accommodate facilities for these programs, a new undergraduate science building, and additional university expansion for parking and residence halls?**

Yes. As High Point University grows in enrollment, adds more jobs, and invests more in the community, the University is once again short of land to expand.

With HPU's growing enrollment of students from 47 states and 37 countries, there is a need for another residence hall and parking between E. Farriss, N. Centennial and Panther Drive on land that the University owns. Therefore, the only land available for the new science and medicine programs is across Montlieu Avenue where the University owns all of the land between Montlieu, Barbee and North Centennial.

Some ask why HPU doesn't build the new facilities on the Oak Hollow Mall site. The reason is: HPU can't. The University owns some of the mall space, not all of it. HPU does not own two of the major anchor stores or the parking around them. Without total ownership of the entire mall complex, new construction is not possible.

So why does the University need to close the road to build these facilities?

First, engineers and architects indicate the land isn't deep enough between Montlieu and Barbee to build functional facilities for Health Sciences, Pharmacy, and undergraduate science without incorporating Montlieu Avenue into the site. With setback requirements along Barbee to the South the building will actually need to be placed right in the middle of Montlieu Avenue. As such, parts of Montlieu will need to be closed and rerouted into the existing campus.

The design and functionality of the building will be a key component to the success of these programs and our ability to recruit 700 new students. It is imperative that we get it right. Based on our track record over the past 9 years and the experienced faculty we have hired to direct these programs we are confident that the building design will meet the needs of our faculty and students. Montlieu is a must in order for the programs to be successful.

Second, with an anticipated pedestrian crossing count of more than 6,200 a day, motorist and pedestrian safety becomes a genuine concern. Along with the 700 students and 125 faculty and staff in the graduate programs, every undergraduate student at HPU is required to take science classes that will necessitate the crossing of Montlieu.

Also, the faculty and staff parking lot at the corner of North College and Montlieu is being doubled in size this summer to 630 spaces creating additional safety issues.

**Question #3 - Will the closure of this section of Montlieu pose a health and safety risk for the community?**

No. City and County officials explained that closing Montlieu will not interfere with or slow down response times for EMS, fire or police vehicles. The use of GPS systems and "roaming" EMS and emergency vehicles ensure that the same quick response times High Point residents receive now will continue. One emergency responder said that he would be more concerned about public health and safety if Montlieu were NOT closed because of this large volume of pedestrian traffic.

**Question #4 - Will the closure of Montlieu create minor inconvenience?**

Yes. It will. To suggest otherwise would be foolish. Citizens who have traditionally traveled down Montlieu between College and Centennial will need to take an alternate route that could include Kivett to the South or Lexington to the North. City officials have determined that these roads can accommodate the small amount of traffic that will be relocated from Montlieu.

So the Montlieu decision becomes a question between the continued growth of HPU that comes with significant economic benefit and job creation that our city desperately needs vs. the inconvenience of closing a small section of Montlieu Avenue.

Meaningful change is never without challenge and this closure will cause inconvenience, but the growth of High Point's University is good for our city.

As an employee of HPU and a citizen of High Point I ask for your vote tonight to support economic growth and job creation in High Point by approving the request to close a section of Montlieu allowing HPU to build Health Sciences, Pharmacy, and undergraduate science facilities.

A delay would damage the accreditation process and jeopardize the successful future of this major undertaking.

HPU stands ready to begin the challenging work of implementing these programs. We are prepared to assume the risk of this endeavor as we invest \$120 million dollars into our local economy and start recruiting 700 new students and 125 new employees. It won't be easy but with your help we are confident that we will be successful.

*We have a large group of High Point residents from a wide variety of business and community interests here tonight to support HPU on this issue and in the interest of time, so they all don't have to speak, I'd like to ask that they stand up and be recognized showing their support of High Point University in this issue. If you will please stand at this time. Thank you.*

Chairwoman Smothers: I think Council has received via email a number of resolutions that have been adopted by various organizations in the city indicating their support.

Chris Dudley: Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Smothers: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. As we heard at the very beginning, the staff outlined what the General Statute requirements are for the city to make the findings in regard to the closure of the street or a portion of the street. We have secured the North Carolina Department of Transportation, their permission, to accept their petition for the transfer of that street to the City of High Point. Consequently, we are having the public hearing this evening. Now, we're looking at two basic things. One, the closing would not be contrary to the public interest and we expressed that, I think, from the very beginning. That has to do with public safety and access and they are primary concerns. And the second one...that no individual owning property along that street would be deprived of access or egress. That question has pretty much been answered by the fact that the university owns all the property along that street, so it's really more to the first point that perhaps those that would like to speak in opposition or in support, we would ask you to address. And that has to do with public interest.

Now, if you will notice, we have a timer. I would prefer not to use the timer because I think if we can have folks who will speak for many people and would like to express themselves.

However, we would like to have the ability to have for all to speak who want to speak. We don't want folks leaving because we didn't get to them. So if we could have a show of hands...how many plan to speak at this point? If you will raise your hands. Okie Doke. I

think given that number and the many of you that are interested, we will waive the three minutes and we'll see how it goes. How about that? I do have a number of folks who have signed up and the....y'all are going to have to help me with the names. Perkins and a Carl..... Perhaps I'm not getting it right.

