

# City of High Point

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



## Minutes

**Monday, November 5, 2018**

**4:00 PM**

**3rd Floor Lobby Conference Room**

## **Special Called Meeting of City Council**

*Jay W. Wagner, Mayor  
Jason P. Ewing, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jeffrey J. Golden, S. Wesley Hudson,  
Victor A. Jones, Britt W. Moore,  
Monica L. Peters, Donald A. Scarborough, Christopher Williams*

**Call To Order**

*Mayor Jay Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.*

***Present:***

*Mayor Jay W. Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Council Member Britt Moore (At Large), Council Member Donald Scarborough (At Large), Council Member Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1), Council Member Monica Peters (Ward 3), Council Member Wesley Hudson (Ward 4), Council Member Victor Jones (Ward 5), and Council Member Jason Ewing (Ward 6)*

***Staff Present:***

*Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Loren Hill, Economic Development Director; Kenneth Shultz, Chief of Police; Jeron Hollis, Community and Public Engagement Director; Eric Olmedo, Budget and Administrative Director; Mark McDonald, Transportation Director; Matt Carpenter, Traffic Signal Engineer; Keith Pugh, Engineer Services Director; Scott Dingus, Civil Engineer II, JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk and Sandra Keeney, Deputy City Clerk*

***Others Present:***

*Scott Lambeth, Citizen*

*Bruce Ashley, Attorney with Smith Moore Leatherwood and Fox Rothschild*

**Present** 9 - Mayor Jay Wagner, Council Member Britt Moore, Council Member Christopher Williams, Council Member Donald Scarborough, Mayor Pro Tem Jason Ewing, Council Member Jeffrey Golden, Council Member Monica Peters, Council Member Victor Jones, and Council Member Wesley Hudson

**2018-451**

~~Rockers Ball Park Tour~~ **POSTPONED**

~~City Council will take a tour of the Rockers Ball Park.~~

**Attachments:** [11.5.2018 Sign In Sheets for Special Meeting](#)

*Mayor Wagner announced this item was postponed due to weather.*

**2018-452**

**Presentation on Main Street Crosswalks**

The Transportation Department will give a presentation regarding Main Street crosswalks.

**Attachments:** [Crosswalk Presentation](#)

*Mark McDonald, Transportation Director, showed pictures of the current crosswalk on North Main Street noting this crosswalk was built about 2 years ago when the restaurant Brown Truck opened. The Transportation Department added the over head flasher's and the "State Law Yield to Pedestrian" sign noting there were also push*

buttons on both sides of the crosswalk. He stated there are plans to relocate the crosswalk and put in a new high visibility crosswalk with higher ramps and new push buttons. He shared photos of the new location of the crosswalk noting the different locations for the push buttons and signage. He advised that one update that could be considered is to place a "HAWK" (High Intensity Activated crossWALK) signal noting that when there is not a pedestrian in the crosswalk the signal is off, when a pedestrian pushes the button, the flasher's will flash yellow for a period of time and then turn red, all traffic will stop in both lanes, and then a walk signal will come on allowing the pedestrian to walk. The whole sequence will take about 45 seconds.

Council Member Moore asked what happens to the traffic lights that are before and after the crosswalk. Mr. McDonald stated it would disrupt coordinated flow especially if the signals are very close in proximity, because it will completely stop traffic when it is activated without regard to the adjacent signal. He stated the crosswalk is about 700 feet from the Main Street and Lexington Avenue intersection. He explained the HAWK signal is not frequently used but there are some in various locations across the state. Mr. McDonald stated that because the changes would be on North Main which is a State road, permission from the state is needed.

Council Member Ewing stated he thought that the mast arms create more attention to the crosswalk than the current signal, which seems to blend in with other wires in the background. He stated that a mast arm that signals for that specific component, would have more success than switching over to a different signal. Mr. McDonald stated back plates could be added to give more of an outline.

Council Member Scarborough asked if there is a sensor or would the signal only turn on when activated by a pedestrian. Matt Carpenter, Traffic Signal Engineer, stated it responds to push button activation.

Mark McDonald stated they have made a request to the State to lower the speed limit to 30 mph and sees no reason why the state would deny the request. Council Member Moore asked what the next steps are. Mr. McDonald stated approval to move forward with Yates Construction as the contractor, as well as a decision on the more restrictive flashing signal.

Council Member Moore asked about the time frame for the project. Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager, stated this has been added to the contract with Yates Construction and he will request they make this project priority. He noted that the mast arm poles take six to eight months to engineer and receive.