Mayor Sims: If it's highlighted, they have already spoken.

Chairwoman Smothers: Vernell Fowler. Would you like to come up and speak please? And if you could give us your address please.

Vernell Fowler: My name is Vernell Fowler. I live at 2611 Suffolk Avenue, Apartment F. I won't be up here but a few minutes. I just want to say that as of yesterday, I have been working for High Point University for 25 years. I'm very excited and happy about that. I also don't just look at High Point University as a job, I look at it as being part of a family. I love my job. I love the staff that works there. The students are amazing. It's just a wonderful place to work. I support the closing of Montlieu. I do support the closing of Montlieu because I know students are coming back in. I know students will be coming in and I also see that the opportunity for jobs will be open. So I support it and thank y'all for listening.

Chairwoman Smothers: thank you, Ms. Fowler. The next person who signed up....well we've already heard from Chris Dudley. Greg Mercer. Mr. Mercer.....you signed up as the architect for High Point University. Scott Tilley.

Scott Tilley: Good evening and thank you for having us tonight. I'm here representing High Point Partners as chairperson of High Point Partners. We are here to provide a resolution of support for the closure of Montlieu Avenue as suggested. We value greatly the economic impact that High Point University has had on our community and the jobs that will be provided by this further expansion of the school. I should emphasize that they will be very well paying jobs and I think those are very valuable in our community. So I think you have a copy of this resolution and I thank you for your time.

Chairwoman Smothers: Does the clerk have a copy of the resolution?

City Clerk Vierling: No.

Chairwoman Smothers: Scott, do you have a copy with you? If you could please give it to the clerk so it can be entered into the record. The next person who signed up. Tim Ilderton.

Tim Ilderton: Thank you. Tim Ilderton and a 60+ year citizen of High Point, North Carolina. I'm proud chairman of the High Point Chamber of Commerce this year, 2014, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and over 700 paying members of the Chamber, we want to present our resolution as well to vote for the Health Sciences and Pharmacy building for High Point University and we want to thank you for your time for helping the city move forward in our community as you're doing. Again, thank you, Madam Mayor.

Chairwoman Smothers: Have you got a copy of his, Mrs. Vierling?

City Clerk Vierling: No.

Chairwoman Smothers: We've got a copy, we'll make sure it gets into the record. Thank you.

Mena Parrish.

Mena Parrish: My name is Mena Parrish. I reside at 1108 N. Main Street in High Point. I am here tonight to represent the Convention & Visitors Bureau of High Point. Last week I made a presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission for public record, a resolution of support from the CVB of High Point for the closing of Montlieu Avenue. A resolution of support for the economic development, creation of jobs, increase of students and families that the Health and Science School of Pharmacy will bring to High Point. We, as the CVB, are very excited about the growth of HPU and what it means to our city. Thank you Madam Mayor and Council for letting me speak to you tonight.

Chairwoman Smothers: Thank you. Ron Guerra. You're just here in case of questions?

Ron Guerra: Yes, I'm here to answer questions.

Chairwoman Smothers: Reverend Bass.

Reverend F. O. Bass, Jr.: Thank you Madam Mayor and Members of Council. I think it was approximately two to three weeks ago, President Qubein gave an overdraft, overlook, rather overview of what the closing of Montlieu would do. Many people that were present were not allowed to speak. Following the presentation, I spoke with the city manager and said to him that he told something that was not true and he told me I needed to talk to the architect and I said no, the architect didn't say it, you did. The only thing I rise to say is I beg to differ with EMS and anyone else. Before coming here this evening, I got in my car and I'm not an expert in planning and none of this, but I was taught that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. It's seven tenths

**A motion was made by Council Member Smothers, seconded by Council Member Wagner, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote.**

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCY REPORT**

[140035](#)

### **Boards and Commissions - Vacancy Report**

Attached is the current list of vacancies for all Boards and Commissions.

**Attachments:** [Vacancy Report](#)

*This information is attached for informational purposes only. No action is required on this item.*

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

[140036](#)

### **Minutes to be approved**

Manager's Briefing/Council Committee of the Whole meeting held Thursday, January 9th @ 9:00 a.m.

Finance Committee Meeting held Tuesday, January 21st @ 5:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting held Tuesday, January 21st @ 5:30

Manager's briefing/Council Committee of the Whole meeting held Thursday, January 23rd @ 9:00 a.m.

**Attachments:**    [January 21 2014 High Point City Council](#)  
                              [January 23 2014 Manager's Briefing Committee of the Whole Session](#)  
                              [January 9 2014 Briefing Committee of the Whole Session](#)  
                              [January 21, 2014 Finance Committee](#)

The minutes from the preceding meetings were unanimously approved as submitted.

A motion was made by Council Member Mendenhall, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, that this Miscellaneous Item be approved. The motion **PASSED** by an unanimous vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernita Sims, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa B. Vierling, MMC  
City Clerk