Mayor Wagner introduced Scott Lambeth, citizen, and explained that Mr. Lambeth's friend was the last person that was hit trying to cross the street in the current crosswalk. Mr. Lambeth told the story of his friend trying to cross the road which resulted in him being hit and landing 21 feet from the crosswalk. Mr. Lambeth's friend survived with minor injuries, but he is adamant that something needs to be done regarding the crosswalk. He listed the changes that have been made since his friend was hit such as the two signs that have been added and the lights blink all the time. He asked that the buttons be moved and be made more noticeable and noted that the residents, business owners and employees in that area wish that the lights would not

*flash constantly and only flash when the buttons were activated.*

*Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager, stated the City will move as quickly as possible to make the upgrades mentioned today and stated with DOT approval they would install the red lights, and the push buttons would be much more visible.*

*Matt Carpenter, Traffic Engineer clarified the next steps are to move forward with the rapid flashing beacon and the HAWK signal. Mr. McCaslin stated yes.*

*A discussion ensued regarding the cost and flashing lights of the crosswalk.*

*Mayor Wagner suggested a flyer be distributed in the area alerting the business owners and residence of the changes. Council Member Moore suggested that in the future rumble strips be considered.*

*Council Member Moore stated he is having trouble with the concept of red lights.*

*Council Member Ewing agreed stating he would rather have the same signalling system and use rumble strips to create awareness as well as bigger signs that light up and place them at pedestrian eye level. Mr. McDonald stated the signage for the crossing is appropriate in that it fits the requirements for pedestrian crossing.*

*Mr. Lambeth reiterated the fact that the signs blend in with the background and noted the current blinking lights have been there for two years and have not been successful in stopping traffic. He stated in his opinion that 90% of people using the crosswalk only get across when no traffic is coming.*

*Mr. McDonald announced that Keith Pugh has an update regarding the Main Street and Lexington Avenue intersection.*

*Keith Pugh, Engineer Services Director, stated a couple of years ago, the City entered into an agreement with NCDOT to make pedestrian and signal improvements at the intersection of North Main and Lexington Avenue. We designed the project and it was placed out to bid and no one bid. In the mean time, Blue Bourbon Jacks started having trouble with their sanitary sewer in the connections on Main St. We started investigating the sanitary sewer and found all the utilities that are buried under the intersection range in from 50 to 100 years old. Infrastructure under the intersection was built between 1907 and 1960. Instead of making aesthetic improvements to an intersection to where we would likely have to rip it out to replace the infrastructure, it was decided to do it all at one time. The water and sewer lines will be replaced as well as placing vaults and duct banks so that when we go under ground with utilities we have a place to put them. He explained to do this at all at one time would mean dealing with one contractor and it could be completed between Furniture Markets. He advised in order to keep traffic moving on Main Street the road would need to drop to one lane and move traffic from one side to the other. This might also require that the Lexington intersection be closed during the construction but there could be periods where right turns would be permitted. He stated these improvements will be cumbersome and inconvenient, yet it is needed. He advised he is working with Transportation for the mast arm construction noting the mast arms are here and are ready to be placed and have that done before spring market. A contract will be initiated for all the other work. Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager, stated it will take 90 days to complete, and will start after spring market to be completed before fall market at a cost of \$1 million*

*dollars in which NCDOT will pay \$240,000. We will do all we can to provide access to all the businesses in that area.*

*Mayor Wagner requested that the area business owners be kept informed of the improvements and changes.*

[2018-453](#)

**Closed Session - Preserve Attorney Client Privilege.**

Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)3 Preserve Attorney Client Privilege.

**At 4:52 p.m. Council Member Jones made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ewing to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (a) 3 Preserve Attorney Client Privilege. Motion carried unanimously with the following 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member

Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Ewing

**At 5:23 p.m. Council Member Moore made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ewing, to recess the Closed Session until after the High Point City Council Regular Meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously with the following 9-0 vote:**

Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member

Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Ewing

**RECESSED MEETING (7:55 P.M.)**

Mayor Wagner reconvened the Special Meeting of the High Point City Council and announced that a motion was needed to go into Closed Session to complete the City Manager's performance evaluation.

[2018-454](#)

**Closed Session - Personnel**

Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a) 6 Personnel.

***At 7:55 upon adjournment of the High Point City Council Meeting, Council reconvened into Open Session for the November 5, 2018 Special Meeting. Council Member Moore made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hudson, to***

*enter into the Personnel portion of the Closed Session. Motion carried by the following unanimous 9-0 vote:*

*Aye (9): Mayor Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Williams, Council Member Moore, Council Member Scarborough, Council Member Golden, Council Member Peters, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Jones, and Council Member Ewing*

*At 8:50 Council reconvened into Open Session and took the following action.*

## **APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE CITY MANAGERS CONTRACT & SALARY INCREASE**

Mayor Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams, to approve revisions to the City Managers Contract and to approve a 4% salary increase retro to July 1. Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before Council to discuss during the Special Called Meeting, Council Member Ewing made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones to Adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

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Sandra Keeney, Deputy City Clerk